

REPORT TO: Executive Board Sub-Committee
DATE: 19 November 2009
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director - Environment
SUBJECT: Award of Contract for Carterhouse Swing Bridge Replacement.
WARDS: Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 Procurement Standing Order 3.2 for Contracts between £50,000 and £1,000,000 requires that when accepting a tender where fewer than three tenders have been received, the circumstances be reported to Executive Board Sub-Committee for information.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to advise as regards award of the contract to replace the existing bridge at the location of the original Carterhouse Swing Bridge to Cheetham Hill Construction Ltd.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) The circumstances of the award of the Carterhouse Swing Bridge Replacement Contract to Cheetham Hill Construction Ltd be noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 In the late 1980s, the old Carterhouse Swing Bridge, spanning the Sankey Canal at the south end of Tanhouse Lane in Widnes, was dismantled and replaced by a fixed timber bridge.
- 3.2 The timber bridge, though under the ownership of HBC, is not a highway bridge and is of uncertain load capacity.
- 3.3 Provision of a modern structure with an increased and defined load capacity will create an improved link between the Trans Pennine Trail / Widnes Warth and the Widnes Waterfront area.
- 3.4 HBC also owns this section of the canal and it is an aspiration of the Council to reopen the canal to vessels. The design of the new structure will allow the bridge deck to be moved to accommodate future canal usage.
- 3.5 Funding has been confirmed through NWDA and Capital Priorities Fund sources for the bridge replacement scheme to be progressed.
- 3.3 Consequently, following completion of site investigatory works a contract was prepared for the design and build of a replacement swing bridge.
- 3.4 In accordance with Procurement Standing Order 2.5, tenders were invited from the following Contractors who were drawn from the Constructionline database of approved Contractors:

Cheetham Hill Construction Ltd
Dew Construction Ltd
Eric Wright Civil Engineering Ltd
Harry Fairclough Ltd
Qualter Hall Ltd

- 3.5 Despite confirming initial interest in tendering for the work, both Harry Fairclough and Qualter Hall responded during the tender period that they would not be able to return a tender.
- 3.6 Three tenders were therefore received but scrutiny of Dew Construction's tender revealed that the tender was deemed to be invalid, as it did not price all elements of the work.
- 3.7 Evaluation of the remaining two tenders was based upon a 40:60 ratio in terms of quality and price respectively, resulting in the following ranking:
1. Cheetham Hill Construction
 2. Eric Wright Civil Engineering
- 3.8 Cheetham Hill's target cost for the works was £288,305.00 compared with Eric Wright's £296,785.07. Both aligned closely with the pre-tender works estimate of £300,000.
- 3.9 Because more than three tenders were invited, in accordance with Procurement Standing Order 3.1 the Operational Director Highways, Transportation and Logistics is authorised to accept Cheetham Hill's tender which was evaluated as being the most advantageous to the Council. As a result, a satisfactory pre-contract meeting was conducted and Cheetham Hill are mobilising with a view to commencing works on site in late November 2009.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There is sufficient capacity in current funding sources to complete the works. Should there be any circumstances which lead to present funding commitments being insufficient these will be addressed with the relevant bodies.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no policy Implications as a result of this report.

6.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no other Implications as a result of this report.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

7.1 Children and Young People in Halton

No direct impact

7.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

No direct impact

7.3 A Healthy Halton

No direct impact

7.4 A Safer Halton

No direct impact

7.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

The improvement of the link between the Trans Pennine Trail / Widnes Warth and the Widnes Waterfront area will contribute to the overall aspirations of the Widnes Waterfront regeneration programme being satisfied.

8.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Financial Exposure of the Council.

Cheetham Hill were selected from the 'Constructionline' pre-qualified database of contractors. HBC internal audit carried out a further assessment of their financial standing and advised that they have sufficient financial capability to undertake a contract of this value. Payments under the proposed contract will be due under a payment valuation based on measurement of work completed.

7.2 Time and Cost Over-run

The risk of cost and time overruns associated with this project will be managed through the application of the Engineering and Construction Contract, Conditions of Contract (NEC3) which sets out detailed procedures for dealing with the effects of changes on price and completion date issues. The proposed contract will be supervised by dedicated on-site staff.

9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

9.1 There are no equality and diversity issues as a result of this report.

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

10.1 There are no background papers within the meaning of the Act.