

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 13 June 2019

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community & Resources

PORTFOLIO: Resources

SUBJECT: Victoria Park Greenhouse Project -Waiver of Standing Orders report

WARDS: Appleton

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek approval from Members to a waiver of procurement standing orders to allow for a direct award to Hartley Botanical for the provision of the greenhouse structure on the above project.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Members approve a waiver of procurement standing order 1.5.2 Open Tendering Procedure, under Procurement Standing Orders 1.14.4 (iv&v) Non-emergency procedures- (exceeding a value threshold of £100,000) to allow a direct award to Hartley Botanical in the amount of £159,348 for the provision of the greenhouse structure on the above project.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The existing Victorian style greenhouse in Victoria Park is circa 45 years old and in a very poor state of repair and is in need of significant investment. The facility is a central part of the visitor offer in the Park as such it is proposed that the existing green house is replaced and the facility upgraded to bring it up to modern day standards. This will both enable the Council to reduce running costs, and enhance the visitor offer in the Park.

3.2 Following on from a feasibility study, led by Open Spaces and Property Services, a soft market testing exercise was carried out to establish a manufacturer of a new greenhouse who provided best value in terms of both cost and quality. Costs were assessed on a sq/m basis and the units assessed for quality and appearance against the preferred 'Victorian style' finish which is in keeping with the park. Following that exercise it was determined that 'Hartley Botanical', who provided the existing greenhouse, offered the best value and were deemed the preferred provider.

- 3.3 It was decided that the most appropriate delivery method was through Link, the Council's term contractor, who would carry out the main building work element of the project, foundations, groundworks, brickwork etc. Hartley Botanical acting as a sub-contractor to Link providing the actual greenhouse element.
- 3.4 The original quoted price for the project from Link was £373,215, which including fees brings the total cost of the project to £399,340, which is in excess of the current available budget of £305,000. A value engineering exercise has been undertaken and the build cost has been reduced to £309,390. A further saving of £24,934 can be achieved however if we break the work down into 2 packages, having Link do the enabling works, and once complete, getting Hartley Botanical to install the greenhouse under a separate contract, thus removing Links overheads & profits and contract management costs associated with Hartley Botanical's element of the work. This would bring the build cost down to £284,456, which including fees brings the total cost of the project down to £304,367, within the available budget
- 3.5 In order to follow this course of action a waiver of standing orders is required so that a direct award can be made to Hartley Botanical for £159,348 which will allow us to save £24,934.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no policy implication associated with the above course of action.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The waiver of standing orders will allow the Council to save an additional £24,934 from the quoted cost of the works and enable the project to be financially viable and proceed.
- 5.2 The project budget of £305,000 is being funded from a variety of sources as follows:- Area Forum, Ineos Environmental fund, Sec 106 Monies, Property Works budget £65,000, Property budgets.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

- 6.1 **Children and Young People in Halton**
None anticipated
- 6.2 **Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**
None anticipated

6.3 A Healthy Halton

None anticipated

6.4 A Safer Halton

None anticipated

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

The greenhouse is a very prominent feature in Victoria Park, particularly due to its location near the main entrance. Its renewal in a 'Victorian style' will help both enhance the visual appeal, and visitor experience when visiting the park.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 7.1 If we are aren't able to bring the cost of the work within the available budget the project will not be able to proceed as desired.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 8.1 The new greenhouse will be fully accessible as such there are no equality and diversity issues.

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

None