

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 20 October 2022

REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director – Community & Environment

PORTFOLIO: Leader

SUBJECT: Council contract for supply of Grocery and chilled goods (includes fruit, vegetables and dairy)

WARDS: All Wards

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This is a Preliminary Estimate Report to seek approval from Executive Board to commence a new procurement process for the supply of Grocery and Chilled Goods, Including Fruit, Vegetables and Dairy Produce in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.3.4

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That

- 1) For the Executive Board to approve this Preliminary Estimates Report in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.3.4.**
- 2) To authorise officers to undertake a call-off in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.4.1, Frameworks, accessing the TUCO Grocery, Frozen and Chilled Food, including associated goods of Fresh Fruit & Vegetables Framework for a 2 year period with the option to extend for a further two separate 12 month periods from 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2026 with an estimated total expenditure of £4 million.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Annually the council spends £990k on the supply of Grocery and Chilled Goods, Including Fruit, Veg and Dairy products across over 60 sites. The current contracts supplies Grocery and Chilled Goods and Fruit, Vegetable and Dairy products and where awarded to two separate suppliers who supply and distribute produce to Schools, the DCBL Stadium, Council run Café Bars and Council run Care Homes. The current contracts for Grocery and Chilled Goods and Fruit, Vegetables and Dairy where procured using the 'The University Caterers Organisation' (TUCO) frameworks and are due to expire on the 31st

December 2022, a new contract needs to be awarded to commence from 1st January 2023.

- 3.2 The School Meals service require Grocery and Chilled Goods, Including Fruit, Veg and Dairy products to ensure a balanced nutritious diet for the children staying for lunches at schools in Halton.
- 3.3 Deliveries are required daily to ensure maximum freshness and quality of the end product/meal.
- 3.4 Halton use the TUCO frameworks to ensure value for money and economies of scale.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The procurement of fresh fruit and vegetables has a direct impact on the Councils Healthy Halton policy. Ensuring the children in Halton receive regular fruit and vegetables as part of their daily diet.

TUCO Frameworks are fully compliant with the Public Contract Regulations 2015.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Annually HBC spends approximately 990k per annum on the contract for supply of Grocery and Chilled Goods, Including Fruit, Veg and Dairy. These costs are covered by recharges either by cash sales or recharges.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

Fruit and vegetables are a great source of vitamins, minerals and fibre, and are an important part of a healthy, balanced diet.

The school meals service needs this contact to ensure the provision of fruit & vegetables to children from the ages of 1-18

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

No implications

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Eating plenty of fruit and veg helps keep us healthy, and may reduce the risk of disease and some cancers.

6.4 A Safer Halton

No implications

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

No implications

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

If there is no contract in place there could be supply issues or a breach of standing of orders.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

No equality and diversity issues.

9.0 REASON(S) FOR DECISION

TUCO Frameworks have been accessed for a variety of catering contracts for the Council and provide a fully auditable and compliant route to market.

10.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

HBC would not have buying power of the TUCO frameworks and would typically not get the same value for money due to economies of scale.

11.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

1 January 2023

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

Document

Place of Inspection

Contact Officer

'None under the meaning of the Act.'