

## APPENDIX 1

### Extract of Executive Board and Executive Board Sub Committee Minutes Relevant to the Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 16<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2009

##### 21 Approval of the formal adoption of the Planning for Risk SPD

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment, which sought approval for the formal adoption of Supplementary Planning Document (SPD): Planning for Risk as part of the Halton Local Development Framework. A copy of the Planning for Risk SPD was attached to the report at Appendix A for information.

The report outlined the following the following aspects of the Document;

- Control of Major Accident Hazard (COMAH) sites;
- Liverpool Airport;
- Consultation processes;
- Sustainability appraisal and related matters;
- Weston Village representations; and
- Policy implications.

The SPD document, when adopted would form part of the Local Planning Framework for Halton and would be a material factor in the consideration of any relevant planning applications. It would also provide an easier to understand and more detailed policy framework than the Unitary Development Plan.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) The Supplementary Planning Document (SPD): Planning for Risk be formally adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document and part of the Halton Local Development Framework;
- (2) the responses to the representations received at the public participation stages, as set out in the statement of consultation be agreed; and
- (3) if necessary, before the document is published, further editorial and technical changes that do not affect the content or intended purpose of the SPD be agreed by the Operational Director – Environmental and Regulatory Services in consultation with the Executive Board Member for Planning, Transportation, Regeneration and Renewal.

## **22. Widnes Waterfront Phase 2 Masterplan Framework & Delivery Strategy**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment that sought approval and adoption of the Masterplan Framework and Delivery Strategy for the Widnes Waterfront, which had been prepared in partnership with the Council by consultants Taylor Young supported by the BE Group and Faber Maunsell.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Widnes Waterfront Masterplan Framework and Delivery Strategy Phase 2 undertaken by Taylor Young for Halton Borough Council be endorsed; and
- (2) the Strategic Director for Environment, in consultation with the Executive Board Member for Planning, Transportation and Development, be authorised to develop and deliver the Masterplan Framework in consultation with landowners, business's, developers and grant aid bodies.

*Councillors Nelson, Swain and Wright declared a Personal Interest in the following item due to being a member of the Halton Housing Trust Board.*

## **23. Halton Housing Trust Progress Report**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Health and Community which in accordance with the monitoring framework agreed prior to housing stock transfer, provided a further update on Halton Housing Trust's progress since the last report to Executive Board on the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2008.

In this respect, Mr N Atkin, Chief Executive of Halton Housing Trust attended the meeting to present the progress to date in delivering some of the key 'pledges' made prior to stock transfer and progress in meeting the Housing Corporation's regulatory framework.

Arising from the discussion the board discussed engagement with tenants in respect of a consultation around choice based lettings and the lack of availability of suitable sites for Extra Care Housing.

RESOLVED: That the progress to date be noted.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2009**

## **9. Award of the HBC Bridge Maintenance Partnership Contract to Balvac Ltd**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment which outlined the circumstances of the award of the HBC Bridge Maintenance Partnership Contract to Balvac Ltd following the collapse of Wrekin Construction Company Ltd.

The report advised that the financial viability of Wrekin had been accepted based upon information returned by the Council's independent Equifax credit intelligence service both in August 2008 (when shortlisting) and December 2008 (before award in January 2009). On both occasions a suggested contract limit of £5m was reported which was greater than the estimated maximum annual works budget of approximately £4m.

Following Strategic Director, Environment approval of their appointment, Wrekin were issued a letter on 13 January 2009 which authorised commencement of preparatory, procurement and mobilisation activities in advance of the formal Contract being established, subject to reimbursement should the Council eventually decide not to enter into a contract with them.

On 10 March 2009, the Council was made aware that Wrekin had entered into Administration. At that point the Contract was still in a preliminary stage with procedure, process and programme being agreed. Wrekin had not commenced any work on site nor established any site facilities. They had not placed any subcontracts nor purchased plant equipment or materials required for our Contract. Wrekin had also not received any payment from HBC in connection with the Bridge Maintenance Partnership Contract.

The Council entered into correspondence with Ernst & Young (who had been appointed as Administrator) and their specialist advisors. As a result, Strategic Director approval was granted for award of the Bridge Maintenance Partnership Contract to Balvac Ltd whose tender submission was a close second to that of Wrekin,

Balvac are part of the Balfour Beatty Group of companies and Balfour Beatty have forwarded a Parent Company Guarantee to increase client confidence as regards Balvac's ability to execute the Contract.

On 31 March 2009m Balvac had been issued with a letter authorising commencement of preparatory, procurement and mobilisation activities in advance of the formal Contract being established.

**RESOLVED:** That the circumstances of the award of the HBC Bridge Maintenance Partnership to Balvac Ltd be noted.

## **10. Waiver of Standing Orders to enable procurement of specialist highways goods and services**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment which requested approval to waive Standing Orders to enable procurement of specialist highways goods and services where it had been proven impossible to seek acceptable alternative quotations.

The report advised that the advance procurement and secure storage of SJB hanger cables and components was a contingency measure which would reduce the potential of a prolonged long term closure of the bridge in the event of damage to the bridge structure.

The report also advised that the issue of a hanger being damaged has serious implications for the integrity of the structure of the Silver Jubilee Bridge that in conjunction with the framework consultants Mott MacDonald, it was decided to prepare in advance a fully certified and independently checked design for a method of replacing a hanger cable. Having an 'an the shelf' would reduce the downtime associated with bringing the bridge back into service should there be a need to replace a hanger cable.

It was noted that in conjunction with Mott MacDonald, the Authority had approached six different specialist cable suppliers in Italy, Germany, France and the United Kingdom and the only company who confirmed their ability to satisfy the specification requirements were Bridon Structural Systems of Doncaster, UK. Bridon were the manufacturers of the original hanger cable assemblies in the late 1950's.

It was also noted that the minimum run Bridon's mill would produce is 250m and because there are two different diameters of cable the Council would need two coils of 250m each, Bridon have quoted £129,100 for supply and delivery of two 250m drums of galvanized locked coil rope cable and two of each upper and lower cable anchorage assemblies. This is less than the EU financial threshold for procurement of supplies so advertising for expression of interest through OJEU would not be required.

**RESOLVED:** That Standing Orders be waived to allow procurement of Silver Jubilee Bridge replacement hanger cable and components from Bridon Structural Systems Ltd.