

CONTRACT SCRUTINY PANEL AGENDA



Tuesday 28th August 2007

at 10.00 a.m.

**in Training Room 2,
Belle Vue Community Sports and Youth Centre
Kendal Road, Hartlepool**

MEMBERS: CONTRACT SCRUTINY PANEL:

Councillors Allison, Flintoff, Jackson, Richardson and Shaw

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
- 3. MINUTES**
 - 3.1 To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 13th August 2007 and 15th August 2007 (*to follow*)
- 4. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**
 - 4.1 Equality and Diversity Critical Challenge Project – *Chief Personnel Officer*
 - 4.2 Phase 2 Central Hartlepool Housing Regeneration Financial Modelling and Implementation Framework – Pre-Qualification – *Director of Regeneration and Planning Services*
- 5. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT**

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- i) Date of Next Meeting Monday 10th September 2007 commencing at 10.00am in Training Room 2, Belle Vue Community Sports and Youth Centre**

CONTRACT SCRUTINY PANEL

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

13 August 2007

PRESENT: Councillor Bob Flintoff (in the Chair)
Councillors Peter Jackson and Jane Shaw

OFFICERS: Pauline Newton, Principal Legal Executive
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer
Mike Blair, Transportation and Traffic Manager
Alec Gough, Local Transport Plan Co-ordinator
Mick Emerson, Principal Economic Development Officer
Israr Hussain, Economic Development Officer

21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Carl Richardson.

22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

23. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30 JULY 2007

Confirmed.

24. RESULTS OF TENDER FOR SUPPORTED BUS SERVICE CONTRACTS *(Head of Technical Services)*

Purpose of Report

To advise members of the decision regarding the tender for supported bus service contracts.

Issues for Panels' consideration

The Transportation and Traffic Manager reported that all received tenders had been opened at a meeting of the Contract Scrutiny Panel on 3 July 07. The following bus operators submitted prices for the

contracts:-

- Cleveland Transit Limited t/a Stagecoach in Hartlepool
- Arriva Durham County
- Veolia

Members were referred to Appendix 1 of the report which detailed the tendered costs for the supported bus contracts for each bus operator. Table 2 provided a summary of the award of contracts by tenderer. Taking the lowest price tender for each of the remaining 14 services for the three operators provided a total cost to the Council of £223,535. This represented a reduction of £3,924.00 compared to the current contract cost. Funding for this cost had been made available as part of the Council's bus revenue support budget. No additional funding was required for 2007/08. The award of contracts would be for a period of one year to enable future operation of services as part of the development of the Council's Integrated Transport Unit (ITU).

Decision

That the award of supported bus service contracts to the lowest priced tenderers, as detailed in Appendix 1, be noted.

25. HARTLEPOOL SOUTHERN BUSINESS ZONE – FEASIBILITY STUDY (*Director of Regeneration and Planning Services*)

Purpose of Report

To advise Members of the intention to undertake a comprehensive feasibility study for the Hartlepool Southern Business Zone.

Issues for Panels' consideration

The project would aim to facilitate the development and enhancement of Hartlepool's key employment generating zone to assist in the long term restructuring of Hartlepool's economy. The Hartlepool Southern Business Zone consisted of 16 industrial estates, primarily along the Brenda Road corridor and covered an area of 176Ha employing over 5,000 people. Further background information was provided as outlined in the report. Funding for the study would be from a combination of partners with One North East contributing £75,000 and £25,000 from the Council's regeneration budget in accordance with agreement by the Portfolio Holder on 19 July 2007.

The proposed feasibility study was of a specialist nature and would require the expertise of a multi-disciplined consultancy to undertake the various aspects such as business consultation, visioning, strategy development, landscape architecture, economic profiling, commercial property and land usage etc. In addition, there were time constraints set by One North East to complete the study in the current financial year and

that the allocated Single programme funding be spent by March 2008. For the above reasons, it was proposed not to advertise the tender in the usual manner but to approach no less than 6 of the major UK Regeneration and Economic Development consultant companies. A brief had been prepared that would be sent out to identified consultants who would be asked to submit tenders in accordance with the contract procedure rules to this Panel.

Members discussed the timescale for completion of the study as well as safety issues, current and future usages which would be considered as part of the consultation process. In response to a Member query relating to the tendering process, it was reported that all of the consultant companies that were identified as meeting the criteria would be invited to tender.

Decision

That the proposal to go out to tender and the process applied for the study, be noted.

26. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public were excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

Minute 27 – Opening of Tenders for Local Bus Service 15 (para 3 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)).

27. OPENING OF TENDERS FOR LOCAL BUS SERVICE 15 (Transportation Team Leader)

Members were informed that tenders had been invited in respect of the above project.

BOB FLINTOFF

CHAIR

Note re: Minute 27 above – a further tender was received following the closing of the meeting which had been received at reception within the deadline. Members were therefore called-in to open the tender on Wednesday 15 August 2007.

CONTRACT SCRUTINY PANEL

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

15 August 2007

PRESENT: Councillor Bob Flintoff (in the Chair)
Councillors Steve Allison and Jane Shaw

OFFICERS: Pauline Newton, Principal Legal Executive
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer
Mike Blair, Transportation and Traffic Manager

28. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Carl Richardson and Peter Jackson.

29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

30. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public were excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

Minute 31 – Opening of Tenders for Local Bus Service 15 (para 3 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)).

31. OPENING OF TENDERS FOR LOCAL BUS SERVICE 15 *(Transportation Team Leader)*

Members were informed that an additional tender had been received in respect of the above project.

BOB FLINTOFF

CHAIR

CONTRACT SCRUTINY PANEL

28th August 2007



Report of: Chief Personnel Officer

Subject: Equality & Diversity Critical Challenge Project

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To brief the Contract Scrutiny Panel on the Equality and Diversity Critical Challenge project and the procurement route taken in respect of fulfilling the conditions of the project.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Equality Standard is a framework that sets up a way of working within local authorities, which, when fully implemented will mainstream equality into service delivery and employment. In March 2006 the Council declared itself as being at Level 2 and has set itself a target of achieving Level 3 of the Equality Standard for Local Government by March 2008.
- 2.2 Earlier this year, the Council commissioned an external but informal 'Critical Friend' Peer Assessment of the Equality Standard for Local Government. In summary, the findings were that overall, there is strong evidence to support the Council's claim at Level 2 of the Standard. The Council are now well placed to progress a Level 3 claim. A key area that was identified where improvement is needed is in respect of stakeholder involvement and to critically challenge the Council services in its impact assessment process.
- 2.3 A successful bid for £24,099 has been made to the Improvement Partnership for 2007/8 to undergo this process as a pilot project. The basic aim of the project is to provide local people with the skills and confidence to critically challenge the Council's assessments (INRAs & DIAs) of how services meet the needs of all communities and its plans for improving services to meet those diverse needs. Having been trained, they would then be paid to take part in a number of Challenge Meetings. These stakeholders will represent from all six diversity strands of race, disability, gender, age, sexual orientation, and religion/belief.

- 2.4 The project covers the period from July 2007 and ends in June 2008 with a local conference inviting all regional councils of the northeast and partners to share learning from the project.

3.0 PROPOSALS

- 3.1 In view of the exceptional circumstances, timescale of the project, funding issues and specific skills needed to do the work, it was identified that certain project workers within NDC who have the skills and knowledge will undertake this work. It is essential to commission them for their skills and knowledge in engaging with local communities from all different backgrounds taking into account the very nature of this project.
- 3.2 As the arrangements do not fit with the standard contract procedure rules, the Performance Portfolio Holder was consulted. The project will be managed by the Diversity Officer on a day today basis and will be monitored by the Diversity Steering Group to ensure effectiveness and value for money.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To note the procurement arrangements.

5.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 To make the Contract Scrutiny panel aware of the arrangements.

6.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 Project bid to Improvement Partnership
- 6.2 Peer review report

7.0 CONTACT OFFICER

- 7.1 Joanne Machers –Chief Personnel Officer

CONTRACT SCRUTINY PANEL

28TH August 2007



Report of: The Director of Regeneration and Planning Services

Subject: PHASE 2 CENTRAL HARTLEPOOL HOUSING
REGENERATION FINANCIAL MODELLING &
IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK - PRE
QUALIFICATION

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the panel of the pre-qualification stage of the Central Hartlepool Housing Regeneration, Financial Modelling and Implementation framework commission, prior to issuing the formal tender brief.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Successfully addressing the challenges posed by low and changing housing demand and housing market failure in some of the older housing areas around the town centre has been a core priority within Hartlepool Borough Council's Housing Strategy. Working in partnership with Hartlepool Revival and house builders Yuill Homes and George Wimpey Hartlepool Borough Council is successfully moving forward the first phase of housing clearance and redevelopment activity on several key housing sites in central Hartlepool. Previous work has been completed including the North Central Hartlepool Masterplan and the Belle Vue Masterplan as well as a significant amount of ongoing engagement with local communities. Taken together this work identifies the need for further technical work to be undertaken now in order that a detailed implementation framework can be established. Hartlepool Borough Council and Housing Hartlepool will conduct a joint commission to carry out this work. This work will underpin the delivery of the next phase of interventions across central Hartlepool and will include detailed financial modelling, legal and policy justifications for the use of compulsory purchase, establishing redevelopment footprints, market testing and phasing arrangements.

- 2.2 The commission was advertised in Regeneration and Renewal, Inside Housing, Hartlepool Mail, the councils website and Supply2.gov.uk. Pre-Qualification questionnaires were sent to 28 consultant firms.

3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1 In total 11 pre-qualification questionnaires were returned by the deadline of the 10th August 2007. The respondents were DTZ/PWHC/Dickenson Dees, Grant Thornton, EKOS Consulting, Tribal Consulting, Deloitte/NLP/Dickenson Dees, Hall and Partners, Faithful & Gould, King Sturge LLP, Capital Project Consultancy Ltd, Partnering Plus and Earnest & Young. The questionnaires were assessed on the level of experience held by the firms in the areas of Financial modelling, evidence of understanding the precise legal and policy justifications for the use of CPO powers, market testing, establishing redevelopment footprints and phasing in Housing Market Renewal Areas.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 That DTZ/PWHC/Dickenson Dees, Grant Thornton, EKOS consulting, Tribal Consulting, Deloitte/NLP/Dickenson Dees, CB Richard Ellis, King Sturge LLP and Earnest and Young should receive the formal tender brief.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 All the consultants selected from the pre-qualification submissions evidenced wide and considerable experience in all of the relevant areas required to complete this tender and all supplied the essential information within their pre-qualification questionnaire.

6. CONTACT OFFICER

Amy Waters
Planning Officer
Department of Regeneration and Planning
Planning Policy Section
Hartlepool Borough Council
01429 523539
amy.waters@hartlepool.gov.uk