

CONTRACT SCRUTINY PANEL AGENDA



Monday 10th September 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 28th August 2007 (*attached*)
- 4. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**
No items
- 5. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT**
- 6. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

EXEMPT ITEMS

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs referred to below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

7. OPENING OF TENDERS

7.1 Phase 2 Central Hartlepool Housing Regeneration, Financial Modelling and Implementation Commission – *Housing and Regeneration Co-ordinator*

8. ANY OTHER CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

i) **Date of Next Meeting Monday 24th September 2007 commencing at 10.00am in Training Room 2, Belle Vue Community Sports and Youth Centre**

CONTRACT SCRUTINY PANEL

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

28th August 2007

PRESENT: Councillor Bob Flintoff (In the Chair)
Councillors Steve Allison and Carl Richardson

Also present: In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2 (ii);
Councillor Sheila Griffin attended as substitute for Councillor Jane Shaw.

OFFICERS: Wally Stagg, Organisational Development Manager
Nigel Johnson, Principal Housing Regeneration Officer
Amy Waters, (Senior) Planning Officer
Vijaya Kotur, Principal Diversity Officer
Alison King, Locum Legal Executive
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

32. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Peter Jackson and Jane Shaw.

33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Steve Allison declared a personal interest in item 4.2 Phase 2 Central Hartlepool Housing Regeneration Financial Modelling and Implementation Framework Pre-Qualification.

34. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 13 AUGUST 2007 AND 15 AUGUST 2007

Confirmed

35. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CRITICAL CHALLENGE PROJECT (Chief Personnel Officer)

Purpose of Report

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.

Issues for Panels' consideration

Members were advised that the Equality Standard was a framework that

set up a way of working within local authorities which when fully implemented would mainstream equality into service delivery and employment. In March 2006 the Council declared itself as being at Level 2 and set itself a target of achieving level 3 by March 2008. To this end the Council commissioned an external but informal 'Critical Friend' Peer Assessment of the Equality Standard for Local Government. The findings were that overall there was strong evidence to support the Council's claim at Level 2.

A key area for improvement was in respect of stakeholder involvement and to critically challenge the Council services in its impact assessment processes. A successful bid had been made to the Improvement Partnership for 2007/2008 to undergo this process as a pilot project. This would cover July 2007 to June 2008 and would provide local people with the skills and confidence to critically challenge the Council's assessments of how services meet the need of all communities and its plans for improving services to meet those diverse needs.

In view of the exceptional circumstances it was identified that certain NDC project workers would undertake the work. They would be commissioned for their skills and knowledge in engaging with local communities from different backgrounds. As the arrangements did not fit with the standard contract procedure rules the Performance Portfolio Holder was consulted. The project would be managed by the Diversity Officer and monitored by the Diversity Steering Group.

Decision

That the procurement arrangements be noted.

36. PHASE 2 CENTRAL HARTLEPOOL HOUSING REGENERATION FINANCIAL MODELLING AND IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK – PRE-QUALIFICATION (*Director of Regeneration and Planning Services*)

Purpose of Report

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.

Issues for Panels' consideration

Members were advised that a core priority within the Housing Strategy had been to successfully address the challenges posed by low and changing housing demand and housing market failure in some of the older housing areas around the town centre. Working in partnership with Hartlepool Revival and local house builders the Council was successfully moving forward the first phase of housing clearance and redevelopment on several key housing site in Central Hartlepool. This work and previous work had identified the need for further technical work to be

undertaken in order that a detailed implementation framework could be established. The Council and Housing Hartlepool would conduct a joint commission to carry out this work. Details were given of the journals in which the commission was advertised and the despatch of pre-qualification questionnaires.

Eleven pre-qualification questionnaires were returned. These were assessed on a number of levels.

Decision

That the following companies should receive the formal tender bid:

- CB Richard Ellis
- Deloitte/NLP/Dickenson Dees
- DTZ/PWHC/Dickenson Dees
- Earnest and Young
- EKOS consulting
- Grant Thornton
- King Sturge LLP
- Tribal consulting

BOB FLINTOFF

CHAIR