



**Executive Board Sub Committee**

**Thursday, 8 May 2008 10.00 a.m.  
Council Box, Halton Stadium**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David W R'.

**Chief Executive**

**ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH  
IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**PART 1**

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<b>1. MINUTES</b>	
<b>2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	
Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal or personal and prejudicial interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when that item is reached and (subject to certain exceptions in the Code of Conduct for Members) to leave the meeting prior to discussion and voting on the item.	
<b>3. PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION, REGENERATION AND RENEWAL PORTFOLIO</b>	
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*In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council is required to notify those attending meetings of the fire evacuation procedures. A copy has previously been circulated to Members and instructions are located in all rooms within the Civic block.*

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board Sub Committee

**DATE:** 8<sup>th</sup> May 2008

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director-Environment

**SUBJECT:** Appointment of Urban Vision Partnership Limited to deal with planning and associated applications made in respect of the Mersey Gateway.

**WARDS:** Borough-wide

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 The report requests that the Sub Committee ratify and confirm agreement with actions taken by the Strategic Director-Environment, to appoint Urban Vision Partnership Limited to process the applications in connection with the Mersey Gateway scheme.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the actions taken by the Strategic Director-Environment to appoint Urban Vision Partnership Limited are approved.**

### **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

To overcome previously identified capacity issues budget provision had been made to appoint, temporarily, an officer to deal with the applications in connection with the Mersey Gateway scheme. Budget provision of £50k for 2008/09 was made to recruit an additional planning officer.

Although traditional recruitment processes were followed no appointment was made due to a lack of suitable candidates. Furthermore, it was recognised that the appointment of an officer, with the required level of experience would not be possible by the time the Transport and Works Act application (the principal application for the Gateway) is submitted to the Planning Authority for consideration. Three applications for associated highway and listed building consent were submitted at the end of March.

Due to the extremely tight timescales and urgent need to have an experienced officer available and in place to process these applications, a decision to recruit a temporary consultant from Urban Vision Partnership was made. The appointment of a consultant will ensure that all of Gateway applications will be processed on time.

To accord with Standing Orders (Part 4, 4.1.) the recruitment would normally have followed a formal tender process during which a minimum of three estimates would have been sought. However, for the reasons of expediency explained above this procedure was not followed.

Prior to appointing Urban Vision several other agencies were contacted to ascertain whether it would be possible to recruit via this process. In practice not all agencies could provide an officer with the level of experience required, nor could they do so at a competitive rate.

Urban Vision Partnership Limited, who are a partnership between Salford Council, Capita and Morrison had both capacity and quality and offered value for money.

A fixed fee of £16000, which it is considered represents very good value for money was agreed with Urban Vision.

It is still hoped that the appointment of an appropriately skilled officer can be made later in the year, to assist with the next stage of the application/Inquiry process

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The purpose of this report is to demonstrate steps taken to ensure that the statutory procedures associated with the delivery of the Mersey Gateway are not delayed.

#### **5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

The cost of securing the appointed consultant will be met from within existing budget provision.

#### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

Ensuring that the Mersey Gateway applications are efficiently processed and no delays are caused to the delivery of the scheme will be of benefit to all of the Council's priorities and objectives.

#### **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

Failure to process the applications within the identified timeframe would prejudice the timing of the Public Inquiry and result in additional cost to the scheme.

#### **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

See 6.0 above.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Application documents	Rutland House, Runcorn	Liz Beard
Contract with Urban Vision	Rutland House, Runcorn	Liz Beard

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board Sub-Committee  
**DATE:** 08 May 2008  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Environment  
**SUBJECT:** Award of Contract for Silver Jubilee Bridge, Runcorn Spandrel (Y5 to L4) - Preparation and Repainting of Steelwork.  
**WARDS:** Borough-wide

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform as regards the award of the Silver Jubilee Bridge (SJB), Runcorn Spandrel (Y5 to L4) - Preparation and Repainting of Steelwork Contract to Roy Hankinson Ltd

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the report be noted.**

### **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 This major repainting work is being undertaken as part of the ongoing structural maintenance of the SJB Complex and Associated Structures.

3.2 The works comprise the following principal operations:

- The blast removal of all existing paint coatings & corrosive products, localised repair and repainting of the steelwork.
- Breaking out and repair of reinforced concrete at various locations to the deck soffit and the installation of a cathodic protection system.

3.3 The area of the bridge being addressed in the Contract is centred on the Runcorn pin support and surrounding structural elements. All activity will be confined to below carriageway although there will be some disruption for traffic using the SJB associated with repair to the deck slab.

3.4 Tenders were received from the following Contractors who have been drawn from the Constructionline database of approved Contractors:

Pyeroy Ltd  
Roy Hankinson Ltd  
T.I Protective Coatings  
Jack Tighe Ltd

3.5 The arithmetically correct prices received were (in ascending order):

1. £1,066,221.35
2. £1,117,298.25
3. £1,172,877.50
4. £1,307,129.54

3.6 The lowest tender was submitted by Roy Hankinson Ltd for the sum of £1,066,221.35.

- 3.7 Following a detailed review of the returned tenders and the satisfactory completion of a Pre-Contract meeting the Contract has been let to Roy Hankinson Ltd.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The work forms part of the Council's Maintenance Strategy Plan for the Silver Jubilee Bridge Complex and Associated Structures.

#### **5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Resource Implications

The Contract will be funded from the Council's capital budget in the form of direct capital grant for Bridge Strengthening and Maintenance on the Primary Route Network awarded through the Local Transport Plan settlement.

#### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

- 6.1 The SJB Complex forms part of the strategic route through the Borough. Implementation of a formal programme of maintenance is essential to ensure the continued availability of the crossing and thereby avoid compromising the Council's ability to deliver any of its strategic priorities.

#### **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

- 7.1 Financial Exposure of the Council.

All tenderers were selected from the 'Constructionline' pre-qualification database of contractors. HBC internal audit have carried out a further assessment of each company's financial standing and have advised that all tenderers have sufficient financial capability to undertake a contract of this value. Payments under the proposed contract will be due under a payment valuation based on ad-measurement of work completed. A performance bond will be a requirement of the contract.

- 7.2 Time and Cost Over-run

The risk of cost and time overruns associated with this project will be managed through the application of the ICE Conditions of Contract (Fifth Edition) which set out procedures for dealing with the effects of changes on price and completion date issues. The proposed contract will be supervised by dedicated on-site staff and administered by the Bridge Maintenance Division.

#### **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

Hankinson have been requested to provide details of their equality and diversity policy.

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

**Document**

Contract N<sup>o</sup> HE 360  
Silver Jubilee Bridge, Runcorn  
Spandrel (Y5 to L4) - Preparation  
and Repainting of Steelwork  
Instructions for tendering

**Place of Inspection**

Bridge Maintenance  
Division,  
Rutland House,  
Runcorn.

**Contact Officer**

Andrew Burke



**REPORT TO:** Executive Board Sub Committee

**DATE:** 8th May 2008

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director - Health & Community

**SUBJECT:** Development of Supported Accommodation for People with Mental Health Needs

**WARDS:** Broadheath

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To request suspension of the relevant procurement standing orders 3.1-3.8 under the exceptional circumstances set out in this report, to expand a supported living contract to include the services listed in section 3.9 of this report.
- 1.2 To request that the Strategic Director Health and Community, in conjunction with the portfolio holder for Community, be authorised to take such action as may be necessary to implement the recommendations set out below.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- (i) **In the exceptional circumstances set out below, for the purpose of standing order 1.6, procurement standing orders 3.1 –3.8 be waived on this occasion on the basis that the market was tested two years ago to secure the current provider who offers value for money and is performing well in meeting the needs of service users with severe and enduring mental health problems.**
- (ii) **Delegated powers be approved to enable the Strategic Director, Health and Community, in conjunction with the portfolio holder for Community, to expand an existing 2yr contract with Creative Support, for the provision of supported living services, to include the new services referenced in section 3.9 of this report.**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 National priorities for people with mental health problems focus on ensuring that people remain linked with their communities and have the opportunity to engage fully in all aspects of social inclusion. One of the keys to this is that people should have accommodation that is tailored to their needs, where they can feel safe but also receive support, which effectively manages their mental health condition.
- 3.2 The provision of suitable accommodation for people with mental health problems in Halton has been a local priority for development for some time, and this has been included as one of the key targets

for the Halton Supporting People programme.

- 3.3 In Halton in 2002, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister estimated that there should be between 45 and 130 units of supported accommodation for people with mental health problems. A further piece of work by the Halton Joint Commissioning Manager for Mental Health suggested that this figure was nearer 70. The current provision of this type of supported accommodation is 34 units.
- 3.4 Of equal importance to the actual number of supported accommodation units is the range of needs that the accommodation meets. Currently only 8 of the units cater for people with the more complex conditions, and none of the units are set up specifically as move-on accommodation (that is, accommodation which is specifically set up with time-limited tenancies to ensure that work continues with people so that they can become increasingly independent).
- 3.5 One supported scheme which has been successfully developed is in Pickering's Close in Runcorn. This accommodates two people with more severe mental health conditions in a house in which they are tenants, but with 24-hour support from resident staff. This scheme has been open for over two years, and both current residents have now improved so much that they are also now ready to live more independently.
- 3.6 The scheme at Pickering's Close is managed, following a detailed tendering process, by an organisation called Creative Support. This is a specialist service which provides a number of schemes around the North West of England for people with mental health problems or with a learning disability. Creative Support have worked positively with both the Council and the local community, and the successful outcomes for the two residents of Pickering's Close demonstrates their commitment to achieving greater social inclusion for the people they work with.
- 3.7 There are currently over 30 younger adults (defined as being between 18 and 64, although most are in their 40s and 50s) from Halton with mental health problems who are living in residential or nursing care. Each of these placements costs around £370 per week per person, although some cost more.

Although some of these people will always need this high level of care, detailed work has been going on with some of this group, and it is apparent that a number of them (eight at this stage) could live more independently but with complete safety in the community.

- 3.8 A project plan has been developed to work with these people, and additional resources have been ringfenced to support the process. A social worker will be employed for the period of the project to assess

in detail each person's needs and ensure that adequate and appropriate care and support can be provided for them. In addition, a service contracted through the Supporting People programme will work on an individual basis to support and encourage each person to develop or re-learn the skills for independent living.

- 3.9 Creative Support has worked with the Council to develop a new scheme in Widnes, as an extension to its Pickerings Close scheme. Four new-build semi-detached houses have been purchased in Liverpool Road, Widnes, each of which is ready to move into. Each house can take two tenants, who, it is proposed, will be supported staff at a level, which suits their needs. This will, it is proposed, be funded at an hourly rate of support, tailored to the needs of each individual in the scheme. The funding proposals would allow around 28 hours of direct support per person per week; it is highly unlikely that this level of support will be needed for anything other than the first stages of the scheme (in addition other services can be provided at no additional cost to support each individual). There is therefore likely to be a substantial cost saving to the Authority arising from this scheme.

#### **4.0 BUSINESS CASE FOR WAIVING STANDING ORDERS**

##### **4.1 Value for Money and Competition**

The tender exercise undertaken in 2005/6 secured a competitive price for the existing service. The recent value for money assessments undertaken during Supporting People service reviews have determined a reasonable hourly rate for similar services of between £11.50 and £12.50 per hour.

The proposed costs therefore offer value for money when benchmarked against other contracted services within Halton.

##### **4.2 Transparency**

The process paperwork and minutes are open to public scrutiny under the Freedom of Information and Local Government Acts although the contract itself is likely to be exempt from disclosure under the 2000 Act subject to application of the Public Interest test at the time of any request for access.

##### **4.3 Propriety and Security**

The usual anti-corruption integrity clauses will be built into the contract document and only staff with a need to know will have information about the contract.

##### **4.4 Accountability**

Accountability for the report and recommendations would remain with the relevant Operation Director. The decision is a matter for the Sub-Committee but would appear to be consistent with the Council public stewardship duties in relation to use of resources. The process and

paperwork is open to the annual audit process, internal audit and access by other regulatory and enforcement bodies.

#### **4.5 Position of the contract under the Public Contract Regulations 2006**

As this is for care services (Health and social care services) this contract is largely exempt from the 2006 Regulations so there is no need to advertise for expressions of interest in the official Journal. However, it is necessary to advertise the award of contract within 48 days of the date of the award.

#### **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The proposals in this Report go a further step towards meeting the needs for social inclusion for a group of people with complex mental health needs. It supports a range of national policy guidance designed to promote social inclusion for people with mental health needs, and also supports delivery of local policy objectives.

5.2 The proposal will also assist the Authority to meet a strategic priority to expand provision for people with mental health problems, as set out in Haltons Supporting People strategy.

#### **6.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Financial Implications: at this stage it is not possible to be explicit about the final financial outcomes of this project – this will depend on the progress that each individual makes as part of the development of the new service.

6.2 So saying, we know that each of the eight people in residential care currently has a financial commitment from this Authority of just over £19,000 annually; put together, this amounts to over £152,000. It is most unlikely that each person will require, in the medium to long term, more than a maximum of 20 hours individual support each week (and possibly substantially less). This would lead to a weekly saving per person of around £100, or £40,000 overall annually.

6.3 Supported Living services in Halton have recently been subject to a Supporting People service review, a key element of which was a value for money assessment. Services provided by Creative Support were assessed as providing value for money in that they deliver a good quality service at a reasonable unit cost price.

6.4 However, the proposed expansion of services set out in this report will result in business efficiencies for Creative Support, as overhead costs can be shared across a greater number of services. The proposed unit cost of the new service is therefore £12.21 (plus 2.5% 08/09 inflation), which is in line with the reduced unit cost renegotiated with similar providers in Halton as a result of the value

for money assessments carried out at service review.

- 6.5 The revenue cost for housing related support within this scheme can be met within the Supporting People budget.

**7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

- 7.1 Risk to vulnerable clients is reduced through contracting with a provider with a proven track record of delivering good quality services for people with mental health problems.

**8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 8.1 The proposals for this service development are designed to support some of the most disadvantaged people in the Borough, and to actively promote their social inclusion. The project will be open to all people and there will be no barriers to inclusion in the scheme.

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

- 9.1 None.

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board Sub-Committee

**DATE:** 8th May 2008

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Operational Director – Financial Services

**SUBJECT:** Treasury Management 2007/08  
4th Quarter: January-March

**WARDS:**

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of the report is to update the Sub-Committee about activities undertaken on the money market as required by the Treasury Management Policy.

**2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the report be noted.**

**3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 Short Term Rates

The base rate fell from 5.50% to 5.25% on 7th February 2008.

This is the third consecutive cut in the base rate in the past 5 months and signalled the intention of the Monetary Policy Committee to intervene in the domestic economy in an attempt to alleviate the effects of the worsening global economic conditions.

The ability to reduce the rate is limited by the main remit of the Committee being to keep the inflation around the 2% mark. This has been exceeded since October last year and is currently standing at 2.5%.

The credit crunch continues with major banks disclosing further losses on sub prime debt investments. This has kept the inter bank trading conditions very tight driving the premium on short rates back up to 0.5% or more above the base rate. The International Monetary Fund has roundly criticised all parties involved in the sub prime crisis (including itself) and warns that there may well be more bad news to come.

With this in mind it is widely forecast that further cuts in interest rates may well be considered in the forthcoming months. The question is, what impact if any will the cuts have on the national economy and interest rates? The private sector may welcome further cuts, but they don't seem to be having any direct impact on the public which is facing tougher credit conditions and higher mortgage costs as lenders tighten

up their criteria for lending. The base rate cuts have also had a significant affect on the value of the pound, which has dropped 18% in the past 6 months.

	Start	January		February		March	
		Mid	End	Mid	End	Mid	End
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Call Money (Market)	6.00	5.51	5.52	5.35	5.30	5.30	5.50
1 Month (Market)	6.00	5.65	5.52	5.50	5.55	5.55	5.75
3 Month (Market)	6.00	5.60	5.55	5.62	5.68	5.85	6.00

### 3.2 Longer Term Rates

Longer rates moved around during the period but were never attractive enough for the authority to consider new borrowing.

	Start	January		February		March	
		Mid	End	Mid	End	Mid	End
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1 Year (Market)	5.70	5.30	5.30	5.40	5.55	5.65	5.80
10 Year (PWLB)	4.72	4.58	4.72	4.79	4.76	4.53	4.56
25 Year (PWLB)	4.56	4.53	4.60	4.73	4.70	4.58	4.64

The PWLB rates are for “lower quota” entitlements.

### 3.3 Temporary Borrowing/Investments

Turnover during period

	No. Of Deals Struck	Turnover £m
Short Term Borrowing	9	18.85
Short Term Investments	29	35.95

The turnover on investments was relatively low, reflecting the fixture of the bulk of the council’s investments into fixed rate, fixed term deals before Christmas in anticipation of rates falling.

Position at Month End

	January £m	February £m	March £m
Short Term Borrowing	Nil	2.50	6.00
Short Term Investments	54.05	50.20	41.00

The authorities negative cash flow in February and March is reflected in the sharp reduction in the level of investments held.

Investment Income Forecast

The forecast income and outturn for the quarter is as follows:

	Cumulative Budget £'000	Cumulative Actual £'000	Cumulative Target Rate %	Cumulative Actual Rate %
Quarter 1	470	477	5.43	5.28
Quarter 2	923	1,047	5.66	5.46
Quarter 3	1,332	1,752	5.66	5.62
Quarter 4	1,650	2,478	5.65	5.72

The target income was exceeded due to the generally higher level of investments throughout the year and locking in those investments at the top of the market.

#### 3.4 Longer Term Borrowing/Investments

The authority did not borrow any new long term money, and did not undertake any longer term investments.

#### 3.5 Policy Guidelines

Interest Rate Exposure – complied with.

Approved Counterparty List – There is a separate report, updating members on counterparties, on this agenda.

Borrowing Instruments – complied with.

Prudential Indicators – complied with:

- Operational Boundary for external debt;
- Upper limit on interest rate exposure on fixed rate debt;
- Upper limit on interest rate exposure on variable rate debt;
- Maturity structure of borrowing as a percentage of fixed rate borrowing;
- Total principal sums invested for periods longer than 364 days;
- Maturity Structure of New Fixed rate Borrowing during 2005/06.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None.

#### **5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None.

#### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**



**6.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

None.

**6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

None.

**6.3 A Healthy Halton**

None.

**6.4 A Safer Halton**

None.

**6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

None.

**7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 The main risks associated with Treasury Management are security of investment and volatility of return. To combat this, the Authority operated within a clearly defined Treasury Management Policy and an annual borrowing and investment strategy, which set out the control framework.

**8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 There are no issues under this heading.

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

There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.