

REPORT TO: Executive Board Sub Committee

DATE: 5 June 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Environment

SUBJECT: Procurement of DNA Forensic property marking equipment for Astmoor and Halebank Industrial Estates

WARDS: Castlefields and Ditton

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 Report for the purpose of Contract Standing Order 3.2. the circumstances under which two quotations to the sum of £5,998.80 and £1,999.60 have been awarded to SmartWater Technologies Ltd for DNA Forensic property marking equipment being quotations other than the lowest.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) **The appointment of SmartWater Technologies Ltd be approved.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The following companies were invited to submit quotations to supply DNA Forensic property marking equipment for the benefit of all businesses located on Astmoor and Halebank Industrial Estates:

- Datatag
- Selectamark DNA
- SmartWater Technologies Ltd

Each company provided a unit price for:

- A standard business kit
- Provision of signage to be installed on the industrial estates.

- 3.2 The quotations were appraised on the basis of purchasing:

- 120 business kits and 20 signs for Astmoor
- 40 business kits and 10 signs for Halebank:

3.3 The table below summarises the quotations received in descending order:

Company name	Total cost for Astmoor (120 kits & signs)	Total cost for Halebank (40 business kits & signs)
Company A	£6,440	£2,150.00
SmartWater Technologies Ltd	£5998.80	£1,999.60
Company B	£2,798.80	£999.60

3.4 In accordance with paragraph 2.13 of the Council's 'Standing Orders Relating to Contracts', which states that the Council reserves the right:

- a) to accept a tender other than the lowest
- b) to decline to accept any tender

The purchase of DNA Forensic property marking equipment could not be made on the basis of price alone. The following factors were relevant in the decision making process:

- Contents of each DNA Forensic property marking kit
- Number of items the kit could property mark
- Level of Police support for each system
- Previous uses of the DNA Forensic property marking kit
- Track record and publicity of each system

3.5 A panel consisting of the Head of Business Development and the Business Parks Officer considered each quotation from the point of view of price and content.

The decision of the panel was that the SmartWater Technologies Ltd system should be purchased as this system:

- Provided property marking stickers, window stickers and a UV lamp in each kit
- Provided estate signage as part of the bulk order
- Has the greatest profile in the media and is recognised by the criminal fraternity
- Has support from Cheshire Constabulary

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The issues and priorities addressed through the implementation of the BID Business Plans are directly aligned to the Community Strategy:

A Safer Halton

- Reduce overall crime (in line with Halton's Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership targets).
- The BID Business Plans provides a package of crime prevention initiatives that are designed to deter crime from the estates, including plans to either enhance existing CCTV security systems, or install new systems which will assist in designing out crime on the estates, which will be backed up by a response to incidents.

Halton's Urban Renewal

- Attract additional businesses to Astmoor and Halebank
- Increase the number of jobs in Halton
- BIDs will attract a significant private sector contribution (more than £1 million over 5 years) to contribute towards the economic regeneration of the borough.

Employment, learning and skills in Halton

There are no implications arising from this report.

Children and Young People in Halton

There are no implications arising from this report.

A Healthy Halton

There are no implications arising from this report

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no other implications arising from this report.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

The lowest value business kits would not have included stickers to publicise the fact that a property marking system is being used. The risk associated with going with the lowest quotation is that the system may not be a deterrent to crime and, therefore, may not reduce crime as intended.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

There are no equality or diversity issues arising from this report.