

REPORT TO: Executive Board Sub-Committee
DATE: 25 September 2008
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director - Environment
SUBJECT: Award of Contract for Silver Jubilee Bridge, Cable Wrapping East Elevation.
WARDS: Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 Procurement Standing Order 3.2 for Contracts between £100,000 and £1,000,000 requires that when accepting a tender where fewer than three tenders have been received, the circumstances be reported to Executive Board Sub-Committee for information.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to advise as regards award of the contract to install protective measures to the hanger cables on the east elevation of the SJB to Clan Contracting Ltd who returned the only valid tender for the works.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) **The report be noted.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 This major maintenance 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:
 - Through the use of roped access techniques, applying a dual layer protective wrap to all 24 hanger cables in the east elevation of the SJB suspended span.
 - As a trial, installing glass fibre reinforced plastic (GRP) weatherproof cowlings to 6 bottom anchorages and GRP anti vandal sheaths to the lower 3m of 6 hanger cables.
- 3.3 Increasing the level of protection to SJB hanger cables against corrosion has been a prime concern since a significant defect was detected during the parapet replacement contract in 2002.
- 3.4 Immediate measures were undertaken to protect the most vulnerable detail, where the hanger cable meets the lower anchorage block, for all of the cables on the SJB.
- 3.5 In August 2005 a trial application of a wrapping protection was completed for one of the longest cables on the east elevation to assess the viability of the method of application and to ascertain its performance over an annual weather cycle.

- 3.6 In November 2006 a detailed intrusive inspection was undertaken of the trial application and it was concluded that this method of protection was effective and could be recommended for all SJB bridge hanger cables.
- 3.7 A contract was prepared for the installation of a dual layer protective wrap to all 24 hanger cables in the east elevation of the SJB suspended span. It is intended that the west elevation will be addressed in the next financial year.
- 3.8 In accordance with Procurement Standing Order 2.5, tenders were invited from the following Contractors who were drawn from the Constructionline database of approved Contractors:

Brookes Access Solutions Ltd
Can Structures Ltd
Clan Contracting Ltd
Opus Industrial Services Ltd

- 3.9 Because of the specialist nature of the work and the estimated works cost of £200k, it was only possible to identify four contractors with sufficient Constructionline financial notation. All four were contacted in advance and expressed a desire to be included in the tender invitation.
- 3.10 It transpired that neither Brookes Access Solutions Ltd nor Can Structures Ltd returned a tender.
- 3.11 Opus Industrial Services Ltd did return a tender submission but this neglected to include a signed form of tender and was therefore deemed to be invalid.
- 3.12 Consequently the only valid tender received was that of Clan Contracting Ltd. The financial and quality aspects of the submission have been carefully vetted and their bid was recommended for acceptance by the Council's framework consultant, Mott MacDonald.
- 3.13 Clan Contracting Ltd actually undertook the trial wrap in 2005 and have worked as a subcontractor on a number of previous SJB major maintenance contracts. Their tender (including medium level weather disruption) was £198,098.40, which aligns closely with the works estimate.
- 3.14 Because more than three tenders were invited in accordance with Procurement Standing Order 3.2, the Operational Director Highways, Transportation and Logistics is authorised to accept Clan Contracting Ltd's tender. As a result a satisfactory pre-contract meeting has been conducted and Clan are mobilising with a view to commencing wrapping installation on Saturday 20th September 2008.

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 is 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.

Clan Contracting Ltd were selected from the 'Constructionline' pre-qualified database of contractors. HBC internal audit carried out a further assessment of their financial standing and advised that they 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.

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 Engineering and Construction Contract, Conditions of Contract (NEC2) which sets out detailed procedures for dealing with the effects of changes on price and completion date issues. The contract also makes detailed specific provision for dealing with the consequences of weather related cancellation of works. The proposed contract will be supervised by dedicated on-site staff.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 Clan Contracting Ltd have an equality and diversity policy.

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

9.1 There are no background papers within the meaning of the Act.