

REPORT TO: Executive Board Sub Committee
DATE: 12 February 2009
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director - Environment
SUBJECT: Confirmation of Award of the HBC Bridge Maintenance Partnership Contract
WARDS: Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To report the circumstances of the award of the HBC Bridge Maintenance Partnership Contract to Wrekin Construction Company Ltd.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the circumstances of the award of the HBC Bridge Maintenance Partnership are noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Item ES52 of 04 December 2008 Executive Board Sub Committee documents the delegation of authority to accept the most advantageous tender for the HBC Bridge Maintenance Partnership to the Strategic Director Environment in consultation with the Executive Board Member for Planning, Transportation Regeneration and Renewal.

3.2 Tenders were received from all the 6 invited organisations on 15 October 2008.

3.3 Tender returns have been evaluated based upon quality and price.

3.4 The quality score was determined based upon the tenderer's responses to a quality questionnaire, health and safety questionnaire, questions related to delivery of derived projects and also performance at interview. The overall quality score contributed a maximum of 60% of points available.

3.5 The price score was based upon prices submitted for core activities within a price list, the mechanism for evaluating non-core activities and total works costs for derived projects. The overall price score contributed a maximum of 40% of points available.

3.6 Following a rigorous evaluation and scoring process, the overall bids were ranked as follows:

1. Wrekin Construction Co Ltd
2. Balvac Ltd

3. A E Yates Ltd
4. Nuttall BAM Ltd
5. AMCO Ltd
6. Interserve Project Services Ltd

3.7 In conjunction with our framework consultants, a detailed Tender Report has been prepared. The Council's Internal Audit team has validated this.

3.8 As a result, following Strategic Director and Board Member approval, Wrekin Construction has been awarded the HBC Bridge Maintenance Partnership.

3.9 Initial meetings to establish the structure of the Partnership and its processes and procedures have commenced. Wrekin have also commenced formalisation of their supply chain.

3.10 It is expected that major maintenance work on the Silver Jubilee Bridge in particular will be underway before financial year-end.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The works include delivery of at least four years 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 an effective and economic 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.

Internal Audit confirmed the financial standing of all tenderers during evaluation of PQQs and has reconfirmed Wrekin Construction's financial

standing as part of their review of the Tender Report. A Performance Bond and a 5% retention clause are a requirement of the contract.

7.2 Budget Control

The tender documentation allows routine and common activities to be priced based upon a schedule of rates. However, the unique nature of the structures in the SJB complex dictates that the costs of some works may be determined through negotiation on a target, lump sum or at-cost basis. The form of Contract to be employed and the tender evaluation process takes into account consideration of these issues.

The tender invitation and evaluation process has allowed HBC to confirm that Wrekin Construction has the appropriate level of expertise and experience to deliver the project within the proposed management structure. It has also allowed confirmation of their ability to work openly and co-operatively with the client to react to necessary change during works to maximise opportunities to provide value for money.

The NEC (ECC) suite of contracts promotes flexibility through inclusion of options related to partnering and is recommended by the OGC as a suitable form of contract for public sector procurement.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 The Pre-Qualification Questionnaire has allowed HBC to confirm that Wrekin Construction has an acceptable equality and diversity policy in place.

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

| Document | Place of Inspection | Contact Officer |
|---|---|------------------------|
| Halton Borough Council Bridge Maintenance Partnership Tender Report (Nov 2008) and Appendices | Bridge Maintenance Section, 2 nd Floor Rutland House | Mike Bennett |