

REPORT TO: Executive Board Sub Committee

DATE: 18 June 2009

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director - Environment

SUBJECT: Waiver of Standing Orders to enable procurement of specialist highways goods and services.

WARDS: Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To request approval to waive Standing Orders to enable procurement of specialist highways goods and services where it has proven impossible to seek acceptable alternative quotations.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 2.1 Standing Orders are waived to allow procurement of Silver Jubilee Bridge replacement hanger cable and components from Bridon Structural Systems Ltd.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Silver Jubilee Bridge (SJB) Replacement Hanger Cable and Components
 - 3.1.1 Since 2002 HBC have undertaken detailed studies into the condition of the hanger cables supporting the suspended span of the SJB.
 - 3.1.2 This culminated in the provision of substantial additional protection against corrosion and limited vandalism. Protection of the cables on the east elevation of the bridge was completed last September with the west elevation to be addressed this summer.
 - 3.1.3 This increased level of protection dictates that we have no plans in the short or medium term to replace cables as part of a maintenance programme. The only events which would dictate consideration of hanger replacement are therefore associated with accidental or malicious damage (terrorism or determined vandalism).
 - 3.1.4 The issue of a hanger being damaged has such serious implications for the integrity of the structure of the SJB that in conjunction with our framework consultants Mott MacDonald, it was decided to prepare in advance a fully certified and independently checked design for a method of replacing a hanger

cable. Having this "on the shelf" would reduce the downtime associated with bringing the bridge back into service should there be a need to replace a hanger cable.

- 3.1.5 Consideration has also been given to purchasing and securely storing lengths of hanger cable and anchorage assemblies in advance as the lead in period for these extremely specialist components is a minimum of 12 weeks.
- 3.1.6 All spare components would be stored in the Council's bridge maintenance shed at the Picow Farm Road Depot.
- 3.1.7 A bid was successfully made for funding this activity through Local Transport Plan Funding capital grant for Bridge Strengthening and Maintenance on the Primary Route Network.
- 3.1.8 To avoid compromising the original structure we have to provide replacement components whose geometric, strength and stiffness properties match the original components in the structure.
- 3.1.9 In conjunction with Mott MacDonald we have approached 6 different specialist cable suppliers in Italy, Germany, France and UK and the only company who confirmed their ability to satisfy the specification requirements were Bridon Structural Systems of Doncaster, UK. Bridon were the manufacturers of the original hanger cable assemblies in the late 1950s.
- 3.1.10 The minimum run Bridon's mill will produce is 250m and because there are two different diameters of cable we would need two coils of 250m each.
- 3.1.11 Bridon have quoted £129,100 for supply and delivery of two 250m drums of galvanized locked coil rope cable and two of each upper and lower cable anchorage assemblies. This is less than the EU financial threshold for procurement of supplies so advertising for expressions of interest through OJEU is not required.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The SJB hanger cable replacement contingency activities form 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

- 5.1.1 The SJB hanger cable replacement 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 The advance procurement and secure storage of SJB hanger cables and components is a contingency measure which will reduce the potential of a prolonged long term closure of the bridge in the event of damage to the bridge structure. This in turn reduces the risk of excessively adverse consequences to Halton's capacity for business continuity.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 8.1 Not relevant to this report.

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

None under the meaning of the Act.