

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: Finance and Resources Committee

DATE: 11 March 2010

CORPORATE DIRECTOR: Gordon McIntosh

TITLE OF REPORT: Framework Agreement for Consultancy Services for Transportation and Environmental Related Professional Services

REPORT NUMBER: EPI/10/072

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to award places on the Framework Agreement for Consultancy Services for Transportation and Environmental Related Professional Services to the companies named in this report. Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council, in conjunction with NESTRANS, have an existing framework agreement with consultants to undertake the provision of these services until the end of March 2010. This new Framework Agreement would start in April 2010 and run for a period of three years with an option to extend the contract for a further two years.

The purpose of this Framework Agreement is to augment the Councils' and NESTRAN'S inhouse professional service capabilities and expertise, to cope with increases and peaks in workload, and retain flexibility of resources and ensure best value in the use of such external resources as and when the need arises.

This report advises the Committee of the process of the commissioning and tendering of a new framework agreement with a start date of 1st April 2010 and seeks approval to award a place on the Framework Agreement to the successful consultants named herein.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee:

- a) Note the contents of the report concerning the process of setting up the framework agreement.
- b) Approve that a place on the Framework Agreement is awarded for the six packages of work to the successful consultants identified in section 2.4.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no direct financial implication associated with setting up the framework agreement. However, each individual project carried out under the framework agreement will require separate committee approval to be sought prior to initiation and appropriate finances will have to be in place. It is considered that the total financial spending from an Aberdeen City Council perspective could be in excess of £200,000 per annum (based on historic trend of work awarded via this framework) although this is not guaranteed to the consultants and will depend to some extent on the content of the capital and revenue programme for the coming years. As part of the process all relevant financial regulations and standing orders will be adhered to.

4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

Setting up a term commission will assist in the delivery of the 'Community Plan' objectives for Transport and Connections to improve sustainable travel options. The utilisation of consultancy services in this way will facilitate a more efficient and effective achievement of the transport aims set out in 'Vibrant, Dynamic & Forward Looking' of allowing people to travel quickly, in comfort and affordably in and around Aberdeen and to the rest of the country.

The framework agreement will also assist in the delivery of actions identified in the Single Outcome Agreement, in particular the delivery of both Local and Regional Transport Strategies. The framework agreement would further assist the delivery of services by allowing a more efficient use of resources.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

No other implications.

6. REPORT

1. Background

- 1.1 At its meeting in March 2009, the Resources Management Committee approved the setting up of a new consultancy framework agreement for Consultancy Services for Transportation and Environmental Related Professional Services to begin on 1st April 2010 and instructed officers to commence the process of preparing the tender documents.
- 1.2 The setting up of the framework agreement is in response to a need to provide transportation and environmental expertise delivered across the Services where there is a lack of in-house resource, either due to a skill shortage, the specialist nature of the work, or due to other workload commitments. The commissioning partnership will include Aberdeenshire Council and Nestrans, to ensure that the transportation needs of the north east region, as well as locally within the two neighbouring authorities, can be progressed effectively and efficiently. The three bodies have an existing framework agreement with consultants to undertake the provision of these services until the end of March 2010.

2. Development of Commission

- 2.1 Discussions with partners established how the new framework contract should be set up. Discussions have also taken place with the joint procurement officer to establish appropriate procedures for implementing the new framework agreement. The new framework agreement has been split into a six separate packages or lots. These packages have been developed by identifying particular elements of works that could be grouped together based on our own project requirements and consultants' areas of expertise. The six separate work packages are as follows:
 - 1) **Policy Support and Development** (including travel planning, active travel, surveys, data collection and analysis, public transport planning)
 - 2) **Strategic Planning** (including transport modelling, feasibility studies, environmental studies and development management)
 - 3) **Design and Delivery** (including traffic management, road safety, parking zones, footways, junction layouts etc.)
 - 4) **Traffic Signals and IT Solutions** (a specialist commission for the design and coordination of traffic signal networks and linkage to real time and other public information systems).

- 5) **Public Transport Support and Development** (including Strategy and Policy Development, Fares and Ticketing and Infrastructure Feasibility Studies).
- 6) **Technical Advice on Waste Management** (including Landfill Management and Waste Strategy Appraisals)

2.2 The previous report concluded that in order to continue to maximize best value for the three partners the following would be the most advantageous approach:

- the new framework agreement would be for three years with possible extension of up to two years.
- tender submissions would be assessed on a 60% Quality / 40% Price basis.
- consideration to be given as to whether one or more consultants would be appointed for each work package.

Separation of the work in the new framework agreement into individual work packages is reflective of practice in other local authority areas.

2.3 The framework agreement was approved by the NESTRANS Board on the 8th February 2010. As well as approval from this Committee the procurement of the new framework agreement will also be subject to Aberdeenshire Committee approval in March 2010. As previously approved the total volume of work could exceed the European tender threshold, therefore, the framework agreement has been procured in accordance with European Procurement procedures and the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

2.4 It was decided to undertake a Restricted Procurement process in accordance with the 2006 Regulations. Pre-tender questionnaires were issued to all interested consultants and the returns were received by Wednesday 5 October 2005. These were evaluated and a short list for tenders was produced. An Invitation to Tender containing a full brief was issued to thirteen short listed consultants and returns were received by 24th November 2009. These were evaluated using the agreed quality/price assessment procedure. As part of the process all relevant financial regulations and standing orders have been adhered to. It is intended to appoint two consultants for each work package, except package 6 where for operational reasons it is proposed that only one consultant is appointed. Following the tenders evaluation, it is recommended that places on the Framework Agreement should be awarded to the following consultants:

- 1) **Policy Support and Development** – SIAS Ltd and AECOM Ltd

- 2) **Strategic Planning** – SIAS Ltd and AECOM Ltd
 - 3) **Design and Delivery** – Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd and AECOM Ltd
 - 4) **Traffic Signals and IT Solutions** – AECOM Ltd and Halcrow Group Ltd
 - 5) **Public Transport Support and Development** – Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd and MVA Consultancy Ltd
 - 6) **Technical Advice on Waste Management** – Halcrow Group Ltd
- 2.5 A tender report has been produced giving details of the quality and financial scoring and this can be made available to Members and Officers on request.
- 2.6 Subject to approval by the three authorities a formal letter of confirmation will be sent out to the successful consultants who will be awarded a place on the Framework Agreement. This will follow on from a legally required 10 day standstill period where unsuccessful bidders can challenge the outcome of the selection process. The successful consultants will be commissioned to provide the appropriate professional services and support, as necessary, to Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council and NESTRANS, by calling-off under the framework agreement.

7. REPORT AUTHORS DETAILS

Ken Neil
Senior Engineer
kenn@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Tel. No. (52)3476

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS