

Nottingham City Council

Commissioning and Procurement Sub-Committee

Minutes of the meeting held at Loxley House, Nottingham on 15 June 2021 from 10.05 am - 10.23 am

Membership

Present

Councillor Sam Webster (Chair)
Councillor Eunice Campbell-Clark
Councillor Adele Williams

Absent

Councillor Cheryl Barnard (Vice Chair)
Councillor Sally Longford

Councillor Linda Woodings (substitute for
Councillor Sally Longford)

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Katy Ball	- Director of Commissioning and Procurement
Bethan Hopcraft	- Strategy and Commissioning Officer
Chris Keane	- Head of Highways
Ceri Walters	- Head of Commercial Finance
Phil Wye	- Governance Officer

Call-in

Unless stated otherwise, all decisions are subject to call-in. The last date for call-in is 23 June 2021. Decisions cannot be implemented until the working day after this date.

1 Election of Vice-Chair

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Cheryl Barnard as Vice-Chair of this Committee for this municipal year (May 2021 to April 2022)

2 Apologies for Absence

Councillor Sally Longford – on leave
Councillor Cheryl Barnard – personal reasons

3 Declarations of Interests

Councillor Adele Williams declared an Other Registerable Interest in agenda item 6 because she is a member of Thomas Bow City Asphalt's Board of Directors. She left the meeting prior to discussion and voting on this item.

4 Minutes

The Committee/ Board confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 2021 as a correct record.

5 Approval to procure supported accommodation for teenage parents - Key Decision

Councillor Linda Woodings introduced the report detailing the recommissioning of supported accommodation for teenage parents, providing a valuable service that provides support for pregnant teenagers and teenage parents who are unable to secure safe, suitable, permanent accommodation.

Resolved to

- (1) approve the expenditure associated with procuring a new supported homeless teenage parent accommodation service for five years, with the option of extending for two further one year periods (5+1+1). The maximum contract value (based on seven years) is £1,619,807, with an annual value of £231,401;**
- (2) delegate authority to the Director of Commissioning and Procurement to approve the outcomes of the teenage parent accommodation tender and award the contract to secure best value for Nottingham's citizens.**

Reasons for decision:

- The current provider's contract for this service is due to expire on 31st October 2021. Without securing a new contract, there will be no specialist provision for some of Nottingham's most vulnerable parents and their children.
- The provision was subject to a large review in 2015/2016 which led to a change in the service model. The success of this model means that there will be no major change to the service model in the proposed procurement process as it is believed that it delivers good practice and provides good value for money.
- Nottingham City, through numerous interventions, has managed to reduce the number of pregnant teenagers and in turn, teenage parents, and has managed to improve outcomes for teenage parents. Some of these interventions include the Family Nurse Partnership, continuation of access to contraception through a range of generic services (GP, pharmacy, schools and colleges), and through an investment into statutory sexual health provision. Despite this, the number of teenagers becoming pregnant and giving birth during their adolescence is much higher than the national average. Due to the complexities that are associated with teenage parenthood, there is an ongoing need for specialist housing for teenage parents to prevent homelessness.
- As there is a requirement for the service to be within Nottingham City, and the housing needs of the service users are very specific, seeking suitable premises is potentially challenging for a new provider. For this reason, a longer contract length is proposed to reduce the potential challenges for new providers in securing premises for short periods of time.

- The service has, within its current contract, avoided any voids in the units meaning that the need is at least meeting the provision available.

Other options considered in making recommendations::

- Do nothing and let the service provision decrease. This is not a viable option because there is a clear need for this service in the city to continue to provide an appropriate means of meeting Council's statutory homelessness duties and to help teenage parents to continue to care for their children.

6 Contract to carry out planned road maintenance and highway construction works for Nottingham City 2021-22 - Key Decision

Councillor Adele Williams declared an Other Registerable Interest in this item because she is a member of Thomas Bow City Asphalt's Board of Directors. She left the meeting prior to discussion and voting on this item.

Chris Keane, Head of Highway Services, introduced the report which on the award of a contract to carry out essential planned road maintenance, specialist road-surfacing works on the Broadmarch scheme, and delivery of the Green Lane highway scheme.

Resolved to approve dispensation (in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.29) from the need to conduct a tender process in accordance with Contract Procedure Rule 4.1.2, to award a contract to Thomas Bow Limited to carry out planned maintenance and highway construction works around Nottingham with a total estimated value of £1.65m.

Reasons for recommendations:

- Thomas Bow currently delivers works under a number of contracts awarded by NCC that have been tested competitively in the market, and pricing will be subject to the scrutiny of the Council's professional team, including its competent Engineers. This includes both works completed for Highways and the Major Programmes Team.
- Ensuring value for money is a key part to delivering these works.
- Given the tight timescales for this published programme and delays resulting from COVID, letting a contract through a 'mini competition' would jeopardise this year's programme for construction works and the available allocated road space.
- By direct awarding to Thomas Bow the City would de-risk through single programme delivery and would reduce officer time and minimise scheme costs.
- Working with TB to deliver these works would give the following benefits:
 - Established early contractor involvement (ECI) streamlining project delivery for NCC.

- Programme delivery approach on all schemes will greatly assist NCC with managing the highway network in 2021/22, minimising disruption, together with reducing administration costs.
 - A developed flexible and responsive delivery structure to accommodate short term changes to programmes. Established service delivery for NCC and positive working relationship with NCC and clients - local knowledge on road infrastructure and planning works for NCC.
 - Established positive collaboration between the Highways Service and Thomas Bow on the Broadmarsh Roadspace/Public Realm Schemes.
 - Supports delivering environmentally sustainable solutions for delivering highways maintenance and construction across Nottingham City & reducing carbon emissions.
 - Reduced whole life carbon cost of the asset by utilising local contractor provision
 - Strong links to our corporate value and objectives.
 - Keeping the pound in Nottingham.
- Using an NEC 3 target cost approach, will enable Highway Services to ensure value for money in the coordination and planning of these essential highway works which will be delivered as an annual programme of works. The alternative, appointing under individual projects will not achieve the benefits in terms of better coordination on available road space, right timing of works, minimisation of costs in terms of; road notices/charges and uplifts.
 - By engaging Thomas Bow in a Target Cost Contract, Highway Services would ensure value for money as detailed below; a target cost contract is a type of cost reimbursable contract under which the contractor is paid the 'actual cost' (usually defined in the particular contract) it incurs in carrying out the works, but subject to a target cost which is agreed by the parties at the beginning of the project. This provides transparency and better control of costs for NCC.
 - By producing a bill of quantities, before engaging the contractor we can ensure that the target cost is a realistic target cost and allows for a 'pain and gain' approach with the contractor ensuring both parties are incentivised to seek efficiencies. This will drive TB to deliver works at least cost for NCC.
 - Open book costing will ensure that the NCC engineer/contract manager can assess the costs elements and ensure that only works carried out are invoiced for by working with one contractor for all of these works will ensure continued high quality of works and materials. This will greatly assist with transparency on each of the schemes forming part of a larger delivery programme together with reduced staffing costs for NCC.
 - Through sourcing a package of works we will achieve better value for money, rather than individual schemes and allows for monitoring of social value opportunities and to foster better working relationships. Thomas Bow have previously been engaged on delivering highway surfacing & construction works and are in a unique position to deliver this programme as both a local contractor and an NCC wholly owned company.

Other options considered in making recommendations:

- Procure works through existing framework arrangements – it is likely that there would be increased project initiation costs and it would not enable the full benefits of ECI. Our current framework has limited direct award options and it should be noted under future proposed arrangements there will be an ability to direct award to the No1 ranking suppliers, this will not be in place until April 2022 at the earliest.
- Do nothing- projects will not be delivered in line with funding requirements. There are standing risks in relation to 1/3rd party claims and essential highway works not completed in year.

7 Dates of future meetings

The Committee agreed to meet at 10am on the following Tuesdays:

2021

13 July
14 September
12 October
9 November
14 December

2022

11 January
15 February
15 March
12 April