

SUSTAINABILITY, PROCUREMENT AND EFFICIENCY PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S MEETING

THURSDAY, 23 JULY 2009

DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the Sustainability, Procurement and Efficiency Portfolio Holder's Meeting held on Thursday, 23 July 2009. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Holly Adams.

1. **AWARDED WATERCOURSES SERVICE - TENDERING RESULTS**

The Sustainability, Procurement and Efficiency Portfolio Holder **AGREED** to award the contract to the South Cambridgeshire District Council in-house team as the lowest bid and the Most Economical Advantageous Tender; and **NOTED** the changes made to working practices, terms and conditions and numbers of permanent posts on the establishment, as described in paragraphs 18 and 19 of this report.

Other Options Considered: As EU procurement procedures have been followed, resulting in a clear optional bid, being both the lowest price and assessed as the highest quality, there are no other suitable alternative options in response to these results.

Reason For Decision: On examining the final scores provided by the Procurement Officer, the in-house bid stands out from the remainder both in terms of price (close to half of nearest external private contractor's tender) and on issues of quality / capacity. The in-house bid therefore offers the Council best value.

The in-house bid demonstrated a superior understanding of the knowledge and experience required, service availability and delivery issues, contract management, works programming, staff supervision and customer relations issues. Additionally, they will continue to provide a staffing resource during flood emergencies.

2. **CAPITAL PROGRAMME - AWARDED WATERCOURSES SERVICE**

The Sustainability, Procurement and Efficiency Portfolio Holder:

- (a) **AGREED** that £100,000 be included in the 2009/10 Capital programme on the basis that the financing of this amount be met from the insurance theft claim payment (as outlined above) and the Awarded Watercourses Drainage Infrastructure Fund; and
- (B) **REQUESTED** that the Council uses its best endeavours to purchase second hand plant and that, should this be unsuccessful, the Portfolio Holder be informed of the reasons why before any order for new plant is placed.

Other Options Considered: To spot hire suitable equipment at a cost of £22,500 for a fifteen-week period. This sum has not been budgeted for and will impact on the 2009/10 General Fund budget. However, although it may be possible to hire a tractor for the season, spot hiring of the flail mower will prove difficult, if not impossible, as these items of specialist plant are usually only available for purchase.

Reason For Decision: The replacement plant will be required to carry out the necessary statutory works to the award drain system. The expenditure will involve the purchase of a flail mower and suitable tractor. Whilst all possible avenues will be exhausted to purchase second hand it would be prudent to include funds within the

capital programme to cover the purchase of new should this be necessary. Part of the expenditure may be funded with monies received from the insurance claim associated with the above theft while the remainder can be financed from the Drainage Infrastructure Fund. There will therefore be no overall impact on the Council's finances with the procurement of the plant being cost neutral.

3. FLOODS AND WATER MANAGEMENT BILL: CONSULTATION RESPONSE

The Sustainability, Procurement and Efficiency **AGREED** the consultation response provided as Appendix A to the report, with the additional comments the Portfolio Holder raised at the meeting with regards to the importance clarifying in the Bill which level of local government will have overall responsibility for which services, and a caution of the danger of giving additional powers to local government without adequate funding grant support, the exact wording to be determined by the Portfolio Holder, Corporate Manager (Health and Environmental Services) and the Drainage Manager.

Other Options Considered: Not to respond.

Reason For Decision: Following the serious floods that occurred in 2007 at various locations throughout the country, the Government commissioned Sir Michael Pitt to report on the flooding and to make recommendations for the future. The Pitt review outlined the reasons why new legislation for managing flood risk was required. These included outmoded approaches to risk management; gaps in the way risk is managed; the need to adapt to climate change; to take account of the EU Floods Directive; the enhancement of Ofwat's regulatory powers. The Council's response to the consultation covers the broad issues of the proposed legislation and does not attempt to answer the individual questions posed by the consultation paper.

4. CAMBRIDGE CLIMATE CHANGE CHARTER

The Sustainability, Procurement and Efficiency Portfolio Holder **AGREED** to the launch and promotion of an appropriately amended (i.e., geographically non-specific) version of the Cambridge Climate Change Charter for organisations and businesses across South Cambridgeshire.

Other Options Considered: None.

Reason For Decision: The Council has recently entered into two pieces of work aimed at improving its position with regard to better understanding and facilitating the reduction of carbon emissions from the district's business and commercial sector. The first will provide information on the district's major carbon emitters within this sector and options available to the Council to help achieve tangible reductions. The second is a joint South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City Council LSP-funded project to develop a programme of practical support for workplaces across both local areas to work towards the objectives of the Cambridge Climate Change Charter.

The objectives of the Charter are of a generic nature and, with very minor alteration, could be applied to any organisation in any local area.

Although the joint LSP-funded practical support programme for workplaces could run across South Cambridgeshire without interested organisation signing up to an equivalent Charter for the district, it would seem to be a valuable opportunity missed not to do so.

The separate work being carried out at the moment into business and commercial carbon emissions for the district (due for completion end of July '09) will additionally raise the profile of climate change and sustainable energy for organisations which may

well be interested in taking up the opportunity to make a voluntary commitment to tackle shared climate change objectives.

Some preliminary soundings have been taken with the City Council and they currently foresee no problems (only opportunities for dovetailed partnership working) with SCDC launching and promoting a complimentary Climate Change Charter with matching objectives.