
6c Framework Agreement

- Purpose of Report

This report reminds the Board of the agreed process to commission a renewed Framework Agreement for Consultancy Services for Transportation and Environmental Related Professional Services and seeks approval to award the contract to the successful consultants with a start date of 1st April 2010.

- Background

To maximise the best use of staff time in achieving the transportation objectives of both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils and Nestrans and to help meet Best Value and Efficient Government targets, a framework agreement was commissioned in March 2006 which engaged appropriate consultants on a quality/price basis for all of the transportation consultancy services that could not be undertaken in-house or by neighbouring authorities, either due to a skill shortage, the specialist nature of the work, or due to other workload commitments.

The current framework agreement will end on 31 March 2010. Significant volumes of work have been carried out through the existing contract and the original reasons for setting up the agreement still exist. On 18 February 2009 the Board approved the setting up of a new consultancy framework agreement and instructed officers to commence the process of preparing the tender documents and report back on the outcome.

- Discussion

As previously proposed, the new framework contract has been split into a number of separate packages, which is reflective of recent practice in other local authority areas. The various work packages are listed below with a summary list of the main types of work involved:

- 1) **Policy Support and Development** (strategic development including strategic modelling, travel planning, strategic monitoring and review, public consultation)
- 2) **Strategic Planning** (STAG appraisal, roads related development management, transport modelling and assessment, transportation studies and traffic surveys)
- 3) **Development and Delivery** (highway design, streetscape design/public realm, road drainage design, contract preparation, site supervision, CDM regulations, geotechnical services, traffic management, road safety audits, walking and cycle route design and environmental assessment)
- 4) **Traffic Signals and IT Solutions** (design of traffic signal installation and controlled crossing, junction and network modelling and analysis, network validation, design of intelligent transport solutions)
- 5) **Public Transport Support and Development** (service provision and development, public transport contract administration, ticketing, infrastructure development and surveys)
- 6) **Technical Advice on Waste Management** (landfill management, waste disposal, waste collection, waste strategy appraisals, waste management contracts, design and project management of waste management facilities)

Although there is no direct financial implication associated with setting up the framework agreement and no guarantee to the consultant of any work being awarded, there is potential that the total volume of work awarded by the 3 partners could exceed the limit necessary for European notification. The consultancy framework agreement has therefore been commissioned in accordance with European Procurement procedures. It was previously agreed that the new commission would again be for 3 years with a possible extension of up to 2 years thereafter and that up to 2 consultants could be appointed for each work package. As a single consultant could tender for as many specialist areas as they wish, it is possible for them to be awarded more than one work package

An advert was placed in the European Journal on 27 June 2009 and the resulting pre tender questionnaire submissions were evaluated to draw up a shortlist of 6 consultants for each package. Tender documents were then issued and the returns assessed on a 60% Quality/40% Price basis. The recommended consultants for each package following the assessment process are shown below, with the consultants being listed alphabetically for each package:

- 1) **Policy Support and Development** - AECOM Ltd and Sias Ltd
- 2) **Strategic Planning** – AECOM Ltd and Sias Ltd
- 3) **Development and Delivery** – AECOM Ltd and Jacobs Engineering UK 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

As well as approval from this Board the procurement of the new framework contract will also be subject to approval from the appropriate Committees within Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils. Providing this approval is granted the consultancy framework will begin on 1st April 2010.

- Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board:

- 1 Note the process of setting up the framework agreement.
- 2 Approve the award of contracts to the 2 successful consultants identified for each package to allow the framework agreement to begin on 1st April 2010

JA/21 January 2010