

Finance and Resources Committee

10am, Thursday, 15 January 2015

Award of contract for consultancy services to carry out a feasibility study of George IV Bridge

Item number	7.19
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	11

Executive summary

This report seeks the approval of the Finance and Resources Committee for the award of a contract for consultancy services to carry out a feasibility study for masonry repairs, waterproofing and drainage improvements to George IV Bridge.

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Award of contract for consultancy services to carry out a feasibility study of George IV Bridge

Recommendations

- 1.1 To approve the appointment of Capita Symonds Limited for £32,350.00 to carry out a feasibility study into masonry repairs, waterproofing and drainage for George IV Bridge.

Background

- 2.1 George IV Bridge is a 10 span masonry arch viaduct which carries the road between Merchant Street at the south end and Victoria Street at the north end. Two of the arches are visible at Merchant Street and Cowgate, the remaining eight spans are concealed by buildings.
- 2.2 All bridges owned by the Council are subject to a routine visual inspection every two years and a full inspection every six to ten years.
- 2.3 It was in 2007 that this bridge last had such a full detailed inspection and it is now necessary to undertake another inspection to assess the condition of the bridge and what maintenance is required.
- 2.4 Water penetration into the bridge structure is a main factor which affects its integrity and service life if not held in check, causing masonry deterioration and mortar joints washout. It is therefore vital that the ongoing condition of the bridge is monitored, in order that maintenance work can be programmed as and when required, to ensure the structure's integrity and serviceability.
- 2.5 In the case of George IV Bridge, this type of inspection is challenging due to the difficulties and time involved in gaining access to the bridge through the various adjacent buildings. The buildings' occupants generally also have access to and utilise the airspaces under the bridge arches and this varies from basic storage through to restaurants and bars. There are 30 known occupants of the bridge.
- 2.6 A full inspection of George IV Bridge therefore requires significant planning and resources. The Council Bridges Maintenance Team does not have the resources to undertake this work and external consultancy services are required.

- 2.7 It is proposed to carry out a full inspection of the bridge to include the following:
- The scope of any structural repairs to the masonry elements of the bridge;
 - Identification of waterproofing measures that can be applied or installed to protect the structure from water induced deterioration and that do not have an adverse impact on adjacent buildings; and
 - Identification of drainage options to minimise/arrest water and damp penetration into the bridge structure.

Main report

Tender Process and Evaluation

- 3.1 A mini-competition for consultancy services was advertised on Public Contracts Scotland advertising portal, on 2 July 2014, utilising the Scotland Excel Engineering and Technical Consultancy Services Framework Agreement.
- 3.2 Five suppliers expressed an interest in this opportunity and were invited to participate in the mini-competition. Those suppliers in alphabetical order were:
- Amey UK Plc;
 - Atkins Limited;
 - Capita Symonds Limited;
 - Grontmij Limited; and
 - URS Infrastructure and Environment UK Limited.
- 3.3 To ensure that the contract was awarded to the provider offering the best value, the bids were assessed based on the most economically advantageous tenders. A ratio based on Quality 60% and Price 40% was used in accordance with the framework criteria with the Quality scores derived from the original framework evaluation brought forward.
- The mini-competition was therefore conducted with tenders invited to price for the requirements of this contract.
- 3.4 Three tenders were received via the Public Contracts Scotland portal by the closing date on 30 July 2014.
- 3.5 The tender returns were checked for compliance and all were deemed compliant by the evaluation panel, which comprised one officer from the Bridges Maintenance Team and one officer from Commercial and Procurement Services.
- 3.6 Following detailed analysis of the tender returns it was deemed that the tenders were competitive.

3.7 The three applicants scores were as follows:-

Company	Quality Score	Price Score	Combined Score
Capita Symonds Ltd	44	40	84
Bidder 2	46.1	25.1	71.2
Bidder 3	48.3	13.7	62

3.8 The range of prices received from the three applicants was between £32,350.00-£94,200.00. This is a wide range however the lowest price was scrutinised and found to reflect the market adequately whilst the highest price did not. It can also be noted from the table above that the quality scores were all within 4.3 points of each other which demonstrates a close comparison in quality for the three bidders.

3.9 The outcome of the tender evaluation is that Capita Symonds Ltd submitted the most economically advantageous tender in the sum of £32,350.00 and has been identified as the Preferred Bidder based on quality and price. A summary of the tendering and evaluation process is included in Appendix 1.

Measures of success

4.1 The contract enables the Council to buy in specialist technical advice to support Council staff in maintaining this important structure.

Financial impact

5.1 The contract value is £32,350.00. The costs of the consultancy can be met from the Bridges Maintenance revenue budget.

5.2 The costs associated with procuring this contract are up to £10,000.

5.3 An allocation of £13,500 for this project has been made in the current financial year and is allowed for in the Bridges Maintenance revenue budget 2014/15. An allocation will be made in the same revenue budget for 2015/16 for the remaining part of the project costs.

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

6.1 The following risks have been identified as potential issues to the Council as to the successful delivery of the Contract:

Risk	Mitigating Action
Structural failure of bridge or elements of bridge if inspection not carried out.	Carry out planned and programmed inspection regime at appropriate intervals to monitor condition of bridge and carry out maintenance repairs as necessary.
Reputational risk to Council of structural failure.	As above.
Health and Safety.	Risks will be evaluated by the Consultant and measures put in place to carry out the study in compliance with CDM regulations and CEC Health and Safety Policy. Specific risks identified will be assessed and if necessary appropriate measures will be put in place
Disruption to Business and Residents and possible arising compensation claims.	Some of the vaults within the arches are used for storage; some are used as business premises eg restaurants. The Consultant will liaise with businesses and residents to arrange suitable dates and times for access, removal and replacement of furniture, fixings and fittings, etc to minimise disruption.

6.2 The Bridges Maintenance Team will be responsible for the contract management and will monitor the performance of the Consultant throughout the duration of the Contract. This will include regular contact, periodic progress meetings, method statement approvals, assisting with public liaisons, site visits, procuring and arranging removals and replacements, report approvals and financial administration etc.

Equalities impact

- 7.1 There is no relationship to the public sector general equality duty to the matters described in this report and no direct equalities impact arising from this report.
- 7.2 All of the known occupants of the adjacent buildings and arches have been contacted by letter advising of the inspection works. The consultant and Council officers will accommodate any needs as may arise during the inspection works.

Sustainability impact

- 8.1 The impacts of this report in relation to the three elements of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 Public Bodies Duties have been considered, and the outcomes are summarised below.
- 8.2 The proposals in this report will increase carbon emissions because of the use of a mobile access unit and this impact will be addressed by switching off the engine when possible and implementing traffic management at times to cause the least congestion to traffic.
- 8.3 The proposals in this report will help achieve a sustainable Edinburgh because the inspection of the bridge will assist in the maintenance of a critical piece of transport infrastructure that supports a key access route for vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians.

Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 Some residents and businesses adjacent to and/or utilising the bridge airspaces are mostly aware of previous inspections and the Council's requirement to carry these out. An advisory and information letter was first sent to all affected by this proposed inspection on 4 June 2014. The Council did not receive any feedback communications arising from this letter. The consultants and Council officers will liaise closely with all of those affected prior to and during the inspection work. Ultimately the Council has statutory powers to carry out the inspection work under the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984.
- 9.2 Commercial and Procurement Services has been engaged in the procurement of this consultancy contract.

Background reading/external references

None.

John Bury

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Links

Coalition Pledges

Council Outcomes

Single Outcome Agreement

SO4 – Edinburgh’s communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Summary of Tendering and Tender Evaluation Process

Appendix 1 – Summary of Tendering and Tender Evaluation Processes

Contract	George IV Bridge – Feasibility Study Ref: CT3260
Contract Period	March 2015 – May 2015 (3 months)
Contract Value	£32,350.00
Standing Orders Observed	<p>2.4 EU Principles applied</p> <p>2.7 Commercial and Procurement Manager provided resource to undertake tendering</p> <p>3.1 Director has responsibility for selecting and appointing contractors</p> <p>3.2 Director has responsibility for all Contracts tendered and let by their Directorate</p> <p>5.1 Tenders were evaluated on the basis of most economically advantageous criteria</p> <p>5.3 Tenders evaluated by a panel with the appropriate technical knowledge and expertise</p> <p>6.1 Standstill period will be observed</p>
EU Procedure Chosen	Mini-competition utilising Scotland Excel Framework
Invitations to Tender Issued	Five
Tenders Returned	Three
Tenders Fully Compliant	Three
Recommended Supplier	Capita Symonds Limited
Primary Criteria	<p>Most economically advantageous tender to have met the qualitative and technical specification of the client department.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40% Price • 60% Quality
Evaluation Team (price only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Bridge Maintenance Staff
Procurement Advisors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 CPS Staff