

FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF PARK AND PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Cabinet Member | Cllr Sandra Jenkins Cllr Scott Seaman-Digby |
| Cabinet Portfolio | Environment Co-ordination and Central Services |
| Officer Contact | Paul Richards – Planning, Environment and Community Services Matthew Kelly, Finance and Resources |
| Papers with report | None |

HEADLINE INFORMATION

| | |
|---|--|
| Purpose of report | The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval to use Harrow Borough Council's Framework Agreement for the Design Supply & Installation of Playgrounds and ancillary equipment. |
| Contribution to our plans and strategies | Approval of the recommendations outlined below will contribute to the aims of the following plans and strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Council Plan▪ Children & Families Trust Plan▪ Green Spaces Strategy▪ Value for money |
| Financial Cost | <p>The financial costs will be dependant on demand and frequency of requirements.</p> <p>All requirements for playgrounds and associated services will be subject to a 'mini tender' to each of the four suppliers that have been awarded to the original agreement.</p> <p>Through the use of 'mini-tenders', a competitive environment will exist throughout the life of the contract, ensuring best value to residents of London Borough of Hillingdon.</p> <p>Benefits will be delivered in the form of value for money, increased officer efficiency, quality of play equipment and reduced risk of non compliance.</p> |
| Relevant Policy Overview Committee | Residents' & Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee |
| Ward(s) affected | All wards |

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

- 1) **Agree to utilise the Harrow Framework Agreement for the design, supply & installation of park and playground equipment.**
- 2) **Agree that the appropriate delegated officer, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member has the authority to award the contract for each individual 'mini-tender', on the basis of predetermined price / quality criteria.**

INFORMATION

Reasons for recommendation

The London Borough of Hillingdon has ongoing requirements for playgrounds related spend, including the design, build and equipping of new and existing playgrounds.

This has historically been satisfied through various means, although going forward the desire is to ensure a single unified approach.

The Framework Agreement put in place by Harrow Borough Council (part of the West London Alliance) has been reviewed by officers in Green Spaces and Procurement to ensure it meets Hillingdon's requirements.

The advantages of this approach are as follows:

- Work can be efficiently delivered without running full tenders for each and every requirement.
- It will ensure provision of quality play equipment.
- The process remains compliant with all necessary European legislation.
- It mitigates the risk of aggregated spend exceeding OJEU thresholds.
- Competition can be driven throughout the life of the contract, thus delivering best value to Hillingdon residents.
- Mitigates the risk of decreasing supplier performance, through continued competition.
- Increased officer efficiency through use of a Framework Agreement.

Alternative options considered

The Council could have run its own tender process, leading to a framework, although this would have been resource hungry with little discernable difference in terms of outputs.

An alternative approach, of awarding to a single supplier, was considered but discounted for the following reasons:

- Possibility that financial / service benefits would not continue for the life of the contract.
- Complex and time consuming costing methodology for larger jobs.
- Any additional works, not subject to the initial tender would need costing in a non competitive environment or outside of the scope of the contract.

Comments of Policy Overview Committee(s)

None at this stage.

Scope of the Contract

The Framework Agreement will allow flexibility in the delivery of playground requirements. The scope covers the removal of existing equipment, and the design, supply and installation of new play equipment, impact absorbing safety surfacing, litter bins, seating, landscaping, connecting bituminous macadam footpaths, amendments to perimeter fencing and entrance gates. Officers can specify within this scope using the necessary elements to deliver quality play equipment and the most appropriate solutions for residents and users.

Financial Implications

The actual level of financial spend will be dependant on demand for playground related works.

The use of a competitive mini-tender process is expected to offer a value for money outcome for this type of spend. The utilisation of an agreement that is already in place with the London Borough of Harrow, reduces the risk of delays in carrying out works.

The contract will be made available to departments who have playground related requirements including, Green Spaces, Chrysalis Team, Schools and Housing.

EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES

Successful delivery and implementation will contribute to the following objectives:

- A Clean and Attractive Borough
- Value for Money

What will be the effect of the recommendation?

Competition can be driven throughout the period of the contract, thus ensuring that residents receive best value.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

With the London Borough of Harrow

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Procurement

The Corporate Procurement Unit is satisfied that the use of Harrows Framework Contract will provide the London Borough of Hillingdon with best value and has taken steps to satisfy itself that the contract was executed in a manner fully compliant with all necessary Public Contract Regulations (OJEU ref (09/S 7-8662/EN).

An access agreement has been provided by Harrow which will formalise LBH use of the agreement although there is no ongoing obligation to use the framework.

The Corporate Procurement Unit fully support the recommendation contained within this report to utilise Harrows Framework Agreement.

Corporate Finance

The actual level of spend will be dependant on the demand for playground related works. The use of an agreement already in place with the London Borough of Harrow together, with the use of a competitive mini-tender process offers Hillindgon best value for money.

Legal

The Public Contracts Regulations 2006, which implement EU procurement legislation into our national legislation, expressly recognise the use of framework agreements to procure specific contracts. So provided Cabinet is satisfied that the procedural requirements set out in the Regulations have been met by Harrow in establishing this framework agreement (see Procurement Comments above) then Cabinet has the appropriate authority to agree that the design, supply and installation of playgrounds and ancillary equipment can be procured through this agreement and approve recommendations 1 and 2.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL