

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Cabinet Meeting: 18 December, 2017

Report of the Cabinet Member for Learning and Culture

Multi-Disciplinary Consultancy Service for the Delivery of 21st Century Schools Band B Projects Fee Cap Extension

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Cabinet approval to extend the fee cap for the proposed contracts of multi-disciplinary services for the new secondary school on Port Road, refurbishment and upgrading of facilities at the secondary school on the Merthyr Dyfan site and the refurbishment and expansion of Ysgol Bro Morgannwg.

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet give delegated authority to the Head of Finance to allow AECOM Ltd to be engaged to complete the specified projects within the report with the call-off contract arrangement, subject to a revised fee cap of £750,000.
2. That Cabinet give delegated authority to the Head of Legal Services in consultation with the Head of Finance to enter into any necessary contracts for the projects specified.

Reasons for the Recommendations

1. To allow the initial work on the schemes identified to be undertaken to allow the delivery of the facilities to meet the time scales as required by the Learning and Skills Directorate.
2. To ensure that appropriate contracts are in place with AECOM Ltd for the consultancy services they will be engaged to provide.

Background

2. The 21st Century Schools and Education Programme is a unique collaboration between the Welsh Government and Local Authorities. It is a major long term strategic capital investment programme with the aim of creating a generation of 21st Century Schools in Wales.
3. Band B is due to commence in 2019 and will run until 2024. The Council has been developing its new strategic investment programme to deliver this phase of the programme.

4. The Council undertook a mini competition during late 2016 under a National Procurement Service Framework in order to procure a multi-disciplinary consultancy service for 21st Century Schools (Band B). AECOM Ltd were the successful consultant. A report seeking Cabinet's approval to accept the competitive tender of AECOM Ltd was considered on 28th November, 2016 (Cabinet minute C3382 and C3384 refer).
5. Cabinet resolved:
 - (1) T H A T the competitive Tender of AECOM Ltd submitted pursuant to National Procurement Service of Wales (NPS) Framework Agreement NPS-PS-0027-15: Lot 1d - Multi-Disciplinary (Infrastructure) be accepted.
 - (2) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Head of Legal Services in consultation with the Head of Finance to enter into a call-off contract under the NPS Framework Agreement with the successful bidder.
 - (3) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Head of Finance to allow the successful bidder to be engaged to complete specified projects within the call-off contract arrangement, subject to a fee cap as outlined in the report.
6. As mentioned above, 21st Century Schools Band B Programme will commence in April 2019 and in order for projects to be ready to be delivered from that date initial scoping work is required to be started in early 2018. The three priority schemes from the Band B programme are:-
 - The provision of a new secondary school on the Port Road site to replace the existing Barry Comprehensive school
 - The refurbishment and upgrading of facilities on the Merthyr Dyfan site, currently the Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School
 - The expansion of secondary welsh medium provision at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg.
7. It is proposed that AECOM Ltd will be contracted on a consultancy basis to assist in the production of the necessary project management work to ensure that the projects can be delivered in the relevant timescales.

Relevant Issues and Options

8. In accordance with the Cabinet resolution, AECOM Ltd was confirmed as the preferred multi-disciplinary consultant and on that basis a fee cap of £400k across all projects was set and each individual work request called off was submitted to the Head of Finance for approval prior to confirming work instructions.
9. AECOM Ltd has since been appointed to act in a consultancy capacity for the following projects (as approved by the Head of Finance):
 - Refurbishment of the wet and dry changing rooms at Barry and Penarth Leisure Centres
 - Renewal of the sewage pumping station at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg.
 - Preparatory works for Barry and Bryn Hafren Comprehensive Schools to become mixed sex in September 2018 (contract has been prepared and is currently in the process of being signed)

10. AECOM Ltd professional fees under the three contracts above totals £238,373.33.
11. On the 10 November 2017 the Cabinet Secretary for education announced the 21st Century Schools Band B programme. She stated that government supported the plans put forward by the Councils to build or modernise schools from April 2019. The Vale of Glamorgan Council submitted a strategic outline programme (SOP) with a total value of £ 142,417,000. Each project included within the SOP will have to go through a rigorous business case process for final approval by Welsh Government. The appointment of AECOM Ltd from the framework will help deliver these strategic projects. A further report will be presented to Cabinet in the New Year to provide further detail on the Band B programme as it relates to the Vale of Glamorgan.
12. It is proposed that the cap for services from AECOM Ltd is increased to enable the preparatory work on the Band B projects to take place.

Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)

13. The budget for the projects outlined above has been accounted for in the Capital Programme, The cost of the consultancy work will be met from the Schools Investment Programme.
14. The budget allocation within the 2017/18 capital programme for the Band B projects is £500,000 with £250,000 included in the 2018/19 indicative programme.

Sustainability and Climate Change Implications

15. New build elements of the scheme will meet BREEAM excellent rating, reducing the running costs and carbon emissions arising from the buildings. They will receive an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) of A.

Legal Implications (to Include Human Rights Implications)

16. The Council will need to enter into individual call-off contracts under the terms and conditions of the NPS Framework Agreement which has been developed by NPS and agreed by the Welsh Government. The call-off contract under this Framework means the NEC Professional Services Contract April 2013 including any additional clauses specified in the Invitation to Tender.
17. It is understood that the NPS Framework Agreement is compliant with EU procurement law and the call-off process under the Framework Agreement has been followed. Further, the procurement is in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and Procurement Code of Practice.

Crime and Disorder Implications

18. There are no direct crime and disorder implications as a result of this report.

Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)

19. The delivery of the 21st Century Schools Programme, Band B projects will improve accessibility to and around these schools ensuring that they are fully accessible to all members of the community.

20. The expansion of Ysgol Bro Morgannwg will meet the increased numbers of Welsh Medium secondary aged pupils arising from the earlier expansion of the primary sector to meet increased parental demand.

Corporate / Service Objectives

21. This proposal in part comes under the priority objective 5: Raising overall standards of achievement by developing a new school modernisation programme in readiness for the next 21st Century Schools funding to commence in 2019/20.

Policy Framework and Budget

22. This report is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet.

Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)

23. No ward member consultation has taken place, however the Cabinet Member for Learning and Culture has been consulted and is in agreement with this proposal.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

24. Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee.

Background Papers

None.

Contact Officer

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Officers Consulted

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