

Meeting of:	<b>Cabinet</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>Thursday, 22 June 2023</b>
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	<b>Learning and Culture</b>
Report Title:	Procurement of Multi-Disciplinary Consultancy Services for Sustainable Communities for Learning (SCfL) Rolling Programme and Other Linked Projects
Purpose of Report:	To seek approval from Cabinet to tender for a proposed contract for the provision of multi-disciplinary consultancy services for Sustainable Communities for Learning (SCfL) rolling programme and other linked projects.
Report Owner:	Cabinet Member for Education, the Arts & the Welsh Language
Responsible Officer:	Paula Ham, Director of Learning and Skills
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Trevor Baker: Head of Strategy, Community Learning and Resources Lisa Lewis, Operational Manager, Strategy and Resources Kelly Williams: Project Manager, Sustainable Communities for Learning
Policy Framework:	This is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ This report seeks approval from Cabinet to tender for the provision of multi-disciplinary consultancy services for future projects identified in the Sustainable Communities for Learning (SCfL) rolling programme.</li> <li>➤ The current contract is due to terminate at the end of the completion of Band B of the SCfL programme in 2024/2025.</li> <li>➤ The tendering process would lead to the appointment of a multi-disciplinary consultancy team to support the delivery of the SCfL programme going forward, as well as supplying relevant consultancy expertise on other linked projects identified within the Council's property portfolio as and when required.</li> <li>➤ The roles requested within the tender are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Project Management Director</li> <li>➤ Project Manager</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

- Graduate Project Manager
- Cost Management Director
- Cost Manager
- Graduate Cost Manager
- Sustainability Lead

## **Recommendations**

1. That Cabinet approve the commencement of a procurement exercise for the appointment of a multi-disciplinary specialist team to support the delivery of the Sustainable Communities for Learning (SCfL) rolling programme.
2. That appointment of the multi-disciplinary specialist team is presented to Cabinet in a further report, seeking approval of the successful tender, once the tender submissions have been received and evaluated against the required criteria.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

1. To ensure that the Council has the required specialist expertise in place to deliver the SCfL rolling programme.
2. That the contract is awarded on the basis of the most economically advantageous tender, whilst also meeting the Council's commitment to a sustainable approach to development.

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 In 2016 the Council undertook a procurement exercise for the appointment of a multi-disciplinary consultancy to assist with the delivery of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Band B programme, now known as the Sustainable Communities for Learning (SCfL) programme. Following consideration by Cabinet in November 2016 (minute ref. C3384), the Council appointed Aecom Ltd.
- 1.2 The current appointment was tendered for the delivery of the SCfL Band B schemes which will be concluded in 2024/2025.
- 1.3 The successful appointment of Aecom Ltd has supported the Council to deliver 3 comprehensive school developments (Whitmore High, Ysgol Bro Morganwg and Pencoedtre High), 3 primary school developments (including the first Net Zero Carbon in Operation school in Wales, South Point Primary School, St Davids CiW Primary school and Ysgol St Baruc) as well as a childcare setting (Ysgol Dewi Sant).
- 1.4 The remaining Band B projects consist of 2 primary schools (Cowbridge Primary and St Nicholas CiW Primary School) and an ALN provision (Derw Newydd formerly known as the Centre for Learning and Well-Being). These projects are under construction. The final project of the Band B programme is the development of St Richard Gwyn RC Comprehensive School which is currently seeking Planning Consent.

## **2. Key Issues for Consideration**

- 2.1** Following the success of the SCfL rolling programme to date, the Council is required to tender for multidisciplinary services to deliver the programme for a further delivery period of up to 6 years.
- 2.2** To achieve this, the Council would undertake a procurement exercise under the SEWTAPS (South East Wales Technical And Professional Services) Framework Agreement.
- 2.3** The purpose of this exercise would be to appoint a multi-disciplinary consultancy team to provide the specialist skills required to progress with the development of the SCfL rolling programme as well as supplying relevant consultancy expertise on other key projects identified within the Council's property portfolio as and when required.
- 2.4** Although there are a number of professionals employed by the Council who have many of the skills required to undertake these roles, their capacity is limited. The valuable services provided by a tendered specialist consultancy team, with the appropriate experience and knowledge of delivering projects of the size and complexity required, has benefitted the Council both in terms of the financial commitment and time spent on projects.
- 2.5** Weighting of the assessment of tenders is proposed as 30% cost, 70% quality to allow for an informed review of submissions to ensure applicants align with the Council's expected level of delivery and response to the Climate Emergency.

## **3. How does this support the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?**

- 3.1** The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 ("the 2015 Act") requires the Council to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities and each other and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.
- 3.2** The Council has committed as part of the Corporate Plan 2020-2025 to achieving a vision of 'Working Together for a Brighter Future'. This plan is reflective of the Welsh Government's Well-being of Future Generations Act and is comprised of four Well-being objectives to deliver this vision:  
Objective 1 - To work with and for our communities  
Objective 2 - To support learning, employment and sustainable economic growth  
Objective 3 - To support people at home and in their community  
Objective 4 - To respect, enhance and enjoy our environment
- 3.3** To make sure we are all working towards the same purpose, the 2015 Act puts in place seven well-being goals on the Council. The 2015 Act makes it clear the listed public bodies must work to achieve all of the goals, not just one or two, these being:

### **3.4** The Councils Sustainable Communities for Learning (SCfL) Programme contribute

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A Wales of vibrant culture and Welsh Language
- A globally responsible Wales

to achieving the wellbeing goals by:

- Committing to developing sustainable learning environments by ensuring that pupils within the Vale have every opportunity to attain the best possible outcomes in accommodation that either are, or are working towards being, fully compliant net zero carbon buildings.
- Generating financial savings to ensure a more efficient financial model for education in the Vale.
- Increasing collaboration across all phases of education with the wider community.

The 2015 Act imposes a duty on all public bodies in Wales to carry out “sustainable development”, defined as being, "The process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals." The action that a public body takes in carrying out sustainable development includes setting and publishing well-being objectives and taking all reasonable steps in exercising its functions to meet those objectives. acting in collaboration with other persons and organisations that could help the Council meet its wellbeing objectives.

### **3.5** The Sustainable Communities for Learning (SCfL) Programme meets the five ways of working by:

- Responding to the need to ensure that there is a well-managed balance of supply and demand of school places across the Vale.
- Developing schools that will have an environment reflective of the national mission for education in Wales and future curriculum.
- Ensuring that schools remain sustainable, reflects the needs of local communities, and are equipped with the best possible learning environments.
- Delivering rigorous consultation with open communication channels and numerous opportunities for stakeholders to engage throughout the process.
- Ensuring that schools are of the right size, in the right places and serving the educational needs of their local communities as part of the school organisation process.

## **4. Climate Change and Nature Implications**

- 4.1** New build elements of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Rolling Programme will meet BREEAM excellent rating significantly reducing the running costs and carbon emissions arising from the building.
- 4.2** Welsh Government announced in November 2022 that all new school projects within the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme will be required to meet net zero carbon (in operation) from January 2022 onwards.
- 4.3** The Council's created the first net zero carbon in operation school building model for the authority and Wales at South Point Primary School in Rhoose.
- 4.4** New build and refurbishment elements will adhere to this directive as a minimum, the programme will develop the model to achieve a fully compliant net zero carbon building.

## **5. Resources and Legal Considerations**

### **Financial**

- 5.1** The award of this contract under the SEWTAPS Framework Agreement will be in line with allocated Sustainable Communities for Learning project budgets.
- 5.2** Once the appointment of the cost and project management consultants has been concluded, individual project contracts will be implemented.

### **Employment**

- 5.3** Further details of the resource implications will be contained with the part II report once the appointment of the cost and project management consultants has been concluded, the roles requested within the tender are:
  - Project Management Director
  - Project Manager
  - Graduate Project Manager
  - Cost Management Director
  - Cost Manager
  - Graduate Cost Manager
  - Sustainability Lead
- 5.4** These roles will support the councils Sustainable Communities for Learning team to effectively deliver the rolling programme, the team consists of, and will retain:
  - Project Manager (Strategy)
  - Project Manager (Construction)
  - Associate Project Manager (Strategy)
  - Associate Project Manager (Construction)
  - Finance Officer

### **Legal (Including Equalities)**

- 5.5** The Council will need to enter into a call-off contract under the terms and conditions of the SEWTAPS Framework Agreement. 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.
- 5.6** The SEWTAPS Framework Agreement is Compliant with EU Procurement Directives and the Public Contract Regulations 2015, as well as the Wales Procurement Policy Statement.
- 5.7** Further, the procurement is in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and Procurement Code of Practice.

### **6. Background Papers**

None.