

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Item CE 23/36 referred from Communities and Environment Scrutiny Select Committee of 21 September 2023

The report of the Director of Street Scene, Leisure and Technical Services advised on the retender of the Borough Council's Ground Maintenance Contract for Public Open Spaces and sought comments and recommendations in regard to the procurement process and timeframe, length of contract, standards and level of service and the proposed evaluation of tenders and award of contract.

Attention was drawn to the proposed levels of service and potential savings presented to Members at the previous meeting of the Committee (attached at Annex 1). No requests for further alterations had been received. However, proposals for the removal of flower beds had been rejected and Officers would work with the incoming successful contractor to increase the use of perennials in the future design of flower bed displays.

An outline tender timescale had been developed in accordance with the Borough Council's Contract Procedure Rules and took into account programmed meetings of this Committee, Cabinet and Council. Details of the timescale were set out in Annex 2.

With regard to external procurement the Kent Commercial Services framework provided the opportunity to seek tenders from a list of contractors which had already undergone thorough financial and quality appraisals. The use of this framework met the authority's procurement rules and there was no additional cost.

Consideration was given to the type of contract to be awarded, the length of contract and the proposed criteria for tender assessment (outlined at Annex 3).

Particular reference was made to the use of pesticides and Members welcomed the proposal that contractors offer alternative costed methods through the tender process for consideration.

RECOMMENDED*: That

- (1) Kent Commercial Services Framework be used for external procurement;
- (2) the length of the contract be five years plus five years;
- (3) the Contract be awarded based on the most economically advantageous tender and be evaluated on 50% price and 50% quality;
- (4) the proposed levels of service and potential savings (as set out in Annex 1) be noted, and incorporated in the contract documentation;

- (5) the quality assessment criteria be agreed (as set out in Annex 3); and
- (6) a lease of the Maintenance Buildings be granted to the successful contractor as per the terms detailed in the report.

***Recommended to Cabinet**