

Report to: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 3rd December 2018

Report Title: Hastings Country Park Visitor Centre

Report By: Assistant Director, Environment and Place

Purpose of Report

Update Cabinet on the results of the re-tendering process for the construction of a new visitor centre at Hastings Country Park and seek approval to let a contract to the preferred bidder.

Recommendation(s)

- 1. Delegate authority to the Director of Operational Services and Assistant Director Financial Services and Revenues in consultation with the Lead councillor for Environment, Safety and Equalities to award the contract to build the visitor centre at Hastings Country Park to SIA Design and Build.**

Reasons for Recommendations

Following Cabinet decision of 21st May 2018 to award a contract to a named principal contractor and a consortium of straw bale builders to build the visitor centre at Hastings Country Park, the structural and commercial workings of the consortium could not be finalised in an acceptable time.

We therefore re-tendered the project through the Sussex Procurement Hub and a different contractor was identified as the preferred bidder. A Cabinet decision is therefore now required to let the contract to this new principal contractor.

Background

2. On 21st May Cabinet approved an increased budget for the visitor centre project reflecting additional EU funding and associated match funding from the council. Authority was also delegated to senior management to let a contract to a named principal contractor co-ordinating a consortium of specialist contractors/artisans to build the new visitor centre.
3. Unfortunately the structural and commercial workings of the consortium could not be finalised in an acceptable time to realise the project.
4. Following legal advice we re-tendered the scheme through the Sussex Procurement Hub. The invitation to tender was issued on 21st September 2018 with returns deadline by 22nd October 2018. This report updates Cabinet and seeks approval to let the contract to the preferred bidder.

Tender outcome

5. We received three tender returns by the deadline of 22nd of October. The tender returns were evaluated by the project team, moderated by the Sussex Procurement Hub. The tenders were scored on 60/40 quality/cost ratio. The budget was set at £660,000 and published with the tenders.
6. The total scores for the evaluation were;
 - a. Bidder A scored a total of 84 points and was within budget.
 - b. Bidder B scored a total of 62.95 points and was within budget.
 - c. Bidder C scored a total of 35.74 points and was significantly over budget.
7. There was little cost difference between bidder A and bidder B. Both came in a little under budget. However bidder A scored highest on all counts of quality and cost.
8. Bidder A is a partnership lead by a principle contractor with extensive experience in sustainable buildings. A number of straw bale companies (not those involved with the previous consortium) form the partnership.
9. Points of clarification were raised with all three bidders and the responses enabled our due diligence assessment to be completed.
10. Officers are now in a position to recommend to Cabinet the council enters into a contract with the principal contractor that submitted bid A, SIA Design and Build.

Timetable

11. The contractor has presented a clear programme to start prefabrication work off site during the winter period of 2018/19 and commence works on site in spring 2019, with a view to completing within the year.

Risk Management Implications

12. The procurement has been conducted under the auspices of the Sussex Procurement Hub. Hastings Borough Council Legal Services have provided legal support and advice throughout the process.

Financial Implications

13. There are no additional financial implications as the proposed contractor submitted a bid within the budget of £660 000.

Wards Affected

Ore, Old Hastings

Implications

Relevant project tools applied? Yes

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	no
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	no
Risk Management	yes
Environmental Issues	no
Economic/Financial Implications	no
Human Rights Act	no
Organisational Consequences	no
Local People's Views	no
Anti-Poverty	no

Additional Information

Insert a list of appendices and/or additional documents. Report writers are encouraged to use links to existing information, rather than appending large documents.

Officer to Contact

Officer Name Murray Davidson
Officer Email Address mdavidson@hastings.gov.uk
Officer Telephone Number 451107