

Decision Record – Rail Projects Adviser Team, Contract Framework

Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking decision

Councillor David Wright, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Improvement and IT

**Date of Decision:
(NOT BEFORE – 25th January 2013)**

30 JANUARY 2013

Decision taken

That I, as Portfolio Holder for Finance, Improvement and IT, approves proceeding with a procurement exercise for a Framework Contract for a 'Rail Projects Adviser Team' and that the Strategic Director for the Communities Group be authorised to award the contract on terms acceptable to the Strategic Director for the Communities Group and the Strategic Director for the Resources Group.

Reasons for Decisions

The proposed Framework Contract terms are for a contract length of 2 years with an option to extend for a further two years depending on the performance of the winning tenderer. It is proposed that it will be a single supplier Framework Contract as a close and consistent working relationship will be required between the County Council's in-house Transport Planning team and the Rail Projects Adviser Team. A close and consistent working relationship will be required as the Rail Projects Adviser Team will be supporting the County Council's in-house Transport Planning team by leading and advising on the 'railway' elements in the development and delivery of rail schemes. It is also expected that the Transport Planning team will benefit from this close working relationship by acquiring new skills and knowledge from the Rail Project Adviser Team during the life of the contract.

The total value of the contract is estimated to be under £3m over the contract length of four years. The contract value is above the European Union (EU) threshold for goods and services and therefore EU procurement rules and regulations will apply to the procurement process. Other Local Authorities will also be able to use the Framework contract.

Background Information/ factors considered in arriving at these decisions - (set out below and in the officer report):

Background:

The 'Rail Project Adviser' role has become an important and essential part of the County Council's successful development and delivery of a number of schemes by enabling the County Council to navigate the highly regulated, complex and fragmented environment of the rail industry. The 'Rail Projects Adviser' role is provided by a team of advisers that have experience and understanding of the rail industry and who are able to provide required advice, guidance and assistance to the County Council in order to progress a scheme to completion. In particular, the Rail Project Adviser Team brings experience in:

- Project Management within a railway environment;
- Commercial and financial experience and knowledge of the rail industry;
- Railway design, change and approval processes; and
- Construction management in a railway environment.

It is anticipated that there are a number of rail schemes that will be developed or delivered in the next four years that would meet the County Council's 'Going for Growth' and Local Transport Plan (LTP) 3 targets. For example:

- A bid for New Station Funding is due to be submitted in early 2013 for Kenilworth station. If successful, further development will be required with delivery of the scheme programmed for completion in summer 2015; and
- Delivery of a DDA compliant accessible pedestrian footbridge at Stratford upon Avon station to improve access. The County Council has secured funding for this from the Department for Transport (DfT). The scheme is required to be completed by 31st March 2014.

Establishing a Framework Contract for a Rail Projects Adviser Team would have several benefits for the County Council. It would:

- Avoid the need to undertake individual tendering exercises for rail schemes and thereby eliminate the costs of repeat bidding;
- Reduce the time between identifying a rail project requirement and starting work on it. This could be a considerable benefit particularly if EU procurement rules and regulations apply;
- Enable the County Council to buy-in at short notice specialist rail industry expertise as and when it is required without needing to take on direct employees; and
- Bring price stability to Rail Projects Adviser Team for the duration of the contract by fixing the hourly rates for the roles required at the beginning of Framework contract.

Financial Implications:

There is no direct budget implication as there is no commitment to spend as a result of establishing a Framework contract. The approval to spend money on the Framework Contract will either form part of the separate approval process for adding a capital scheme to the capital programme, with payments to the Rail Projects Adviser Team funded from the capital project. Alternatively, payments would be made from within existing Transport and Highways revenue budgets.

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Strategic Director:	Monica Fogarty
Portfolio Holder	Councillor David Wright

Checklist

Urgent matter: yes/no*

No

Confidential or Exempt (state category of exempt information)

No

Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework

No

List of Reports considered [please attach or forward a copy]

Report from author.

List of Background Papers [please include directorate contact names and numbers for access to background papers]

None

Any members and officers consulted or informed and any comments given.

Cllr David Wright (Portfolio Holder)
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