

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

FROM: Head of Environmental Services

REPORT NUMBER E188

TO: Strategy Committee

DATE OF MEETING 10th November 2005

APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANTS – PROCUREMENT OF REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICES

1. SUMMARY

The Council's current contract for refuse collection and street cleaning ends in March 2007. In order that the Council can fully investigate the options available in respect of the procurement of a new service it is intended to appoint specialist consultants to assist officers in the process. One option being investigated is to enter into a partnering agreement with a neighbouring Council for procurement and operation of a joint contract. This report seeks authority to dis-apply the Council's Contracts Procedure Rules to enable the joint appointment of a preferred contractor.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee suspend the relevant Contract Procedure Rules (paras 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7) to enable a joint appointment with Mid Suffolk district Council, of a specialist consultant to advise on the procurement and tendering process for the Refuse Collection Service.
- 2.2 That the committee approve the appointment of White Young Green Environmental (formerly Robert Young Consultancy Ltd.) jointly with Mid Suffolk District Council to provide advice and support for the procurement of a Refuse Collection Contract.

The Committee is able to resolve this matter

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Adequate budget provision has been made for this purpose. Entering in to a joint contract with another Council will reduce procurement costs by approximately £20,000.
- 3.2 A bid is being submitted to the Regional Centre of Excellence for funding towards this project in partnership with Mid Suffolk.

4. KEY INFORMATION

- 4.1 In accordance with the Council's Procurement Strategy, the Head of Environmental Services has begun exploratory negotiations with Mid Suffolk District Council regarding the possibility of a joint arrangement for the procurement of Refuse Collection services. As a combined contract of in excess of £3m there is potential for significant annual savings.
- 4.2 The investigation of a partnering agreement with Mid Suffolk DC has the 'in principle' agreement of both Management team and the Procurement Task Group. Formal tendering needs to be under way by March 2006, and considerable options appraisal is necessary prior to that date.

4.3 A number of consultants were approached with a brief relating to the work both Councils considered necessary for the procurement process. This included Robert Long Ltd. who have done work for Mid Suffolk previously, plus consultants used by this Council in support of the Recycling Consortium and Joint Municipal Waste Strategy and also other procurement specialists.

4.4 Robert Long Ltd. (now trading as White Young Green Environmental) were the only firm to produce a comprehensive list of options as requested, which they will make available to both Councils including:

- Advising on procurement options
- Compliance with the OJEU process
- Assisting with contract documentation
- Verification of TUPE information
- Contract costing estimates – various options
- Tender evaluation
- Project management
- Post- tender process and implementation

Each level of assistance is optional enabling the Councils to select some or all of the services.

4.5 In addition to work already undertaken by Mid Suffolk, White Young Green (WYG) recently facilitated a Challenge Day attended by officers and members of both Councils.

4.6 Retention of WYG is therefore recommended on the grounds that:

- They have satisfactorily undertaken work previously for Mid Suffolk and are that Council's preferred contractor
- They now have insight and knowledge of the challenge facing the partners
- There will be continuity of advice and assistance
- Quotes for the work are competitive with other providers
- There is some urgency that the process be started as soon as possible
- There is significant flexibility offered in terms of the work undertaken.

CONTACT: Malcolm Firth

DIRECT LINE: 01473 825883