



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Intention to seek tenders for the collection and treatment of animal waste from Belfast Zoological Gardens
Date:	16 September 2010
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Mark Challis, Manager of Belfast Zoo Stephen Walker, Principal Parks and Cemeteries Development Manager

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek delegated authority for the Director of Parks and Leisure to undertake a tender process for the collection and treatment of animal waste from Belfast Zoo.

Relevant Background Information

The Committee will appreciate that significant quantities of waste are produced at the Belfast Zoo as a consequence of both its high visitor numbers and from the animal collection.

The majority of the waste generated by visitor activities, mainly litter, is removed by Cleansing Services. A portion of the waste from the animal collection, including for example dead remains and quarantine waste, is removed for incineration, while some hazardous materials, such as sharps, are removed by the Zoo's consultant veterinary surgeons for disposal.

As Members will further appreciate, the animals themselves generate significant quantities of waste, such as used and soiled bedding, faeces and food remains. This waste is removed from the enclosures by staff and stored in an area adjacent to the car park. These materials are then removed by a contractor and stored to allow for biodegrading and composting. This contributes to the Council's green agenda.

The current 3 year contract for this service expires at the end of October 2010. It is therefore necessary to advertise this tender for the period 2010 – 2013. The documentation has been prepared and is currently with procurement. It is intended to invite tenders for the removal of compostable waste products from the zoo, for a period of one year which would be renewable annually up to a total period of three years.

Key Issues

The Committee is asked to note that the provision of such a service is essential as the specialist facilities needed for this process are not available on site.

The current tender expires at the end of October 2010. It is envisaged that the new tender will be in place by the end of October, though permission to extend the current contract briefly should the tender process become overly complicated or slow could be beneficial.

The Committee is also asked to note that the evaluation criteria will be based on both cost and quality. The tender will be awarded to the most economically advantageous tender.

Resource Implications

Financial

The cost of this service to the zoo each year is in the region of £14,000, and adequate budgetary provision is made annually in zoo expenditure budgets.

Human Resources

There are no additional human resource implications.

Asset and Other Implications

The removal of waste by appropriately qualified and certified handlers is an essential service requirement of the zoo.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. note the contents of the report;
2. approve the proposed tendering exercises using the evaluation criteria set out above and authorise the Director under the scheme of delegation to award the successful tender; and
3. approve the brief extension of our current contract arrangements for one month, up to the end of November, should it be necessary .

Decision Tracking

All the actions will be completed by the Zoo Manager by December 2010.

Key to Abbreviations

None.

Documents Attached

None.