



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Tender for provision of chemical analysis at the North Foreshore site
Date:	24 May 2013
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects Department, Ext: 6217
Contact Officer:	Susan Quail, Planning and Development Manager, Ext: 3441

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members will be aware that the council's 2012-2015 Corporate Plan identifies development of a Green Economy Business Park at the North Foreshore as a key project under the strategic theme of city leadership - contributing to the leadership and strategic direction for shaping, developing and managing the city. Moreover, the council's Investment Programme 2012-2015 also identifies development of the green business park as a key project in terms of investing in the city's economic infrastructure.
1.2	Landfilling at the North Foreshore site concluded in 2007 and since that time, the council's Waste Management Service and latterly the Property and Projects Department have been preparing the former landfill site for development in accordance with the agreed Masterplan.
1.3	As part of the closure process, a series of environmental and risk management processes were agreed with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency in order to facilitate development of the site and to safeguard adjacent environmental receptors. These processes are prescribed via a Waste Management Closure Licence for the site issued under the Waste Management Licensing Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 and they involve comprehensive sampling and analysis of leachate and other on, and offsite waters.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The Closure Licence for the North Foreshore requires that the council shall undertake leachate, groundwater and surface water management at the site to include sampling, analysis and reporting for a comprehensive range of chemical components. Analysis of site samples is presently completed under tender by a UKAS accredited laboratory however, the current tender is scheduled to elapse on 30 September 2013.
2.2	Accordingly, the Property and Projects Department is seeking Committee approval for the commencement of a tendering exercise to establish a new 3-year chemical analysis contract for the North Foreshore site.

2.3	It should be noted that a failure to comply with the conditions of the site licence at the North Foreshore could leave the council open to sanction by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency with attendant risk of reputational damage.
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3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Financial Resources</u></p> <p>The overall budget for the analysis tender will be £20,000 per annum. The tender will be awarded via a competitive procurement exercise based upon price and quality of submission. This cost will be met from the Council's Waste Fund, which was been set up as a requirement for financial provision made by the Landfill Regulations (NI) 2003 and the Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations (NI) 2003.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>The contract shall be managed by the Property & Projects Department, North Foreshore Team in conjunction with the Health & Environmental Services Department, Scientific Unit and Procurement Services.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Asset Implications</u></p> <p>The North Foreshore is the largest brownfield regeneration project in Belfast. Landfill gas, leachate and ground water management are legal liabilities contained in the Council's Waste Management licence granted by the Department of Environment. The Council has to comply with its legal duties under the waste management licence to manage the environmental legacy, and appointing an experienced and efficient service provider is an essential factor to fulfil this requirement.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	The likely impacts of the proposed procurement decision on equality of opportunity and good relations have not yet been 'screened out' however, updates will be provided to the Equality and Diversity Officer.

5	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is requested to approve the commencement of a tendering exercise to establish a new 3-year chemical analysis contract for the North Foreshore site.
5.2	Approval is requested also for the Director of Property and Projects to exercise his delegated authority under the scheme of delegation to award the contract to the most economically advantageous tender received in line with the evaluation criteria.

6	Decision Tracking
Director of Property and Projects to exercise his delegated authority under the scheme of delegation to award the contract to the most economically advantageous tender received in line with the evaluation criteria.	

7	Key to Abbreviations
N/A	

8	Documents Attached
None	