

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING – 2 APRIL 2008

TRADITIONAL BUILDING SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAMME - NEGOTIATION AND AWARDING OF CONTRACT

Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the approval of Cabinet to authorise the Head of Planning and Economic Development to enter into negotiation with The Scottish Lime Centre Trust and award a contract in terms of the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts & Tendering.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The Kilmarnock Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) and the Kilmarnock John Finnie Street & Bank Street Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) both identified the real shortfalls which exist in terms of traditional building skills in East Ayrshire. As part of the CARS programme and the Kilmarnock THI Stage Two submission, a Training Plan has been developed to provide a comprehensive range of Training Opportunities to achieve four principal training objectives:-

- Ensure that the management team have the skills necessary to implement the overall programme effectively and efficiently
- Maximising the ability of the local workforce to provide the skills necessary for heritage-led construction work, including repairs.
- Increasing the understanding of heritage-led design and quality issues amongst the consultants directing the work.
- Supporting supplementary initiatives such as wider community involvement and presentation/interpretation.

- 2.2 The Scottish Lime Centre Trust (SLCT) was established in 1994 as a charitable organisation and has developed as a 'not for profit' advisory, training and education organisation which has become a Centre of Excellence for building conservation, committed to promoting the conservation and repair of traditional buildings. SLCT is now a registered charitable company limited by guarantee. Their remit is achieved primarily through the provision of specialist advice and practical training. The SLCT is now at the forefront of the conservation industry in Scotland. They are an SQA approved training centre, branded as a Learn Direct Centre, approved by CITB to 'in scope' contractors, Lantra branded and holders of Investors in People.

- 2.3 SLCT would provide a comprehensive training programme providing both theoretical and practical teaching focused on local masonry repairs (please see Appendix 1 for their suggested Training Programme). These courses range from a basic introduction to building with lime and masonry through to complex masonry repairs. SLCT would also advise ‘training for trainers’, training teaching staff from local colleges and back to work projects. This would leave a skills base within the community with the ability to pass on knowledge beyond the life of the CARS/THI. SLCT also recommend that strong emphasis is given to include local homeowners within a training programme as this will encourage local community support for the project and enable homeowners to consider appropriate repairs for their own homes. The Prince’s Foundation have already discussed the need for training in traditional crafts and there are potential opportunities to work in partnership in this context.
- 2.4 SLCT’s Training Programme would cover courses for Contractors and Trainers; for Professionals, “back to work” trainees, homeowners and schools; and would include live project training and mentoring. There are no other equivalent organisations in Scotland that can provide the range and quality of training provided by SLCT.
- 2.5 The Council has agreed the Standing Orders Relating to Contracts & Tendering (November 2007) with effect from 1st January 2008, which apply to all contracts for the supply of goods and materials for the provision of services or for the execution of works. The contract would be awarded in terms of these Standing Orders.

3. NEGOTIATED CONTRACT WITH THE SCOTTISH LIME CENTRE TRUST

- 3.1. As indicated in paragraph 2.2 to 2.4 above, the SLCT are the only external training organisation recognised and supported by Historic Scotland that can provide the range of training in traditional building skills in Scotland; it is, therefore, considered appropriate to negotiate a contract for the delivery of a Traditional Building Skills Training Programme with the SLCT.
- 3.2. Item 20(1) of the Standing Orders Relating to Contracts & Tendering states that:

“where the appropriate Executive Director/Executive Head of Service considers that a tender should be negotiated with one person, he/she shall, before entering into negotiations, obtain the approval of the appropriate Cabinet, both in respect of the negotiation and of the person with whom the tender is to be negotiated stating the reasons for the proposed negotiated procurement route.”

- 3.3 Authorisation is, therefore, sought from Cabinet to negotiate a contract for the following with The Scottish Lime Centre Trust to:-

Provide a comprehensive training programme with both theoretical and practical teaching focused on traditional building skills. The Programme would cover courses for Contractors and Trainers; for Professionals, “back to work” trainees, homeowners and schools; and would include live project training and mentoring.

- 3.4 The proposed training programme tendered in SLCT’s letter of the 5th February 2008, is a five year programme and has a total value of £58,830 net of 17.5%VAT. However, there will need to be a level of flexibility in terms of the uptake of the various training courses. Therefore, it is proposed to enter into a contract for up to a maximum fee of £60,000 net of VAT, with the detailed training elements to be agreed between the Council and the SLCT, based on the suggested programme but, dependant on the uptake of the training courses.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The CARS/THI budget is a special project budget held by the Council. The financial management of the CARS/THI will be governed by the Council’s Accounting Policy Bulletins APB 27C and APB 27D specifically drawn up for the CARS and THI grant schemes. In addition, the funders require the local authority to produce audited annual accounts covering the approved scheme.
- 4.2 The 24 October 2007 Cabinet approved an additional allocation of £500,000 to the CARS and an allocation of £500,000 to the Kilmarnock THI from the Council’s General Fund Revenue Balance.
- 4.3 The cost of the Training Programme can be provided from the existing CARS/THI budgets.

5. LEGAL/PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The contract will be awarded in terms of Paragraph 20(1) of the Council’s Standing Orders Relating to Contracts & Tendering.

6. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The implementation of the CARS & THI and in particular the development of the Traditional Building Skills Training Programme will contribute significantly to achieving targets contained in the “Improving the Environment” and “Improving Opportunities” Action Plans of the East Ayrshire Community Plan.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Risk Assessments will be carried out by SLCT prior to the commencement of the Training Programme. SLCT have appropriate insurance to undertake the various forms of training proposed.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The Cabinet is asked to:

- (i) Authorise the Head of Planning and Economic Development to negotiate a contract with the Scottish Lime Centre Trust in terms of Item 20(1) of the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts & Tendering;**
- (ii) Authorise the Executive Director of Corporate Support/Head of Planning and Economic Development (dependant on the value of the contract) to award the contract to the Scottish Lime Centre Trust on completion of the negotiation process if she/he is satisfied that the contract would represent Best Value.**

**Elizabeth Morton
Depute Chief Executive/
Executive Director of Corporate Support**

10 March 2008 (CMcK/SA)
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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Report to Cabinet – 21 November 2007, “Kilmarnock Townscape Heritage Initiative Stage Two Submission”.
2. Report to Cabinet – 24 October 2007, “Kilmarnock Town Centre Regeneration”.
3. Report to Council – 21 June 2007, “Community, Heritage and Environment Projects Budgets 2006/07 – 2007/08”.
4. Report to Development Services Committee – 6 March 2007 “Community, Heritage and Environment Projects Overview 2006/07 – 2007/08”.
5. Report to Development Services Committee – 2 May 2006 “CARS & THI for John Finnie Street & Bank Street, Kilmarnock, and a CARS for Catrine Outstanding Conservation Areas – Update”

Anyone wishing further information should contact Karl Doroszenko, Development Planning & Regeneration Manager, Tel: 01563 576751

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