

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE – 28 JUNE 2005

CATRINE ENVIRONMENTAL HERITAGE PROJECT - NEGOTIATION AND AWARDING OF CONTRACT

Report by the Executive Director of Development and Property Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the approval of Committee to authorise the Head of Planning, Development and Building Standards to enter into negotiation with Halcrow Group Ltd and award a contract in terms of the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1. Halcrow Group Ltd was appointed as consultants after a successful competitive tender for the Project Development phase of the Catrine Environmental Heritage Project (CEHP) in 2004. This involved an initial appraisal of all the sites and structures followed by extensive reporting as well as the supervision of a contract involving maintenance of the Weir and Voes Scheduled Ancient Monument. The work was supported by a Heritage Lottery Fund Project Development Grant and funding from the East Ayrshire Coalfield Social Inclusion Partnership. In addition, Historic Scotland contributed funds towards the emergency works to the Weir.

2.2 In order to prepare an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), Historic Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage for grant assistance in respect of the main restoration funding package, further site investigation work is essential to allow detailed drawings, specifications and Bills of Quantity (BOQ) to be prepared against reliable data. This will allow accurate costs to be obtained for the restoration of the Weir and Voes and the wider aims of the CEHP.

2.3 Given the work which Halcrow has already completed on the project and the expertise they have gained from working on the Weir and Voes, it is inevitable that delays and cost escalation would occur if we were to start again with another Civil Engineering Consultant. This approach will also allow continuity of professional indemnity insurance liability.

2.4 There are critical deadlines which are required to be met to apply for grant assistance and therefore any delays caused by the tendering process could have implications for the funding of the project. In addition due to the nature of the contract there is a need to carry out the investigation works in the Summer whilst water levels in the river are low.

2.5 The Council, at its meeting held on 4 March 2004 (Item 6, Page 604, 03/07) agreed the Standing Orders Relating to Contracts, 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. CONTRACTS

3.1. Item 9(2) of the Standing Orders Relating to Contracts 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 Committee, both in respect of the negotiations and of the person with whom the tender is to be negotiated.”

3.2 Authorisation is sought from Committee to negotiate a contract for the following with Halcrow Group Ltd to:-

- (i). draw up a specification and BOQ for a site investigation contract which would provide all the information you would need to design a scheme for:
 - Re-building of the weir;
 - Incorporation of a “poacher-proof” fish pass with fish counter and CCTV, all built into the centre section of the weir structure;
 - Rebuild lade entrance in original style, but without the reduction of cross sectional area which the existing gates create;
 - Install new mechanically cleaned screens which are acceptable to Historic Scotland;
 - Upgrade lade + north and west voes to allow the 400kw hydro scheme to operate;
 - Maintenance of Voe walls and selective desilting to allow south west and south east voes to be used for other applications; and
 - Investigation of the tunnels.
- (ii). Utilise the Council’s approved term contractor for Site Investigations to carry out the above work
- (iii). Supervise site Investigation work
- (iv). Use information to design the restoration contract documentation
- (v). Procure realistic budget prices from contractors for the restoration work
- (vi). Provide report with firm cost estimates and working drawings in support of HLF bid.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The cost of the works can be provided from existing budgets.

5. LEGAL/AUTHORITY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The contract will be awarded in terms of Paragraph 9(2) of the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Nil.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 The Committee is asked to:

- (i) Authorise the Head of Planning, Development and Building Standards to negotiate a contract with Halcrow Group Ltd in terms of Item 9(2) of the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts;**
- (ii) Authorise the Executive Director of Corporate Support/Head of Planning, Development and Building Standards (dependant on the value of the contract) to award the contract to Halcrow Group Ltd on completion of the negotiation process if she/he is satisfied that the contract would represent Best Value.**

James Lavery
Executive Director of Development and Property Services

17 June 2005 (CMcK/SA)
FV-AN

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Catrine Environmental Heritage Project Report: Appendix 1 – Structural Condition and Restoration Proposals

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers relative to this report or wishing further information about this report should contact Colin McKee, Principal Planning Officer, on Telephone Number (01563) 576759.

Implementation Officer: Alan Neish