
NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

12 June 2020

Emergency Governance Decisions (Covid-19 Outbreak)

Title: Award of framework for Provision of Employability and Skills

Purpose: To advise of the outcome of the tendering exercise for Provision of Employability and Skills and the subsequent award of a framework and recommend the award of a framework.

Recommendation: That the Chief Executive, following appropriate consultation, agrees on behalf of the Council, to the award of Contracts to Barnardos Scotland, CEIS Ayrshire, Impact Arts, SALUS, The Ayrshire Community Trust, The Lennox Partnership and The Workers Educational Association.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 North Ayrshire Council required to establish a replacement framework for the provision of employability and skills. The purpose of this framework is to allow unemployed and in work residents to gain skills or employment and to remove barriers to employment for disadvantaged groups where required through specialist provision.
- 1.2 In order to comply with the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts and public procurement legislation a formal tendering exercise was undertaken.
- 1.3 The Contract term is for 2 years with the option to extend for a further 2 years and is awarded to Barnardos Scotland, CEIS Ayrshire, Impact Arts, SALUS, The Ayrshire Community Trust, The Lennox Partnership and The Workers Educational Association

2. Background

- 2.1 In light of the current Covid-19 outbreak, meetings of the Council and its committees have been suspended until 30 June 2020. During this period, the Scheme of Delegation to Officers already allows the Chief Executive to consider and deal with any urgent issues, howsoever arising, subject to reporting back to the Cabinet for information at the first available opportunity. This power is to be exercised in consultation with the relevant Chief Officer and the relevant portfolio holder. Please see Section 5 for further details of the consultation which has been undertaken in the preparation of this report.

- 2.2 A prior information notice was published on 16th October 2019 to notify the market of the forthcoming procurement exercise.
- 2.3 A formal contract notice was advertised on 17th February 2020 under the open procedure on Public Contracts Scotland and the Official Journal of the European Union and the procurement exercise was carried out via the PCS-Tender System. The return date for the tender was 12 noon on 16th March 2020.
- 2.4 The contract notice attracted 49 expressions of interest of which 7 submitted a tender response.
- 2.5 The contract notice attracted 7 expressions of interest from local bidders of which 2 submitted a response. There were also 3 expressions of interest from Pan Ayrshire bidders of which none submitted a response.
- 2.6 The tender responses received were evaluated against the stated evaluation criteria of 40% price and 60% quality to determine the most economically advantageous tender.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 The Chief Executive, following appropriate consultation, is invited on behalf of the Council approve the framework award to Barnardos Scotland, CEIS Ayrshire, Impact Arts, SALUS, The Ayrshire Community Trust, The Lennox Partnership and The Workers Educational Association.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

- 4.1 The estimated value of the overall framework agreement based on the evaluated value of known requirements is £8,211,587. A budget of £12,000,000 is available for this requirement. This budget is based on the expected growth of the framework value over the contract period when future funding is allocated from outside bodies and to support the Ayrshire growth deal. The framework will therefore be awarded to the full budget value to facilitate these additional requirements.

Human Resources

- 4.2 None.

Legal

- 4.3 None.

Equality/Socio-economic

- 4.4 The contract will help improve equality in employment within the local area by letting priority groups such as lone parents gain meaningful skills or employment opportunities.

Environmental and Sustainability

4.5 None.

Key Priorities

4.6 The framework helps work towards the following objectives from the Council plan:

- **Aspiring communities**
 - ***'North Ayrshire has an inclusive, growing and enterprising economy'***- We will promote fair employment practices
- **A Council for the future**
 - ***'An accessible Council that puts residents and communities at the heart of what we do'***- We will provide joined-up services across the Council and with partner agencies and communities.
 - ***'An efficient Council that maximises resources and provides value for money'***- We will use our spending power to drive value, maximising the opportunity to support communities and local businesses

Community Wealth Building

4.7 Award of these contracts contributes to the pillars of Community wealth building set out below:

- **Procurement** - Community benefits were a minimum condition of this tender and successful tenderers will deliver over the duration of the contract the community benefits detailed in appendix A.
- **Employment** – 2 of the bidders are accredited living wage employers and all bidders have confirmed that they pay the living wage
- **Land and assets** – Not applicable
- **Financial power** - Not applicable
- **Democratic ownership** – Not applicable

4.8 The recommendation of the evaluation panel is to award some of the lots of the framework to local suppliers CEIS Ayrshire and The Ayrshire community Trust.

5. Consultation

5.1 Throughout the tender process there was direct involvement with members of the Employability team from the Economic Development and Regeneration service

Mark Boyd
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For further information please contact **Suzanne Quinn, I Category Manager- Supplies Services and Works**, on **01294 324 039**.

Background Papers

NAC/1137 Tender Outcome Report