



PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

INDIVIDUAL DECISION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR FINANCE

EXCEPTION TO CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES & NEGOTIATION WITH SPECIALIST CONTRACTOR

TOPIC – CHERITON & SPARSHOLT SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS REED BED REPLACEMENTS

PROCEDURAL INFORMATION

The Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 4, Section 22 of the Council's Constitution provides for a decision to be made by an individual member of Cabinet.

In accordance with the Procedure Rules, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance are consulted together with Chairman and Vice Chairman of The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and any other relevant overview and scrutiny committee. In addition, all Members are notified.

If five or more Members from those informed so request, the Leader may require the matter to be referred to Cabinet for determination.

Contact Officers:

Case Officer: Keith Miles

Democratic Services Officer: Nancy Graham, 01962 848 235,
ngraham@winchester.gov.uk

SUMMARY

- Cheriton & Sparsholt sewage treatment works have reed beds that require replacement.
- Cheriton is 84m² and the estimated cost for replacement is £21,686.20 + VAT.
- Sparsholt is 500m² and the estimated cost for replacement is £64,827.74 + VAT.
- The replacement of the beds is required urgently as at present the sample points for the treatment works are non operational as the beds are blocked. The Environment Agency require sample points to be operational for periodic testing and the Council would be subject to a fine should they visit to carry out site tests

- The nature of the replacement works are specialist and officers have not been able to identify suitable contractors from Constructionline, which under the Council's Contract Procedure Rules can be used as a Select List.
- Given the estimated value of the contracts, three quotations would normally be required. From the research carried out by officers, very few contractors can do this type of work. Given the specialist nature of the works and the lack of suitable contractors, officers consider that it would be impracticable to obtain quotations from other contractors.
- The Drainage and Special Maintenance team have identified Rocon Contractors Limited as a contractor able to carry out the works. Rocon have previously carried out work satisfactorily for the Council and are a trusted contractor. The estimated costs set out above have been provided by Rocon, and officers are satisfied that the estimates are reasonable and should be accepted.
- There is a clear need for the works to be done by suitable qualified contractors, to an appropriate standard, with implications for the Council if the work is not properly carried out. It is therefore considered preferable to proceed with a contractor that has worked with the Council previously.

PROPOSED DECISION

That the Head of Drainage and Special Maintenance be authorised to negotiate a contract for the replacement of sewage treatment works reed beds at Cheriton and Sparsholt with Rocon Contractors Limited and a Direction be made under Contracts Procedure Rule 2.4 a) accordingly.

REASON FOR THE PROPOSED DECISION AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Unable to identify suitably qualified contractors to undertake these specialist works.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

As the sewage treatment works were provided by the Council in connection with Council housing stock, they are treated as a Housing Revenue Account asset and maintenance costs will be chargeable to the HRA. Charges are levied on private residents who benefit from the treatment works, including those who have bought their council houses under Right to Buy, at equivalent levels to the charges paid by residents to the local water company. There is sufficient budget allowance in the Housing capital programme for 2017/18 to cover the cost of these works. There was no capital spending on sewage treatment works in 2016/17 with the monies saved being retained in the HRA working balance (reserve). If additional expenditure is required during this year, this can be met from the HRA working balance.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN ON THE PROPOSED DECISION

None

**FURTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED
FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION
NOTICE**

None

**DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY THE DECISION MAKER OR A MEMBER OR
OFFICER CONSULTED**

DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Approved by: (signature)

Date of Decision 31.07.2017

Councillor Guy Ashton – Portfolio Holder for Finance

APPENDICES:

None