

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development

Tendering Committee: 20 April 2010

Subject: Tender for the delivery of West Dunbartonshire's Construction Support Unit

1. Purpose

- 1.1** This report seeks committee approval for the Council to initiate a tender on behalf of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) for the supply and delivery of a pilot Construction Support Unit.

2. Background

- 2.1** West Dunbartonshire Council is the lead agency for the theme of Regenerating and Growing Our Local Economy and has the responsibility for creating and supporting employability projects.
- 2.2** A number of construction projects are expected to commence during 2010, the first main project expected to commence building this spring is the construction of 129 housing units by New City Vision at Dalquhurn, Renton.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** The tender seeks to pilot a Construction Support Unit that will act as the main contact between construction employers, construction operatives seeking work and all relevant partner organisations and training providers operating in West Dunbartonshire.
- 3.2** West Dunbartonshire Council as lead agency for the CPP seek to achieve the following key objectives:
- recruitment needs are timeously and efficiently met;
 - all support available is fully accessed through a coordinated approach;
 - local people are given every opportunity to fill vacancies;
 - appropriate up-skilling of individuals is available to ensure that required skills sets are met; and
 - key West Dunbartonshire employability targets are met.
- 3.3** It is proposed that the pilot project will commence immediately on completion of the tendering process for an initial period of 1 year, with a view to establishment of the Unit on a more permanent basis.

3.4 It is intended to proceed on a restricted tendering basis, with an invitation to local providers. Evaluation will be on the basis of the most economically advantageous, assessing both quality and price.

4. Personnel Issues

4.1 There are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 It is anticipated that the Support Unit is likely to require a minimum of 2 FTE members of staff and together with associated costs for management, overheads, equipment etc., will not exceed the threshold for OJEU procedures.

5.2 There is sufficient CPP programme funding to meet the anticipated costs of the Unit in its first year, however in an endeavour to reduce the cost to the CPP and to sustain the Unit beyond the pilot period, funding will also be sought from key partner organisations and consideration will be given to accessing European funds and/or DWP Deprived Area Fund.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 Failure to initiate a tendering exercise will impair the Council's ability to deliver best value services and may impact on the delivery of Single Outcome Agreement targets.

7. Equalities Impact

7.1 No significant issues were identified in a screening for potential equality impact for this service.

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

8.1 The Construction Support Unit will provide contractors and operatives a one stop shop approach to maximise the community benefit derived from local construction projects.

8.2 The Committee is invited to approve the initiation of a tendering exercise for the provision of a Pilot Construction Support Unit.

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Date: 23 March 2010

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Appendices: None

Background Papers: None

Wards Affected: None