

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Streetscene & Engineering Cabinet Board

14 July 2017

Report of the Head of Engineering & Transport

D. W. Griffiths

Matter for Information

Ward Affected: All

NPS SOUTH WEST & MID WALES REGIONAL CIVIL ENGINEERING CONSULTANCY FRAMEWORK 2017 to 2021

Purpose of Report

1. To advise Members' of the new NPS South West & Mid Wales Regional Civil Engineering Consultancy Framework.

Executive Summary

2. The SWW Regional Engineering Consultancy Framework ended its term in February 2017. The NPS Framework was determined to be unsuitable for the needs of the six participating local authorities and owing to resource pressures; it was decided to create a new SW&MW Regional Engineering Consultancy Framework which is managed by NPS. The new framework was active from 1st April 2017.

Background

3. The new NPS Framework is a development on the original South West Framework (consisting of Carmarthen CC, Pembrokeshire CC, Neath Port Talbot CBC & City & County of Swansea) that was implemented in 2012 and ended in February 2017.
4. Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council do not hold an approved list of Consultants; therefore, in order to satisfy EU Procurement Rules and to ensure that projects are procured in a timely manner, it is proposed to utilise the new framework.

5. Whilst existing NPS Frameworks are suitable for smaller specialist services (e.g. Flood Modelling), NPS recognise that our requirements in South West Wales are different to those currently provided in the NPS Framework, where we need particular emphasis upon:
 - Integration of a Local Supply Chain with measurable Community Benefits.
 - Increased range of Staff Grades.
 - Communication, Knowledge Retention & Best Practice.
 - Consistent Standards & approach to Procurement.
 - Improving Tender Response Rates
 - Promotion of continuous improvement and teamwork suitable for the delivery of work programmes.
6. Following discussions with NPS in July 2016, it was evident that NPS supported our position and offered help in developing a framework that would be suited to our needs. NPS later agreed to manage the procurement process and offer ongoing support during the duration of the framework. The framework structure is included in **Appendix 1**.
7. Whilst being reviewed in November 2016 by the Framework Board, Ceredigion County Council and Powys County Council sought to be added to the new framework, to increase buying power and increase capacity in the consultancy services by justifying an increase in the number of consultants.
8. Following an extensive procurement process that was managed by NPS with a project board consisting of gateway managers from each authority, 5 consultants were appointed; namely:
 - **Aecom**
 - **Atkins**
 - **Capita**
 - **Opus**
 - **WSP**

The framework became active from 1st April 2017.

Financial Impact

9. There are no direct charges or financial implications for NPTCBC who would only meet the costs of approved consultants once commissioned. However, there is a small framework administration cost of 0.45% of commission value, that the consultants will reimburse the National Procurement Service directly.

Equality Impact Assessment

10. There is no requirement for an EIA.

Workforce Impacts

11. The works will be delivered using the in-house engineering design teams where possible and the framework will be used where support or specialist services is required.

Legal Impacts

12. NPS is the Contractual Link for the Framework. Individual commissions will be made via an NEC Professional Services Contract between the Consultant and the Council.

Risk Management

13. No risks are envisaged.

Consultation

14. There is no requirement for Consultation on this matter.

Recommendation(s)

15. That Members' note the use of the NPS South West and Mid Wales Regional Civil Engineering Consultancy Framework.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

16. N/A; for information only.

Implementation of Decision

17. N/A; for information only.

Appendices

18. Appendix 1 – Framework Structure.

List of Background Papers

19. None.

Officer Contact

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Appendix 1 – Framework Structure

NPS SOUTH WEST and MID WALES REGIONAL ENGINEERING CONSULTANCY FRAMEWORK

POTENTIAL MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

