



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

Environment, Regeneration and Streetscene Services Cabinet Board

14th April 2023

Report of the Head of Engineering & Transport (David W. Griffiths)

Matter for Information

Wards Affected: None

SOUTH WEST WALES REGIONAL CIVIL ENGINEERING CONTRACTORS FRAMEWORK (SWWRCECF)

Purpose of the Report:

To inform Members of the development of the South West Wales Regional Civil Engineering Contractors Framework (SWWRCECF) 2023 to 27.

Executive Summary:

The South West Wales Regional Civil Engineering Contractors Framework ended its term in January 2023.

The replacement framework has a term from February 2023 to January 2026 with an option to extend for a further 12 months. This Framework offers customers a convenient and competitive route to access Civil Engineering related services and works. The Framework offers access to pre-approved Contractors who have been rigorously assessed on the quality of the services and works they provide.

Background:

The new Framework is a development on the previous Framework (consisting of Carmarthen CC, Ceredigion CC, Pembrokeshire CC, Neath Port Talbot CBC, and Swansea Council) that was implemented in 2019 and expired at the end of this January 2023.

In order to satisfy Public Contract Regulations 2015 (Inc. Subsequent Amendments) and to ensure that projects are procured in a timely manner, it is proposed to utilise the new framework. The framework contracts result from a collaboration between regional authorities to provide an efficient system of appointing contractors that reduces extensive contract procedures each time contracts for similar works are issued externally.

Carmarthenshire CC is the lead authority.

The framework enables advertising and pre-qualification to be completed once rather than several times for each authority. For smaller contracts, where appropriate, it enables direct appointment of contractors for Emergency Works or on a submitted 'schedule of rates' basis without further competition. Otherwise, contracts will be awarded following a mini competition process between successful framework contractors.

This iteration of the framework has particular emphasis upon:

- Regionally based Contractors.
- Integration of a Local Supply Chain with measurable Community Benefits.
- Increased range of Specialist Categories.
- County based Lots for very small works up to £50k in value to supplement the Councils in-house direct labour workforces. This introduces smaller contractors to gain experience on the Framework.
- 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 programme.
- Local Design Capacity.

The Framework is in operation for three years, from February 2023, with an option for each authority to extend for a further year.

There is no obligation to use the framework for appointment of contractors. However, there is an understanding between the participating councils that the framework will be used for appropriate contracts. The process meets the competition requirements for grant funded schemes.

Members should note that the framework is already being utilised for NPTCBC works that require early procurement for the new financial year. The framework still allows use of NPTCBC's Select List process and open tendering on Sell2Wales where deemed appropriate.

The framework structure and draft user guide is included in **Appendix**.

Financial Impacts:

No financial implications.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

Not Applicable. There is no requirement to undertake an IIA as this report is for information purposes only.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

No impacts.

Workforce Impacts:

No impacts.

Legal Impacts:

The Framework is compliant with the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The framework enables the timely procurement of Civil Engineering Works and Services in accordance with Public Contract Regulations 2015 (Inc. Subsequent Amendments) and the Council's own Contract Procedure Rules.

Risk Management Impacts:

Failure to implement the Framework will result in significant delays to procurement of Civil Engineering Works and require significant additional procurement resources to support the department in open tendering on larger schemes.

Consultation:

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Framework Structure and User Guide

List of Background Papers:

None.

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Appendix 1