

# Public Document Pack

## Officer Decisions

Friday, 24th March, 2023

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### AGENDA

- Awarding of the HAF Commission to a Suitable VCSF Organisation**  
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- Surfacing & Civils Framework Agreement**  
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Date Published: Friday, 24th March, 2023  
Denise Park, Chief Executive

Agenda Item 1

**RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN UNDER  
DELEGATED AUTHORITY FROM  
EXECUTIVE/COUNCIL/COMMITTEE**

**DELEGATED POWERS OUTLINED IN  
THE CONSTITUTION**



<b>DELEGATED OFFICER</b>	Strategic Director of Children & Education (DCS)
<b>DECISION TAKEN BY:</b>	(DCS)
<b>DELEGATED BY:</b>	Council (12th January 2023)
<b>IN CONSULTATION WITH:</b>	Executive Member
<b>PORTFOLIO AREA:</b>	Children's Services

**SUBJECT: Awarding of the HAF commission to a suitable VCSF organisation**

**1. DECISION**

The delegated officer Joanne Siddle, in accordance with the Blackburn with Darwen Constitution Section 16, under powers delegated to her to note: That following a successful tender process the decision has been to award to **Spring North** to deliver on behalf of the council the Holiday and Food Activity (HAF).

From: 1st May 2023- 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024 (with the possible option to extend for 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024 - 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

**2. REASON FOR DECISION**

The tender activity commenced October 2022 and led to the tender being published on 6th February 2023. The tender was advertised widely to the market through the Find a Tender Service, Contracts Finder and the CHEST portal.

Invitation to Tender Stage Two organisations submitted a full Invitation to Tender. The organisations were required to achieve a 'pass' in relation to the 'Budgetary / Pricing Framework'

A full evaluation was undertaken for both organisations based on the criteria set out in the service specification and invitation to tender documents.

The tenders were assessed by a panel and scored. Detailed written feedback will be given to the successful and unsuccessful tenderers.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

The current provider is Spring North and they have project managed this work since 2021. Last year Spring North continued to manage the project under a waiver. This was due to timelines and late notification of further funding.

#### **Aims and objectives of the Holiday Activity and Food programme**

The aim of the programme is to make free places available to children eligible for free school meals for the equivalent of at least four hours a day, four days a week and for six weeks in school holidays during 2023/2024.

This covers 1 week at Easter, four weeks in the summer and a week's worth of provision during Christmas. (The same for 2024/2025, this will be subject to DfE agreement and satisfactory performance).

The overarching aims of the programme are to enable children and young people:

- a) To eat more healthily over the school holidays.
- b) To be more active during the school holidays.
- c) To take part in engaging and enriching activities which support the development of resilience, character and well-being along with their wider education attainment.
- d) To be safe and not to be socially isolated.
- e) To have greater knowledge of health nutrition.
- f) To be more engaged with school and other local services.

We also want to ensure that the families who participate in this programme:

- Develop their understanding of nutrition and food budgeting
- Are signposted towards other information and support, for example, health, employment and education.

#### **Expected Outcomes**

- To deliver an exciting programme of holiday activities for children and young people
- To ensure that children and families receive a nutritious food offer during the identified holiday periods
- Children and families develop their understanding of nutrition and food budgeting as well as being sign posted towards other information and support e.g. health, employment and education.

#### **Evidence Base**

Evidence suggests that free holiday clubs can have a positive impact on children and young people. It also shows they work best when they provide consistent and easily accessible enrichment activities, when they offer more than just breakfast or lunch, and when they involve children (and parents) in food preparation.

In November 2020 the Department for Education announced a grant to Local Authorities to provide free places at holiday clubs for children who are entitled to free school meals. These clubs will

provide physical activity, a hot meal and enrichment activities alongside education and support opportunities for parents and carers.

#### **4. KEY ISSUES AND RISKS**

##### **Service Description**

Spring North will continue to project manage and coordinate the delivery of Blackburn with Darwen's 2023-2024 of the Holiday activity and Food (HAF) programme in the first instance.

Subject to funding and satisfactory performance will also deliver 2024-2025 programme. The provider will also continue to work closely with the Council's Children's and Education Directorate to co-ordinate and manage a high quality, equitable and accessible offer across the borough.

##### **Accessibility, fairness and equity of provision**

The HAF programme will comply with the Equality Act 2010 and will be non-stigmatising and non-discriminatory, providing fair and equitable access for all.

It will also work in a way that it does not discriminate against individuals on the grounds of gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, sexual practices, gender reassignment, age, pregnancy or maternity, marriage/civil partnership or belief system and will ensure that all applicable legislation is adhered to.

##### **Essential links to other services / care pathways**

The provider will work to ensure that it develops close links with local partners to ensure those most in need are targeted and supported. These partners include but are not limited to:

- Family hubs and Children's Centres
- Schools
- Young People's Services
- 0-19 Healthy Child Programme
- Social Workers
- Children in Our Care team
- Strategic Youth Alliance
- Public Health
- Parents in Partnership for SEND

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Holiday and Food Activity Fund Spend for 2023/2024 allocation is £737,760.

£50k of this has now been awarded to Spring North to project manage and coordinate the delivery of Blackburn with Darwen's 2023-2024 Holiday activity and Food (HAF) programme. Subject to funding and satisfactory performance they will also deliver the 2024-2025 programme. The remainder of the funding (£687,760) will be distributed to identify delivery partners in order to provide the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme as per DfE guidelines.

The provider will work closely with the Council's Children's and Education Directorate to co-ordinate and manage a high quality, equitable and accessible offer across the borough.

## 6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Tender has been in accordance with the Council's Contract Procurement Procedure Rules.

## 7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no resource implications.

## 8. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Spring North submitted the best tender, their submission very clearly had the voice of children and young people at the heart of it and was also the most economically advantageous tender.

## 10. CONSULTATIONS

N/A

## 11. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of the officer with delegation and the any Member who has been consulted, and note of any dispensation granted should be recorded below:

<b>VERSION:</b>	<b>1</b>
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<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>Maria Nugent</b>
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<b>DATE:</b>	<b>09/03/2023</b>
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<b>BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:</b>	
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# Agenda Item 2

## RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY FROM EXECUTIVE/COUNCIL/COMMITTEE

### DELEGATED POWERS OUTLINED IN THE CONSTITUTION



<b>DELEGATED OFFICER</b>	Strategic Director of Environment & Operations
<b>DECISION TAKEN BY:</b>	Operations
<b>DELEGATED BY:</b>	Executive (date of delegation)
<b>IN CONSULTATION WITH:</b>	Chief Officer
<b>PORTFOLIO AREA:</b>	Regeneration

**SUBJECT: Surfacing & Civils Framework Agreement**

#### 1. DECISION

To award lots 1 and 2 of the above framework agreement.

Lot 1 Surfacing – Award to:

- Tarmac Trading Limited
- Bethell Construction Limited
- Aggregate Industries UK Ltd

Lot 2 Civils – Award to:

- Bethell Construction Limited
- Multevo Ltd
- A E Yates Ltd

#### 2. REASON FOR DECISION

An advertised competitive tendering exercise was undertaken via the Council's e-tendering portal – The Chest. The framework agreement is divided into four lots and bidders could apply for one or more lots. The four lots are:

- Lot 1 – Surfacing
- Lot 2 – Civils
- Lot 3 – Surface Dressing
- Lot 4 – Specialist Surface Treatments

The award of lots 3 and 4 has been approved in a previous paper titled 'RDP-Surfacing and Civils lots 3 and 4 award'.

The Council received 12 on time submissions for lot 1 and 15 for lot 2. These submissions have been evaluated by officers from the Highways Team and the Contracts and Procurement Team.

The following published scoring criteria was used to evaluate the bids:

Price – 25%

Quality – 60%

Social Value –15%

### **3. BACKGROUND**

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council is responsible for the management of a large range of highways and footways in various stages of repair and maintenance. There is an on-going requirement to keep these assets well-maintained and to carry out new work and repairs quickly, effectively and efficiently to keep them in good working order, to improve transport circulation and in order to avoid costly remedial works in the future.

The Council has an existing internal department which carry out some works but the framework is intended to bolster capacity for small-scale and larger jobs where no in-house capacity exists. Some of this work will be regular, planned and routine and other work will be part of larger schemes.

The works will be issued in works Packages and will consist of all relevant information required for the Contractor to price these works.

Each lot will have a maximum of three contractors. The successful contractors on each lot will be invited to participate in mini-competitions for each works package if sufficient contractors are available.

Contractors on the framework will be approached with a brief, a schedule of works and designs for the project and given approximately 2 weeks to submit a price. The winning Contractor will be chosen on the basis of pricing.

### **4. KEY ISSUES AND RISKS**

The following risks and issues have been considered:

- Currently, not having a formal contract in place for surfacing and civils work is a risk to service delivery.  
This contract mitigates the risk with the successful contractors all being required to enter into a formal call-off contract (with terms and conditions) under seal with the Council.
- Cost control - The successful contractors have provided indicative costs which will be fixed for 12 months and each individual works package will be subject to a mini-competition scored on price. The Council will therefore have good control of the expenditure through this contract.

### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The costs of works to be undertaken during the term of the contract will be met from within existing budgets. In the context of the Council's Financials Strategy and the Strategic Workstreams being pursued by the Council, the procurement of goods and services such as those set out in this report

is a key strand to achieving the Council's aim of financial sustainability.

The Framework Agreement may produce some savings, as the competitive tendering process is likely to drive down costs to below the current rates. This, combined with the review of the schedule of works to achieve best value for the Council, will seek to meet the general aim of a 10% reduction in costs to the Council.

## 6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no implications, the procurement process was carried out in accordance with the Council's Contract and Procurement Procedure rules and the Public Procurement Regulations.

## 7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

## 8. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- Use of an existing framework agreement - this was rejected as it would mean local businesses and SME's would not have the opportunity to bid.  
Continue with short term ad-hoc arrangements - this was rejected because the aggregated value meant a tender exercise had to be undertaken to meet the Council's Contracts and Procurement Procedure Rules. In addition, the Council having its own longer term framework agreement will offer better value for money and increased resilience in terms of business continuity.

*Further information is available via the following link [ ] or from the report author*

## 9. CONSULTATIONS

## 10. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of the officer with delegation and the any Member who has been consulted, and note of any dispensation granted should be recorded below:

<b>VERSION:</b>	<b>1</b>
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<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>Robert Sutcliffe, Les Smith</b>
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<b>DATE:</b>	14/03/2023
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<b>BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:</b>	N/A
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