



# RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS OUTLINED IN THE CONSTITUTION – Part 3 Section 16

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| <b>DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION TAKEN BY:</b> | <b>Martin Eden</b>     |
| <b>PORTFOLIO AREA:</b>                      | Environmental Services |

**SUBJECT:** Tree-Maintenance Services contract

## 1. DECISION

To award a contract for one year with the option to extend for a further 2 x 12 months to Greenfingers Landscape Limited. The contractor will be required to provide the Council with a comprehensive tree-maintenance service.

## 2. REASON FOR DECISION

An external contractor is required to support the Council's in-house team with the management of its tree stock. The work will include:

- Tree Inspection and reporting, both programmed and reactive when on site and on location with assigned work.
- Routine Maintenance - the management of trees identified through inspection as being dead, dying and / or dangerous and presenting a serious risk to the safety of the public and property; or in need of pro-active management to prevent them from becoming so.
- Ash Dieback –providing best value solutions to address the impact of the disease.

## 3. BACKGROUND

The Council needs to increase its tree-maintenance capacity due to issues such as Ash Dieback. This additional capacity cannot be met in-house and therefore needs to be procured from an external third party.

On 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022, the Council undertook a tendering exercise. The tender was advertised on Find A Tender Service, Contracts Finder and the Council's e-tendering portal "The Chest".

Sixteen submissions were received and they were evaluated by a panel of officers from the Environment Department and the Contracts and Procurement Team. The bids were evaluated against the following published criteria:

- Price 50%
- Quality 40%
- Social Value 10%

Greenfingers Landscape Ltd received the highest total mark of 78.34%. Therefore it is the Council's intention to award the contract to Greenfingers Landscape Ltd.

#### 4. KEY ISSUES AND RISKS

Failure to tackle Ash Dieback disease could see up to 90% of the Ash trees in the borough fail, causing risk to life and property, if not managed. Already Ash trees in the borough are affected and this is causing huge concern, given there is no cure for the disease. The Council has only 1 tree team for the whole of the borough, and at present, they cannot cope with the existing demands, let alone emerging demands from the risks from Ash Dieback.

Where trees fail, the threat to life and property cannot be understated, with Wirral MBC recently taken to court and fined in excess of £100,000 for a tree failure that sadly saw the life of a young child lost. Damage to property sees the Council liable for its tree stock, with the Council paying the first £25,000 for each claim, with a number of claims already being handled within the Council due to tree failures.

#### 5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The annual cost tendered of £120,000 is within the allocated budget.

#### 6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

All contracts and contract variations will be in a form approved by legal officers in the Contracts and Procurement team.

#### 7. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Use an existing framework agreement. A suitable agreement could not be identified and therefore this option was rejected.

The Council did consider employing its own additional team, but the availability within the industry of qualified arborists who are well skilled in tree work is limited, and the Council would have faced delays with vehicle procurement due to the lack of micro-capacitors across the world. As a result, the use of a contractor equipped, skilled and trained was the only available option to tackle the problems the borough is facing in a timely manner.

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

#### 6. 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>                    |
| <b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>      | Chris Aston                 |
| <b>DATE:</b>                 | 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 |
| <b>BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:</b> | N/A                         |

Signed: 

**Director**

**Date: 25-04-22**