



# EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION

**REPORT OF:** Executive Member for Growth and Development

**LEAD OFFICERS:** Strategic Director of Growth & Development

**DATE:** 20 December 2023

**PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:** Growth and Development, Education, Childrens and Young People

**WARD/S AFFECTED:** Audley & Queens Park; Darwen East;

**SUBJECT: Darwen Youth Centre / Audley and Queen's Park Children's Centre Youth Investment Fund – Contractor Procurement Strategy**

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report seeks approval for the proposed contractor procurement strategy for development of the Darwen Youth Centre and Audley and Queen's Park Children Centre further to the awarding of Youth Investment Fund (YIF) Funding to Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Member:

2.1 Approve the proposed contractor procurement strategy for the Darwen Youth Centre / Audley and Queen's Park Children's Centre YIF Developments.

## 3. BACKGROUND

3.1 In early 2023 Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council was successful in its bid to the Youth Investment Fund for the redevelopment and improvement of the existing young people's facilities of Darwen Youth Centre and Audley and Queen's Park Children Centre.

3.2 As part of the approved YIF schemes the Council identified the following major improvements to the two aforementioned buildings:

- A partial demolition of the Darwen Youth Centre and the construction of a second level on the existing one level structure, including mezzanine.
- A remodel and relaying of the multi - use games area at the rear of the Darwen Youth Centre
- Landscaping outside of the Darwen Youth Centre
- A partial internal renovation of the exiting Audley and Queen's Park Children Centre

3.3 Planning Applications have been submitted for both schemes.

3.4 The Council's will utilise the pre-procured Growth Teams Contractor and Development Framework for procurement of the construction works. The framework has five partners with the appropriate experience to deliver the project.

3.5 The framework has been utilised on multiple previous construction schemes including the successful delivery of three Growth Deal schemes and the construction of the Reel Cinema in Blackburn.

3.6 The contractor will be procured through a mini-competition, this will seek partner proposals for the project and their team. The partner will also have the opportunity to better their framework tendered rates or retain them. The process will ensure the Council is receiving value for money.

3.7 Tenders will be evaluated on: 70% Price /30% Quality. Contractors will be required to deliver social value as per their framework commitments. Bidders will be asked to price the works which will need to remain valid for 120 days.

#### **4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS**

4.1 A rigorous selection process to appoint Framework Partners has already been undertaken in 2017 which included both price and quality, this enables the Council to appoint a suitable contractor in condensed timescales.

4.2 An Expression of Interest has already been issued to framework partners which has confirmed multiple partners are interested in bidding the opportunity.

4.3 Other procurement options have been considered including an open tender. There are other frameworks available however none of which is suited the project needs. The Framework partners have vast amount of experience in the borough and have a commitment to Local labour and sub-contractors which is a key priority for the Council.

#### **5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no policy implications to progress with the procurement of a contractor.

#### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The project and budget was approved at December 2023 Executive Board

[EBD1: Executive Board Decision \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

6.2 The project will be wholly funded by an external funding stream, The Youth Investment Fund, which has been awarded by the Social Investment Business (SIB), on behalf of the Department for, Culture, Media and Sport.

#### **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 The invitation to tender will be advertised to the framework partners through the Chest. The Procurement process will be managed by the Procurement Team.

7.2 The works will be carried out under terms and conditions of the Engineering and Construction Contract (NEC3 Option C)

## 8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Growth, Children's, Procurement and Legal resources will be utilised.

8.2 The Council's design partner John Puttick Associates and cost consultants Walker Sime have prepared the design of the scheme and a comprehensive scheme of works and will be part of the Council's Design team to evaluate the tender responses.

## 9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1  Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2  In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA link here)*

Option 3  In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA attachment)*

## 10. CONSULTATIONS

10.1 The respective planning applications will consult with the wider public through the Planning Application process for both the Darwen and Audley schemes

## 11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

## 12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded and published if applicable.

<b>VERSION:</b>	<b>1</b>
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<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>Andrew Barrow</b>
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<b>DATE:</b>	11 December 2023
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<b>BACKGROUND PAPER:</b>	
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