

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee West Ham Park Committee	17 February 2014
Subject: Procurement of Tree Maintenance Works	Public
Report of: Director of Open Spaces	For Information
<p>Summary</p> <p>To maintain and manage a healthy tree stock for both City Gardens and West Ham Park, a planned programme of maintenance works takes place annually, with emergency works commissioned throughout the year as and when required.</p> <p>In ensuring this service complies with recommended tree health guidance, procurement regulations and the City of London 'Best Value' procurement principles, an access agreement has been signed allowing the use of a four year government framework for tree maintenance services that can be used for any of the City of London's owned tree stock.</p> <p>The framework has been created and let by the London Borough of Islington and awarded to an experienced arboricultural specialist, KPS.</p> <p>This contract will be used initially to carry out works to City Gardens' and West Ham Park's tree stock with a contract value estimated to be in the region of £136,000 over four years.</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the report 	

Main Report

1. Background

- 1.1. City Gardens have worked closely with the City of London Procurement Service to procure a comprehensive tree maintenance works programme for both West Ham Park and City Gardens ensuring a four year programme of works can be carried out within budget and in a compliant manner.
- 1.2. For the financial year 2012/13 tree maintenance works cost City Gardens and West Ham Park £21,000 and £11,000 respectively. In addition, City Gardens spent £43,000 in 2012/13 on pruning works necessitated by trees identified as

having the disease, Massaria (this was paid for using a carry forward from the previous financial year).

2. Procurement methodology

- 2.1. Historically both City Gardens and West Ham Park have procured these services individually and annually. To identify financial savings, reduce officer time and to ensure procurement regulations are met, a four year arboriculture services framework contract will be used. The Arboriculture Services Framework has been created and let by the London Borough of Islington following an OJEU tender process. Unit costs for itemised services through the framework are competitively priced and it is anticipated over the life of the contract some savings will be identified. Seasonal variations due to unpredictable weather conditions and the recent discovery and treatment of Massaria make it difficult to predict and compare existing and future spend and foreseeable savings. However, the fixed unit costs demonstrated through the tender process confirm that KPS are offering a good quality service and value for money including unit costs for Massaria treatment.
- 2.2. This approach is fully compliant with the City of London's procurement regulations and the framework due diligence process has been completed. Due to the minimum expected total contract value, i.e. £136,000 including both West Ham Park and City Gardens over four years, authorisation was required by the Comptrollers to finalise a contract between the City of London and the supplier, KPS, from 20th January 2014. From 1st of March 2014 KPS will also take on the emergency ad hoc works for both divisions.
- 2.3. Going forward, this framework will be available for use by all Open Spaces areas. Should this have a significant impact on the overall spend and taking the cost of the service over the OJEU threshold of £172,000 requiring committee approval, a further report will be submitted at a later date.

3. Timescales

- 3.1. A comprehensive tree inspection programme has been undertaken for City Gardens and West Ham Park during the months of December 2013 and January 2014 respectively. The findings from this inspection will inform the tree maintenance works required and the associated cost. The City Gardens routine annual pruning works using KPS will start at the end of January with work to the West Ham Park tree stock following on shortly after.

4. Corporate & Strategic Implications

- 4.1. The actions support the City Together Strategy Themes of a World Class City which:
 - protects, promotes and enhances our environment and
 - is safer and stronger.
- 4.2. The proposal supports key objectives within the Open Spaces Department Business Plan 2013-2016:
 - *Quality* – achieve nationally recognised standards and deliver value for money in providing our Open Space service;

- *Environment* – ensure that measures to promote sustainability, biodiversity and heritage are embedded in the Department’s work.

The proposal supports the City of London Tree Strategy 2012, to:

- protect, manage and enhance the existing tree stock in its environment, in accordance with good arboricultural practice.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1. This contract will enable the City of London to effectively manage tree budgets and should produce a reduction in spend on tree works but at the same time ensuring a quality service is maintained.
- 5.2. This contract has come about as a result of collaborative working with other divisions within the City of London and makes use of the procurement process undertaken by the London Borough of Islington.
- 5.3. Access to this framework contract will enable other divisions within the City of London to benefit from the agreed contract prices, saving time and money procuring tree work services over the next four years.

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