

<p>CABINET MEETING – 16TH MARCH 2011</p> <p>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I</p>	
<p>Title of Report: Market Square Public Realm Improvements - Appointment of Contractor</p>	
<p>Author(s): Deputy Chief Executive</p>	
<p>Purpose of Report:</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to obtain Cabinet authority to award the contract for the Market Square Public Realm Improvements.</p>	
<p>Description of Decision: Cabinet is recommended to authorise the Deputy Chief Executive to award the main works contract for the Market Square Public Realm Improvements to Bardon Construction, following a competitive tender process.</p>	
<p>Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? Yes</p>	
<p>If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework</p>	
<p>Suggested reason(s) for Decision: The Market Square Public Realm Improvements project is identified in the Strategic Investment Plan as a key element of the regeneration of the City Centre. The benefits arising from the project would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An improved image of the City Centre • Improved pedestrian environment and potential for events • Improved local resident perceptions and greater number of visits to the city centre • Improved perceptions about cleanliness of the city centre 	
<p>Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected: The funding for the project has been secured and a first phase has been completed. Materials have been ordered and the delivery team is progressing the final design stages of the street furniture. A competitive tender process has been undertaken. No alternative options have been considered.</p>	
<p>Is this a “Key Decision” as defined in the Constitution? Yes</p>	<p>Relevant Scrutiny Committee: Environment and Attractive City Planning and Highways</p>
<p>Is it included in the Forward Plan? Yes</p>	

MARKET SQUARE PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS - APPOINTMENT OF CONTRACTORS

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to obtain Cabinet authority to award the contract for the Market Square Public Realm Improvements.

2.0 Description of Decision

2.1 Cabinet is recommended:

- a) To authorise the Deputy Chief Executive to award the main works contract for the Market Square Public Realm Improvements to Bardon Construction, following a competitive tender process.

3.0 Background

3,1 Cabinet will recall that at its meeting in January 2010 it approved the release of the previously allocated funding for scheme, supplemented by additional funding from the 2010/11 City Centre capital Programme provision.

Current Position

3.1 Since the confirmation in January 2010 that funding had been secured the Market Square project team has been working up detailed designs for the project, which includes the following main elements:

- New granite paving in Union St North / Market Square / Union St South.
- Bespoke cast iron plates which comprise new drainage, power supply points for events, feature ground lighting, and fixings for street furniture
- New tree planting, litter bins, bollards and street lighting.
- Bespoke seating

3,2 A first phase of the works had been completed by City Services which has included the advance ordering of paving materials for phase two. Lighting and power supply units have also been purchased in advance from Aurora who will be responsible for, and undertake their maintenance.

3.2 For the main contract of the Public Realm Improvements (excluding seating), expressions of interest were sought from contractors in May 2010. The Council received 20 expressions of interest, from which 7 contractors were shortlisted to submit tenders. Bardon Construction has been selected from a scoring assessment based upon a combination of value and quality. The value of the contract is £574,251.40. The works are programmed to start on site in April 2011.

4.0 Reasons for Decision

5.1 The Market Square Public Realm Improvements project is identified in the Strategic Investment Plan as a key element of the regeneration of the City Centre.

The benefits arising from the project would include:

- An improved image of the City Centre
- Improved pedestrian environment and potential for events
- Improved local resident perceptions and greater number of visits to the city centre
- Improved perceptions about cleanliness of the city centre

6.0 Alternative Options

6.1 The funding for the project has been secured and a first phase has been completed. Materials have been ordered and the delivery team is progressing the final design stages of the street furniture. A competitive tender process has been undertaken. No alternative options have been considered.

7.0 Relevant Considerations

- a) Financial Implications – The funding requirement for the scheme of £1,042,500 will be met from £800,000 SIP with the balance of £242,500 being met from the proposed City Centre Wins capital programme budget for 2010-1011, carried over to 2011-2012 to include the project end date.
- b) The allocated budget includes a sum of £30,000 for the maintenance and running costs of the ground lighting and power points over a ten year period
- c) Legal Implications – Clause 9.0 Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 provides local authorities with a power for the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well being of their area.
- d) A key stakeholder in this process is Land Securities which has a lease on and therefore control over a large section of 'Market Square' outside the main entrance to the Bridges shopping centre. The proposed works on the area leased by Land Securities are to be carried out under license

- e) Policy Implications - The Market Square Public realm Improvements Project forms part of the wider City Centre regeneration initiatives which are in line with the objectives of the Sunderland Strategy and Economic Masterplan.
- f) Project Management Methodology – the delivery of the project is via the Council's standard Prince2 methodology.

8.0 Background Papers

- Executive Management Team Report 26 January 2010
- Strategic Investment Plan 12th March 2008
- Sunderland Central Area Design Strategy (September 2007) prepared by David Lock Associates.

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