

TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

MEETING: 20 JULY 2009

SUBJECT: PROCUREMENT OF USAR INCIDENT TRAINING FACILITY

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER AND FINANCE OFFICER AND CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report sets out for the information of Members, the tendering arrangements in respect of the Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Incident Training Facility and seeks Authority approval to proceed with the procurement.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On 23rd February 2009, Members approved the Capital Programme for 2009/2010, which included provision for the BTC – Security Improvements and Incident Management Training Facilities at a total cost of £893,838 (£499,049 for 2009/2010). As reported previously to Members, this capital scheme included three individual elements:
- Development of an Incident Command Training Suite – this element was completed in 2008/2009;
 - Development of a USAR Incident Training Facility, and;
 - Security improvements at the BTC.
- 2.2 The procurement of the USAR Incident Training Facility was identified as a requirement by Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority (TWFR) in order to help ensure that the service is appropriately trained to deal with the operational risks that can confront it. To this end the USAR facility will allow for a high level of training in an environment which replicates the conditions firefighters are likely to face in their operational role. This will benefit not only to the USAR operatives but all of the firefighters within Tyne and Wear, any of whom could be called upon to respond to a structural collapse incident.

2 TENDERS

- 3.1 Sunderland City Council, as the lead authority for TWFRS and facilitator of the approved standing list of contractors, invited seven contractors to tender for provision of the capital works as detailed at paragraph 2.2. The seven contractors were selected from the standing lists in accordance with Sunderland City Council's procedures and are listed in alphabetical order below:-

Community and Cultural Services
Gentoo Construction
Lumsden & Carroll Construction
Meldrum Construction Services Ltd.
Pyeroy Ltd

SGW Construction (Redcar) Ltd
Surgo Construction Ltd

3.2 Completed tenders were received from six of the above contractors. Community and Cultural Services did not submit a tender.

3.3 The values of the six completed tenders is set out below in ascending order, excluding VAT and any associated Statutory Approval (e.g. planning and building control) or Professional Design Fees:

£503,205.23
£506,033.89
£528,385.00
£540,825.00
£576,117.00
£653,341.00

3.4 Tenders were evaluated using the lowest cost tender principle and analysis of the lowest tender has indicated the tender to be complete, arithmetically correct and bona-fide.

3.5 In addition to the costs of the lowest tender of £503,205, the cost to the Authority of obtaining statutory approvals and in relation to professional design fees amounts to £65,417, bringing the total cost of this element of the scheme to £568,622.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Capital Programme for 2009/2010 includes provision for the USAR Incident Training Facility of £488,313. Consequently, there is a funding shortfall of £80,309 against the cost of the scheme.

4.2 To address this, the Asset Management Group has been working to re-profile the current Capital Programme in order to identify funding that can be used to address the shortfall. This re-profiling of work has identified funding of £85,000 that could be released in 2009/2010 through such initiatives as extending the desktop computer replacement programme and deferring the further introduction of CCTV within the organisation. The re-profiled Capital Programme will be reported to Members as part of the Capital Programme 2009/2010 Second Review in November.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no Risk Management implications associated with this report.

6 HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no Health and Safety implications associated with this report.

7 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

7.1 There are no Equality and Diversity implications associated with this report.

8 RECOMMENDATION

8.1 The Authority is requested to approve:-

- a) The procurement of USAR Training Facilities as outlined above from Lumsden & Carrol Construction at a total cost inclusive of statutory approval and professional design fees of £568,621.91 excl. VAT.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The undermentioned Background Papers refer to the subject matter of the above report:

- The BTC USAR Training Facilities Tender Evaluation Document.
- Capital Report to Authority 23 February 2009