

## **Approval to Tender for Home North West Grounds Maintenance Contract**

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Councillor Allan Holiday  
**LEAD OFFICER:** Keith Parker, Head of Neighbourhood Services  
**REPORT AUTHOR:** John Davis , Parks Manager

### **WHAT BENEFITS WILL THESE PROPOSALS BRING TO COPELAND RESIDENTS?**

Delivery of the contract helps maintain economies of scale in the Council's Parks service and therefore ensures both the Council and its residents benefit from the cost efficiencies.

### **WHY HAS THIS REPORT COME TO THE EXECUTIVE?**

Executive approval is required under Financial Regulations.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That Executive grants approval to enter into the tender process for Home North West Grounds Maintenance Contract, as required under Financial Regulations.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The Council's parks team currently carry out the Grounds Maintenance Contract for Home North West covering the Copeland, South Lakes, Carlisle and Eden areas. It is a four year contract due for renewal in April 2014.

1.2 Notification has been given that Home North West intends to put the contract out to tender again starting the process in June 2013. At this point a decision will be made if the new contract will cover the same geographical area although indications are this will be the case.

1.3 The current contract has operated successfully during the last three years, with the council's team delivering all aspects of the contract to current specification, providing a high quality service to Home Group and its customers in line with their service specification.

1.4 The current contract accounts for work of four full time (equivalent) employees and seven seasonal operatives for the summer months. It is likely that the provisions of TUPE will apply to the full time posts.

## **2. PROPOSALS**

2.1 That the Council re-tender for this contract on a full cost recovery basis

## **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED**

3.1 Not to re-tender for this contract which would have an impact on resources and therefore resiliency of the team and loss of some economies of scale for the Council's own operations

## **4. CONCLUSIONS**

4.1 The proposal conforms to the Councils Financial Regulations E –External Arrangements, Appendix E 5.21

## **5. STATUTORY OFFICER COMMENTS**

5.1 The Monitoring Officer's comments are:

No comments

5.2 The Section 151 Officer's comments are:

The 2013/14 budget includes costs and income of contract. If the contract is not sought/not awarded the budget will require adjustment.

5.3 EIA Comments

The Council complies with the Equality Act 2010 Public Sector Equality Duty. The Council would expect to adhere to any equality and diversity issues as laid out by Home North West in its own tendering processes.

5.4 Policy Framework Comment: This contract and the opportunity to re-tender form part of the Parks Service current operational arrangements. Any tendering will be conducted in line with existing financial regulations which form an integral part of the Council's Corporate Policy Framework.

5.5 Other consultee comments, if any:

Legal Comments:

No comments everything seems fine.

**6. HOW WILL THE PROPOSALS BE PROJECT MANAGED AND HOW ARE THE RISKS GOING TO BE MANAGED?**

6.1 The tender process will be managed through the Head of Neighbourhoods and the Parks Manager.

6.2 An appropriate level of risk will, again, be built into the pricing of this contract commensurate with the experience of delivering the service for Home Group to date.

**7. WHAT MEASURABLE OUTCOMES OR OUTPUTS WILL ARISE FROM THIS REPORT?**

7.1 Economies of scale will be delivered for the Council

**List of Appendices - None**

**List of Background Documents:**