

## RENEWAL OF BECK MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

EXE040907  
Item 23

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** DEPUTY LEADER: COUNCILLOR GEORGE CLEMENTS  
PORTFOLIO HOLDER: COUNCILLOR GEOFFREY BLACKWELL  
**LEAD OFFICER:** KEITH PARKER – HEAD OF LEISURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
**REPORT AUTHOR:** DUNCAN FYFE – FLOOD AND COASTAL DEFENCE ENGINEER

### **Summary and Recommendation:**

A beck maintenance contract exists in order to reduce the risk of flooding from ordinary watercourses and Council owned sewers. That contract also makes provision for smaller work in relation to the adoption of Council sewers by Copeland Homes and/or United Utilities. That contract is now due for renewal.

It is recommended that members note that 4 expressions of interest have been received in respect of the renewal of the beck maintenance contract and adoptions work. Following technical and financial assessments 3 of these are deemed suitable for the work and members are asked for their approval to invite these 3 firms to tender for the work.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 A beck maintenance contract exists in order to reduce the risk of flooding from ordinary watercourses and Council owned sewers. That contract is now due for renewal. The estimated value of the contract over a 3 year period is up to £150,000 – including routine inspections, repairs to sewers, smaller repairs to coastal defences and additional work.
- 1.2 Provision was made within the outgoing beck maintenance contract for the contractor to carry out minor maintenance work to Council sewers prior to their adoption by Copeland Homes and/or United Utilities. The Flood and Coastal Defence Engineer has now assessed the condition of the Council owned sewers in Orgill, Egremont. This work has revealed that the cost of repairing these Council sewers prior to their adoption could be up to £150,000 (but funded by an existing capital scheme). However, in order to comply with financial regulations and Copeland's own procurement policy this work was advertised as a separate project.
- 1.3 The 2 projects were advertised in the local press (see Appendix for copy of advert) and 4 expressions of interest were received for each.
- 1.4 All 4 firms who expressed an interest have been assessed for technical competence by the Flood and Coastal Defence Engineer and are found to be acceptable. Following a financial check 1 of the firms was deemed

unsuitable.

- 1.5 It is therefore proposed that 3 firms are invited to tender for the project work.
- 1.6 Firms invited to tender will be assessed on their written submission as well as questions forwarded at interview. It is hoped that the successful firm(s) will commence the new contract(s) by December 2007 or January 2008.

## **2. ARGUMENT**

- 2.1 Continuation of the beck maintenance contract is important to enable the Council to carry out its permissive duties as a Land Drainage Authority and Coastal Defence Authority.
- 2.2 Adoption of Council Sewers by Copeland Homes and/or United Utilities was by agreement with Copeland Homes following the transfer of housing stock from the Council to Copeland Homes.
- 2.3 Flooding from watercourses, groundwater, sewers and from coastal erosion is an ever increasing threat. The spectre of climate change and the increasing urbanisation of the Borough will contribute to greater flood risk. It is important that Copeland is able to respond to those threats by taking action, where appropriate, to reduce those risks.
- 2.4 The Environment Agency has powers to control flooding from main rivers but are not responsible for maintenance of smaller watercourses such as Seldom Seen Beck or Tomlin Avenue Beck. However, the Council has permissive powers in respect of maintenance of these smaller watercourses. Without intervention flood risk in locations such as Mirehouse, Orgill and Parton is significantly increased.

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

### **3.1 Non Renewal of Beck Maintenance Contract and adoptions work.**

This is the least cost option to the Council with savings of up to £300,000 over 3 years. However, not doing anything to reduce flood risk would result in significant flood damage to many properties throughout Copeland and the gradual decay of Council owned sewers.

### **3.2 Increased expenditure on beck maintenance contract and adoptions work.**

In an ideal world the more money spent on this work the more properties that can be safeguarded against the risk of flooding.

### **3.3 Renewal of Beck Maintenance Contract.**

This is the preferred option that maintains the status quo.

## **4. CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 A beck maintenance contract exists in order to reduce the risk of flooding from ordinary watercourses and Council owned sewers. That contract is now due for renewal.

4.2 It is recommended that members note that 3 expressions of interest have been received in respect of the renewal of the beck maintenance contract and adoptions work. Following technical and financial assessment 3 of these are deemed suitable for the work and members are asked for their approval to invite these 3 firms to tender for the project work.

## **5. FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOURCES OF FINANCE)**

5.1 It is envisaged that both projects can be funded from existing revenue and capital schemes.

## **6. IMPACT ON CORPORATE PLAN**

6.1 YES

### **List of Appendices**

### **List of Background Documents:**

### **List of Consultees:**

Chris Lloyd, Business Development Manager

## **CHECKLIST FOR DEALING WITH KEY ISSUES**

Please confirm against the issue if the key issues below have been addressed . This can be by either a short narrative or quoting the paragraph number in the report in which it has been covered.

Impact on Crime and Disorder	None
Impact on Sustainability	None
Impact on Rural Proofing	None
Health and Safety Implications	None
Impact on Equality and Diversity Issues	None
Children and Young Persons Implications	None
Human Rights Act Implications	None