
**Executive Member for City Strategy and
Advisory Panel**

8 December 2008

Report of the Directors of City Strategy and Neighbourhood Services

**City Walls: Maintenance and Restoration Partnership Service Level
Agreement**

Summary

1. This report seeks approval of the Service Level Agreement in support of the Partnering Agreement between City Strategy (CS) and Neighbourhood Services (NS) for the delivery of maintenance, restoration and major restoration schemes on the City Walls.

Background

2. At its meeting on 11 March 2008 the Executive resolved:
 - (i) That the delivery of the maintenance and restoration of the City Walls by City Strategy and Neighbourhood Services, through a partnering agreement, be approved.
 - (ii) That a Service Level Agreement be agreed which will detail the framework and performance standards of the partnership, ensuring that this approach will improve the quality, productivity and cost of the service to the Council.
 - (iii) That this agreement commence on 1 April 2008, and be reviewed and monitored as detailed in the Service Level Agreement.

REASON: To ensure that the City Walls are maintained to a consistently high standard.

3. The Service Level Agreement has now been drafted and agreed between the Assistant Directors of City Development & Transport and Planning & Design in City Strategy and the Assistant Director of Construction and Leisure in Neighbourhood Services. The introduction to the Service Level Agreement is attached to this report, as Annex 1 and the full document can be made available to Members on request.
4. This report will also be taken to Neighbourhood Services EMAP to obtain the approval of the Executive Member.

The Partnering Agreement

5. City Walls Restoration and maintenance is overseen by CS Engineering Consultancy on behalf of the AD Planning & Sustainable Development. Works have been carried out by the in house ancient monuments team for decades, latterly as a result of successful tendering in the CCT environment. All design and work must comply with Scheduled Monument Consents from English Heritage.
6. Competitive tendering was considered on the expiry of the last contract but it is difficult to find sufficient tenderers able to provide the range of specialised skills that this service requires. On the advice of the Corporate Procurement Team (CPT) it was agreed that the best way to deliver this service is through a Partnering Agreement, as this will provide the best quality and value solution for the Council.
7. There is an acute shortage of suitably qualified craftsmen in the construction industry. NS commitment to training enables them to provide a qualified workforce for this work. Additionally, because the ancient monuments team is part of the larger civil engineering team, they can provide a flexible and responsive service. A long term view of the maintenance and restoration of the City Walls should be taken to enable this team to remain extant.
8. NS has shown itself in previous CCT exercises to be competitive in both maintenance and restoration work and can produce work of a consistently high standard as demanded by the client and English Heritage. The ancient monuments team also provide specialist skills to NS, which enhance and broaden the service that it is able to provide to its various Council and external clients.
9. For these reasons, together with the low annual value of the works, CS, NS and CPT have agreed that this service should be provided through a partnering arrangement between CS and NS through a Service Level Agreement (SLA).

Consultation

10. No further consultation was carried out.

Option

11. The options available for members are to either approve the Service Level Agreement as presented or to agree any amendments.

Corporate Priorities

12. The proposals relate to the following Council corporate priorities:
 - Improve the actual & perceived condition and appearance of city's streets, housing estates & publicly accessible spaces

- Increase people's skills and knowledge to improve future employment prospects

Implications

13. **Financial:** This service is very small in financial terms. The basic annual budgets for the City Walls have remained unchanged and unadjusted for inflation for more than twelve years at £15.3k revenue and £67k capital, the latter including design and supervision fees at approximately 15%. The maintenance and restoration budgets for 2008/09 have been increased to £20.3k and £127k respectively as a result of growth and CRAM bids for Health and Safety works but both additional sums are only available for one year. Annual CRAM and growth bids will continue to be made to augment the reducing funding. The Partnering Agreement will ensure that the basic funding plus any additional funding that becomes available will be used to provide the Council with a consistent quality of work on the Walls.
14. There would be Human Resources implications if the service was transferred to an external provider with potential loss of staff under TUPE. The expertise of trained masons in whom the Council has invested would be lost, to the detriment of service to other clients e.g. bridge maintenance.
15. There are no Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, Information Technology or Property implications.

Risk Management

16. In view of the low value of the agreement, and that work carried out is dictated by available funding, the risk to the Council is minimal.

Recommendations

17. The Executive Member for City Strategy is recommended to approve the Service Level Agreement.

Reason: To ensure that the City Walls are maintained to a consistently high standard.

Contact Details

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Richard White
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Report Approved



Date 24.11.08

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

Financial Information agreed with Finance Manager, City Strategy

Wards Affected: Guildhall and Micklegate

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Report to Executive 11 March 2008

Annexes

Introduction to the Service Level Agreement