

CABINET

WEDNESDAY 22 JANUARY 2020

REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR CULTURE & OPERATIONAL SERVICES

INVITATION OF TENDERS FOR THE RENEWAL OF THE WILD ABOUT TAMWORTH PROJECT

EXEMPT INFORMATION

None

PURPOSE

This report seeks approval to invite tenders for the renewal of the Wild About Tamworth service and tender award.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:-

1. Cabinet approve the decision to tender the Wild About Tamworth service for a further five years (plus the option for one further year, if required)
2. Cabinet delegate authority to award the contract for the most economically advantageous contractor to the Assistant Director Operations and Leisure in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Culture & Operational Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Tamworth Borough Council is seeking to renew the tender for the ongoing delivery of the Wild About Tamworth service. The aims and objectives for the required service are:

- To develop further opportunities for enhancing all open spaces including existing and new Local Nature Reserves within Tamworth Borough and link to additional environmental initiatives such as Wild Play, Forest Schools, the Central Rivers Initiative, the Tame Valley Wetlands Project, and summer positive diversionary activities.
- To link to locality working initiatives where appropriate, with a focus on increased participation by local residents, promoting sustainable environmental regeneration.
- To support the Borough Council's role in environmental improvement, improving access to natural habitats, increasing biodiversity, raising awareness and educating young people on the natural environment and involving local communities in environmental enhancement projects.
- To act in an advisory capacity to the Council on all matters of environmental awareness.

The outcomes for the required service are:

- To increase involvement and environmental awareness of local people in the natural environment, through volunteer and community groups
- To coordinate the management of Local Nature Reserves (LNR's) and other relevant areas of open space in conjunction with Council officers.
- Identify and lead the designation process for the extension to Hodge Lane.
- To increase awareness of biodiversity and wild spaces.
- To increase partnership working to support the maintenance of sites, including the development of "friends of" and community groups and to secure any funding opportunities where possible
- To provide Biodiversity advice and guidance on environmental matters for the Council, including the climate change agenda and reducing the impact the Councils operations have on the environment.
- To provide environmental awareness, positive diversionary activities and education to pre-school and school age children, together with young adults, linking in to wider partnership activities.
- To develop a Wild About Tamworth Rangers group to work within existing groups across designated LNR's and other sites.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The main alternative is to cease the current project which cannot be maintained by internal resource or expertise.

The lack of service will have major implications for the future management of LNRs in Tamworth and reduce the Councils ability to attract further funding.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

All costs will be met from existing revenue budgets of £15,000 per year to deliver the service totalling £75,000 over the five years period.

The service has previously bid for grant funding that the Council cannot access and targets are set within the specification to ensure the service still brings additional grant funding to the project.

All staffing resources, delivery and project management will be managed by the successful tenderer.

LEGAL/RISK IMPLICATIONS BACKGROUND

Failure to attract tenders.	It is unlikely that a project of this size and nature will fail to attract interest. Expressions of Interest will be monitored on In-tend and should there be a lack of interest the Council will approach contractors.
Tenders exceed budget available.	The scheme may need to be reviewed to ensure that the contract can be delivered on budget. The contract budget was set following tentative

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The proposed project will seek to sustain and develop the use and enjoyment of Tamworth's open space and environmental sustainability.

No other sustainability implications have been identified.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Wild About Tamworth project has successfully been delivered over the past 12 years by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, who have successfully delivered the original remit of the adoption of Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) in Tamworth. The projects utilises the existing expertise and networks of Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, making links to other Voluntary & Community Sector organisations. Tamworth has benefitted considerably from the work undertaken by the Wildlife Trust, with 1000's of hours of volunteer time spent on improving out local nature areas.

Statutory provision is limited in this field and there is a reliance on the input and support of Voluntary & Community Sector organisations. There is a duty upon Local Authorities under the Natural Environments and Rural Communities Act 2006 to protect, restore and enhance wildlife species, populations and habitats.

REPORT AUTHOR

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