

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	ADMINISTRATION BRIEFING & STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT PLANNING & TRANSPORT COMMITTEE		
DATE:	14 MARCH 2022	AGENDA ITEM	10
TITLE:	CHATHAM STREET & VASTERN ROAD PUMPING STATIONS REFURBISHMENT: SPEND AUTHORITY TO AWARD CONTRACT		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	COUNCILLOR TONY PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	ENVIRONMENTAL AND COMMERCIAL SERVICES	WARDS:	BOROUGH WIDE
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform Councillors of the successful procurement process for the Refurbishment of the Chatham Street & Vastern Road Pumping Stations and to seek spend authority to enter into a contract with the successful tenderer in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.
- 1.2 Appendix 1: Financial Implications Report

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That Strategic Environment Planning & Transport Committee notes the successful outcome of the Refurbishment of the Chatham Street & Vastern Road Pumping Stations contract procurement.
- 2.2 That Strategic Environment Planning & Transport Committee grants spend approval for the Refurbishment of the Chatham Street & Vastern Road Pumping Stations.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The aim of the refurbishment of the Chatham Street & Vastern Road pumping stations is to provide a service to reduce, as far as reasonably possible, the effects of adverse weather on the public highway during heavy rainfall periods.
- 3.2 To make travel more secure, safe and comfortable for all users of the public highway and to provide conditions that are as safe as reasonably practical having regards to financial constraints and statutory duties.
- 3.3 To secure the most effective use of resources in the delivery of high quality, best value public service. Our Local Transport Plan outlines investments in walking and cycling initiatives, public transport, and electric vehicle infrastructure that will make it easier for residents to make healthy choices, and feel the benefits of clean, green neighbourhoods.

4. THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 Reading Borough Council, as Highway Authority, has a duty under the Highways Act 1980 to maintain public highway at public expense and as far as reasonably practicable providing safe passage along the public highway.
- 4.2 Reading Borough Council, as Lead Local Flood Authority, has a duty under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 to reduce the risk of flooding.
- 4.3 The Council is responsible for the maintenance of a limited number of public highway surface water pumping stations including the Chatham Street & Vastern Road pumping stations.
- 4.4 The pumping station within the Chatham Street roundabout was installed to drain parts of the Inner Distribution Road in the Town Centre when it was constructed. The pumping station in the Vastern Road roundabout was installed to drain the carriageway under railway bridge which was constructed at a similar time.
- 4.5 The pumping stations were installed and commissioned approximately 40 to 50 years ago and were maintained and operated by Thames Water on the Council's behalf. Following changes in legislation in 2011, all surface water pumping stations were handed back to Reading Borough Council, as they only drained surface water from the highway, not private property.
- 4.6 The pumping stations protect strategic routes within the Town Centre for all road users.

By upgrading, the stations will:

- Reduce risks to all road users for the next 20 - 30 years.
- Reduce the risk to personnel maintaining the equipment.
- Reduce long term operating costs.

The requirements are that both pumping stations are to be totally upgraded to current standards with new pumps and equipment and up to date monitoring technology. This is to ensure their long-term future and ease of ongoing maintenance burden and reduce any potential liability for the traveling public, the Council and maintenance contractors for at least the next 20-30 years.

- 4.7 Funding of £250k for the upgrade of the Chatham Street & Vastern Road Pumping Stations was secured at Council on 26th February 2019, link to committee report [Agenda for Council on Tuesday, 26th February, 2019, 6.30 pm - Reading Borough Council](#) refer to item 45: 2019/20 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy.

4.8 Options Proposed:

- 4.8.1 A total refurbishment and replacement of the pumps and equipment, including energy efficient power supply and telemetry is included within the tendered documents, as well as an option for future maintenance to keep them running in good order for the next 2 to 3 decades and beyond.
- 4.8.2 This report seeks to obtain spend approval of the secured £250k funding awarded on 26th February 2019 at Council to carry out the refurbishment of the Chatham Street & Vastern Road pumping stations.

4.9 Other Options Considered

- 4.9.1 The Highways Team have explored options to replace individual elements and pumps, however, regular failures have caused severe flooding within the carriageway resulting in increasing maintenance and call out costs. The internal electrical equipment is reaching its 'end of life' and cannot be replaced in isolation to the rest of the pumping station equipment.
- 4.9.2 Allowing the pumping stations to fail is not an option, as the Council as Highway and Lead Local Flood Authority has a duty to maintain both pumping stations and to reduce the risk of flooding.
- 4.10 **Tender**
- 4.10.1 An Open Procurement Tender format was undertaken without an OJEU notice as the works values are significantly below the current threshold. A notice in Contracts Finder was placed enabling smaller pump specialist companies to tender directly offering best value and social value for Reading.
- 4.10.2 Following the tender process an independent expert evaluation was carried out by Jacobs UK, setting out the 50 % quality scoring of the 4 No. tender returns, along with the 50% financial score, resulting in Paradigm Systems Ltd being the preferred contractor and recommended to be awarded the contract.
- 4.10.3 In accordance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and under the Council's delegated powers, the Executive Director for Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services awarded the Chatham Street and Vastern Road pumping station upgrades contract to Paradigm Systems Ltd. All decisions made by Officers for a contract value below £500k are Key/Non-key decisions, Officer Decision Form Award of Chatham Street & Vastern Road Pumping Stations contract is a background paper.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

5.1 Reading Borough Council's vision is:

To help Reading realise its potential - and to ensure that everyone who lives and works here can share the benefits of its success.

5.2 The refurbishment of the Chatham Street & Vastern Road pumping stations will contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan 2021/2022 objectives of:

- **Healthy environment** - Keeping the town clean, safe, green and active
- **Inclusive economy** - Enabling the infrastructure to continue to support the economy
- **Thriving Communities** - Remaining financially sustainable and to ensure everyone has an equal chance to use the public highway

5.3 TEAM Reading values:

Together - Collaborative working approach between the Council, consultant, contractors and the public

Efficiency - Continue to explore efficiency savings within the contract

Ambitious - Investing into the public highway

Make a Difference - Providing a safe inclusive public highway for all users

6. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Council declared a climate emergency at its meeting in February 2019 and as such recognises the need to minimise the climate impacts of its decisions. To this end, Council on 15th October 2019 formally adopted of the 'Unite Construction Charter' where the Authority supports the 'Get Britain Building' campaign, which is aimed at supporting and sustaining the British construction industry. All relevant construction contracts will be required to comply with the Authority's Sustainable Buying Standard for Highways and Construction Materials, which requires structural steel and other relevant materials to be covered by BES 6001 Responsible Sourcing of Construction Product certification, or equivalent.
- 6.2 Tenders for any subsequent contracts that are necessary were invited to submit Environmental Implications proposals and their responses were evaluated as part of the 50% Quality element of the tender evaluation.
- 6.3 Tenders needed to include carbon reduction targets and improved sustainability within tender returns. The intent is to reduce the amount of carbon used to produce the materials at source, using recycled materials and reducing the uncontrolled waste in the environment to reduce pollution of the natural environment. The tenderers had to also ensure that energy efficient electrical equipment and pumps we installed to reduce the carbon footprint of these essential highway pumping stations.
- 6.4 The Reading Climate Emergency Strategy, which was endorsed by the Council in November 2020, highlights the importance of adapting to climate impacts as well as reducing the emissions which are driving climate change.

7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 7.1 Section 138 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 places a duty on local authorities to involve local representatives when carrying out "any of its functions" by providing information, consulting or "involving in another way".
- 7.2 The public can report flood risk to the Council which are assessed and included in the annual review of the Flood Risk Register and brought to Committee for consideration and approval should they meet the assessment criteria.
- 7.3 This report will be available on the Council's website following Strategic Environment Planning & Transport Committee approval processes.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, Section 149, a public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to—
- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 8.2 The refurbishment of the Chatham Street & Vastern Road pumping stations is an upgrade of existing apparatus on the public highway. There is no overall change to service delivery at this time and all users will have a safe public highway. Should any future updates/amendments be required, which result in service delivery changes, an equality impact assessment will be carried out.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The Borough Council, as Highway Authority, has a duty under the Highways Act 1980 to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway.
- 9.2 The Council as Lead Local Flood Authority, has a duty under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 to reduce the risk of flooding.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The refurbishment of the Chatham Street & Vastern Road pumping stations will be fully funded by the following:
- The works will be funded by the capital award of £250k obtained at Council on 26th February 2019, which is within the current 2021/2022 capital programme.
 - The on-going maintenance costs will be funded by the existing Highway pumping station maintenance revenue budget.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 Council Policy Committee Report of 26th February 2019
- 11.2 Officer Decision Form Award of Chatham Street & Vastern Road Pumping Stations contract