

REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SUBJECT: PROCUREMENT OF CARBON BASE LINE STUDIES OF DESIGNATED LANDSCAPES

Purpose of Report

To ask Members to suspend the Contracting Standing Orders 2020 in relation to commissioning Carbon Audits for the eight Designated Landscapes.

Introduction/Background

The Authority along with the seven other Designated Landscapes in Wales was invited to submit proposals for the Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places (SLSP) Grant scheme run by the Welsh Government. This provided an opportunity to bid for proposals relating to Decarbonisation, Reversing the Loss of Biodiversity, Sustainable Tourism and Recovery from the COVID Pandemic. A total of £4.5 million was available. Through an agreement across the eight Designated Landscapes and Welsh Government, 10% of this funding was allocated for collaborative projects.

One of the projects the Authority submitted for the collaborative element of the fund was to commission a Carbon Baseline Study of the eight Designated Landscapes. This was based on discussions with some of the English National Park Authorities, who have commissioned Small World Consulting - <http://www.sw-consulting.co.uk/> to undertake a Carbon Audit of their National Parks and recommendations on action to take to create carbon neutral landscapes by 2040. These reports will provide options for future proposals for SLSP projects and enable the eight Welsh Designated Landscapes to work collaboratively on working towards this target. In addition, by using this methodology, it will enable us to share experience and good practice with English National Parks. It is estimated that the total cost of this work will be in the region of £60,000 and the Authority is proposing to contract for this work on behalf of the eight Designated Landscapes.

Procurement Policy

Last year the Authority's approved the Contracting Standing Orders 2020 to outline its policy in relation to procurement. These state that for contracts over £25,000 three tenders will be invited. For contracts under £10,000, the policy allows one written quotation. If the Authority were just procuring its own report then the contract would be less than £10,000. However, as the contract is around £60,000 then it crosses the £25,000 threshold.

Alternative Options

The Authority could issue an open tender however, it is likely that any other organisation or company would propose a different methodology and then this would have an impact on our ability to collaborate, share information and learn from the experiences of English National Parks.

One alternative is for the Authority to commission its own report and then ask the seven other Designated Landscapes to commission their own report. However, this would increase the bureaucracy relating to the project and reduce our ability to manage the project.

In view of this, Members are asked to suspend the Contracting Standing Orders 2020 in relation to commissioning Carbon Audits for the eight Designated Landscapes.

Financial considerations

Funding for this project has been secured and by implementing the recommendation there will be no additional costs.

Recommendation

Members agree to suspend the Contracting Standing Orders 2020 in relation to commissioning Carbon Audits for the eight Designated Landscapes.

(For further information, please contact Tegryn Jones, Chief Executive)