

AGENDA ITEM

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**Subject: FALKIRK HIGH STATION
SLAMANNAN ROAD PROPOSED CAR PARK
GROUND STABILISATION**
Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL
Date: 5 DECEMBER 2007
Author: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Falkirk Council's Local Transport Strategy 2006-2009 Public Transport Policy PT7 identifies the Council's commitment to working with the Scottish Executive and First ScotRail to improve access to railway stations and encourage more travel by train. In particular, provision of extra car parking at Falkirk High Station is identified as a Public Transport Action.
- 1.2 A site, located on an area of open ground on the north side of Slamannan Road between the Union Canal and the housing development at McKell Court, was acquired by Falkirk Council during financial year 2006/07 with funding from the South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SESTRAN).
- 1.3 A scheme involving the design and construction of all necessary works to stabilise abandoned coal mining workings at the site, has been prepared. These works are in advance of future car park construction to provide 56 additional car parking spaces to serve Falkirk High Station.
- 1.4 Falkirk Council has secured a total of £0.605M of additional grant funding, for this current financial year, from SESTRAN in respect of this rail station access project. Slamannan Road car park ground stabilisation can be funded entirely from this additional funding source.

2. DETAILS

- 2.1 Although four companies were originally issued with design and build tender documentation only one company returned an offer by the due date of 28 September 2007, which was opened in accordance with Standing Order 11 relating to contracts. This tender had significant qualifications and was considered to be non-compliant in respect of Contract Standing Orders. On the basis that the company was not prepared to withdraw their qualifications, this offer was rejected.

- 2.2 A re-tendering exercise was considered appropriate and, subsequently, three design and build tenders were received by the due date of 16 November 2007 and opened in accordance with Standing Order 11 relating to contracts.
- 2.3 Two of the tenders submitted had significant qualifications and were considered to be non-compliant in respect of Contract Standing Orders. On the basis that these companies were not prepared to withdraw their qualifications, their offers were rejected.
- 2.4 The remaining checked tendered price was £590,147.50
- 2.5 The works involved are specialist and difficult to quantify, with a high degree of risk. Prior to going to tender, an estimate of £250,000 was considered appropriate following consultation with a ground engineering specialist.
- 2.6 The lowest checked compliant tender was received from Forkers Ltd, Golds Greene, Shaw Street, West Bromwich, West Midlands, B70 0TX for the sum of £590,147.50. Forkers Ltd are an experienced contractor in this type of work and, following consultation with SESTRAN, it is considered best value to accept this tender.

3. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 None.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The scheme can be funded from the £0.605M of additional grant funding secured from SESTRAN for the delivery of the rail station access project. Consultation with SESTRAN has confirmed that this funding must be expended by 31 March 2008 and that the design and build offer tendered by Forkers Ltd should be accepted. SESTRAN 08/09 capital allocation for this scheme was to be £0.350M. This sum is now part of the block allocation to Falkirk Council 08/09, outlined in the draft Scottish Budget Spending Review 2007 table 10.2 Finance and Sustainable Growth – Regional Transport Partnership Capital Grant, and can be used for any overrun of the contract into 08/09.

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None.

7. RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 That Council approve acceptance of the tender submitted by Forkers Ltd, Golds Green House, Shaw Street, West Bromwich, West Midlands, B70 0TX for the sum of £590,147.50 in respect of Slamannan Road car park ground stabilisation works.**

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Director of Development Services
Date: 29th November 2007

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. *Tender documents.
2. *Engineer's report on tenders.

* Items not for publication on the grounds that they involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 8 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.