

Report to: Essex Flood Partnership Board	Report Number AGENDA ITEM 6 (EFPB/04/19)
Date of report: 08/01/19	County Divisions affected by the decision: All
Title of report: Essex Flood Property Level Resilience project	
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1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To outline that Essex County Council have conducted and completed an OJEU procurement process to select a preferred supplier for the delivery of Essex Flood Property Level Resilience grant scheme for 2018/19; 2019/20 and 2020/21 and to detail the progress made in the delivery of the project by the preferred supplier Lakeside Flood Solutions.

2. Summary of issue

- 2.1. Essex County Council undertook an OJEU tender aimed at selecting a provider to manage and deliver the PLR grant scheme to the residents of Essex for the financial year 2018/19; with the possibility of extending the project into 2019/20 and 2020/21. The tender documents specified that this would involve the delivery of a minimum of forty (40) completed property level resilience installations per year.
- 2.2. It was outlined that the bidders must have capacity to promote, administer and project manage the PLR grant scheme. They must also be able to raise awareness through various media sources to previously flooded Essex residents on the opportunities available to them for a PLR grant and to process and screen for eligibility, a minimum of sixty (60) applications per year.

3. Procurement

- 3.1. The OJEU notice went live on 18 June 2018 therefore the contract was advertised on the OJEU and Contracts Finder complying with the minimum EU timescales for each stage of the process. The contract was advertised for 30 days, allowing any interested party to register their interest, ask for clarifications

and send in responses. The deadline signalling the end of the advertisement was 18 July 2018.

- 3.2. Initially, we received interest from approximately 17 organizations but eventually two; Aquobex and Lakeside Flood Solutions responded to the tender. The responses were evaluated from 18 July to 23 July 2018 while a Consensus Meeting comprising of the tender evaluators (Flood and Water Management Officers) and representatives from the Commercial Services team was conducted on 25 July 2018.
- 3.3. The preferred bidder would be selected through an open procurement process evaluated on 70% price and 30% quality. Whilst both respondents scored similarly on the quality criteria, Lakeside Flood Solutions scored highly on the price criteria thereby making them the preferred consultant. Further clarification questions were sent out to the respondents and their responses were received on 29 August.
- 3.4. Once the procurement process was completed and a preferred supplier selected, the next steps involved achieving governance approval to formally award the contract to the preferred supplier. Commercial Services then sent out an Outcome Notification to both respondents with a standstill period of ten days as a contingency to attend to any additional concerns from the consultant. A provisional project start date of 1 October 2018 was outlined.

4. Financial implications

- 4.1. The grant is capped at £5,000 per property and the applicants would have to make payment themselves if measures needed exceed the grant threshold.
- 4.2. From previous experience in grant applications from external organizations, we are confident the 2018/19 Essex Flood Property Level Resilience project would be 100% funded from grants and payments from the Environment Agency and Anglian Water.
- 4.3. Furthermore we have an agreement with Anglian Water to complete Property Level Resilience measures to 40 residential properties on their DG5 (Anglian Water Flood Risk Register) register. This would be fully funded by Anglian Water; a proposal for a £268,000 fee for the delivery of PLR to 40 DG5 properties in Essex has been made. Therefore there would be no further financial implications to Essex County Council.
- 4.4. We would be making further grant application to the Environment Agency in 2018/19 in order to provide funding for further Essex Flood Property Level Resilience projects not covered under the agreement with Anglian Water.

- 4.5. We are also delivering 18 PLR installations in Felixstowe on behalf of Suffolk County Council. This particular project is being governed by a Public Sector Services Agreement between both parties. This would bring in addition income to ECC as a result.

5. Project progress

- 5.1. The project commenced following a start-up meeting in County Hall on 24th October 2018. Lakeside Flood Solutions have thus far continued from where the previous consultants stopped. In total they have now conducted 39 pre-installation surveys and 26 installation surveys.
- 5.2. In addition, 15 installation surveys have been completed in Felixstowe as we are making progress with the project we are delivering on behalf of Suffolk County Council.
- 5.3. It is expected that 40 PLR installations would be completed by the end of the first quarter of 2019 thereby achieving the objective outlined for the 2018/19 phase of the project.