

**BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL**

**INVITATION TO TENDER**

**COTTINGWOOD GREEN PLAY AREA**

**MARCH 2025**

**1.** **Introduction**

* 1. Blyth Town Council proposes to carry out the installation of a new Play Area project in the financial year 2025/26. This exciting project is planned to help enhance the Play Provision as provided by the Town Council within Blyth.

The scheme is in the Cottingwood Green NE24 4TG (Newsham) area of the town.

* 1. Within this invitation to tender, there is the opportunity for interested companies to submit prices for the elements outlined within the scheme.

**2. Cottingwood Green Play Area**

* 1. The details relating to the new Play Area identified above, are given in the Appendices (1 to 3 ) attached. In summary these include:
* Location map of the new Play Area, Appendix 1 marked in red A.
* Appendix 2 showing existing equipment marked B & C which are remaining with B being relocated.
* Illustrations, of some of the existing Play Area equipment installed recently in other projects. Appendix 3.
  1. The Council requires the Contractor/s:

To design a play area within a 769sq footprint, it also requires the existing bow top fencing to be retained. We will require 2 new self-closing gates to replace the existing. Approximately 362sq footprint will have a wet pour surface the remainder to be covered with turf will require watering initially when first laid. Additionally, the swing frames in the Southwest corner are to be retained and new swings installed. The space net is to be removed and relocated to the south of its current position allowing the correct fall space. (Appendix 2)

To provide a price for the work required to supply and install new play area equipment and associated groundworks within the boundary of the Play Area fencing including the work identified in Appendix 2 of which the Council has a budget for this project. Any work that is tendered for should be accompanied by photographs or illustrations of the equipment or materials to be used e.g. play equipment and surfaces.

To provide a price for all the work required to remove sand/soil etc and supply wet pour surfacing and associated soft landscaping, i.e. turf, in the remaining area.

* 1. The Council have no predetermined range of equipment that can be proposed only that, as many items as possible of equipment must be suitable for disabled/wheelchair use and that the play requirements are for an age group of 3 to 16 years. These factors will be included in the evaluation model.
  2. Any interested Contractor should satisfy themselves of both the site and surrounding area for accuracy and suitability prior to submitting a tender.

**3. General Information**

* 1. At this stage we would like all of the works agreed to be started as soon as practicable after the award of tender. The Council would hope that these discussions to agree a date could commence when we hope to notify the successful contractor in April 2025.
  2. This document is designed to allow a potential supplier to apply a degree of flexibility with regard to the proposed equipment which should be to current British Standards. This flexibility is to ensure where possible that users are given a variety should other Play Areas be visited close by.
  3. The Play equipment is on the basis that it provides the necessary learning and play requirements for an age group of 3 to 16 years. As many items as possible should be of the inclusive type e.g. suitable for disabled/wheelchair use. Examples as such are where a carousel and ground trampoline may be installed.
  4. Potential Contractors should ensure that they have sufficient information to submit a quotation. The information provided should be used as the basis of the submitted price, but if there are any queries whatsoever, please contact the Town Council.
  5. The purpose of this brief is to obtain competitive tenders and to form the basis of the relevant appointment. However, the Council reserves the right to add to, omit from, or amend the brief in any way prior to the appointment of the supplier and execution of the works. Changes that materially affect the provision of services described herein and cause a change in the price then such altered services are agreed between the Council and the appointed Contractor.

3.6 Any solicitation and/or relationship to Town Councillors will preclude a quotation being submitted.

3.7 Any contract awarded will be in accordance with JCT Standards.

3.8 The Play Areas, although the responsibility of Blyth Town Council is under the land ownership of Northumberland County Council and the appropriate approvals for this work have been given.

**4. Assumptions** **and** **Constraints**

4.1 Local Authority contracting, tendering and seeking quotations is strictly governed by the Standing Orders of the Town Council. It is fully transparent and is based on fair and genuine competition.

4.2 The contractor will provide a tender for a completion price, detailing costs as requested in Section 17 within this document.

4.3 The contractor shall hold, and provide, copies of the required insurance and public liability cover to a minimum of £5million.

4.4 The Town Council is committed to equal opportunities in all respects of its operation and encourages contractors to implement similar policies.

4.5 The contractor will comply with the latest Health and Safety at Work Act and shall hold the relevant Health and Safety certificates, including those specific to the job.

4.6 The contractor will hold in place a relevant written Health and Safety Policy and shall complete a risk assessment for the tasks to be undertaken.

4.7 The Contractor shall comply with the Control of Waste regulations.

4.8 The Contractor shall only carry-out construction operations between

8am to 6 pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 1pm on Saturdays.

Any variation to the working times will require a permit authorised

by Northumberland County Council.

**5.** **General** **Requirements**

5.1 The contractor shall be legally authorised to perform all aspects of the work tendered for.

5.2 The contractor should own or have legal access to the appropriate equipment to undertake the work.

5.3 The contractor must provide copies to the Town Council, of appropriate personal and public liability insurance cover, appropriate licenses and risk assessments within the tender submission. All such documents shall be current.

**6. Change** **Management**

6.1 Any alteration to the specifications agreed in the works order may be subject to the following change management procedures. A change management schedule will be signed by both parties in every instance.

6.2 Any changes to the specifications, where the tendered price is reduced, will be with the express consent of the Town Clerk, and as agreed with the contractor.

6.3 Any changes to the specifications, where the agreed price is increased, by under £500 will be with the express consent of the Town Clerk, and as agreed by the contractor. Any changes to the specifications, where the agreed price is increased by over £500 will be with the express consent of the Town Council, and as agreed by the contractor.

6.4 The contractor shall not instigate any changes to the schedule out with the change management procedures. Should the contractor do so then all costs will be borne by them and not from any contingency sum included in the submission or contract. They may also be required to rectify any changes that have been undertaken.

6.5 Any invoices issued for work that has not been authorised through the above procedure will be rejected.

**7. Instructions** **to** **Contractors**

7.1 It is the responsibility of the Contractor to obtain for themselves, at their own expense, any additional information necessary for the preparation of their tender.

7.2 All tenderers are required to satisfy themselves that they are in possession of sufficient information to prepare a detailed and fixed price offer. If any errors are made due to failure to obtain such information, the responsibility therein lies with the tenderer.

7.3 All information provided by Blyth Town Council in connection with this tender shall be treated as confidential by the Contractors, except where such information may be disclosed for the purpose of obtaining sureties and quotations necessary for the preparation and submission of the price.

7.4 All information submitted to the Town Council may need to be disclosed and/or published under the Freedom of Information Act. If the tenderer considers that any information included in the tender submission is commercially sensitive, it will need to be identified and an explanation in broad terms of what harm might result from disclosure provided. However, this information may still be disclosed should the Town Council be required to do so under the current legislation, even if this information is marked “confidential” or the equivalent.

7.5 Any questions relating to this invitation to tender must be raised no later than the date shown on the schedule. Any questions raised within the scheduled timescales provided, together with the answers provided by the Council, will be circulated to all parties who have notified us that they may be submitting a quotation. Council staff should only be contacted, if necessary, to assist potential Contractors in clarifying any queries in line with their tender submission, and not to encourage or support their tender outside the prescribed process.

7.6 Any organisation wishing to tender for this work must present their submission in full by the required closing date and time. Any quotation received after this date and time will not be considered.

7.7 Should the Contractor wish to arrange an accompanied site visit in conjunction with current guidelines, please contact the Council by email at [info@blythtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:info@blythtowncouncil.gov.uk%20) or telephone 01670 361 668.

7.8 The contractor should indicate in Section 17 their anticipated start date.

7.9 The Town Council has provided the Terms and Conditions of the proposed contract and these are expected to be met.

7.10If any questions relating to the Terms and Conditions of the work needs to be raised, they must be done according to the schedule. Any questions relating to the Terms and Conditions, or any other item within this tender, which are sent to the Town Council after the required date will be considered at the sole discretion of the Town Council.

**8.** **Tender** **Process**

8.1 All tenders must be submitted to the Council as follows; other sections of this document also refers:

1. Tenders are sent to; cottingwoodgreen[tenders@blythtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:tenders@blythtowncouncil.gov.uk).
2. An automated reply is sent to the sender on its receipt, confirming submission. The message also states that they are welcome to repeat if they need to send additional documents.
3. Tender Applications are stored in a secure account that remains locked until the set time.
4. At the time required for the opening of tenders, the e/mail account and documents shall then be available and shared to all Staff/councillors involved in the process with email tracking options active (read receipt/email delivery) to ensure all access is monitored.

8.2 All submissions will be opened at the appointed time i.e., the closing date and time in the presence of a selection of Members and the Town Clerk.

8.3 The quotations will be assessed on a number of criteria including:

Ecological Impact – e.g., play and learning

Equipment quantity and type & Price - Value

Health & Safety

Suitably Trained Installation Staff

References/Experience of Contractor

After sales/installation

8.4 The Clerk will follow up reference information provided by all shortlisted contractors. It is advisable for you to inform referees in advance of submitting your tender information.

8.5 The Council may need to clarify issues with the shortlisted contractors and relevant information subsequently obtained.

8.6 Contractors should contact the Council prior to the closing date to inform that documents have been sent, in the event of no receipt confirmation having been received as outlined in 8.1.2.

**9.** **Timescales**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Action** | **Date** |
| Issue of brief for proposed Play Area | 13 March 2025 |
| Closing date for questions relating to proposals | 24 March 2025 |
| Responses to questions provided back to all interested parties by | 27 March 2025 |
| Closing time and date for return of prices | **Noon, Monday 7 April 2025** |
| Opening of Tenders | 8 April 2025 |
| References requested | 8 April 2025 |
| Officer Evaluation | Commencing 8 April 2025 |
| Closing date for reference returns | 14 April 2025 |
| Review of shortlist and recommended Contractor by | Special Environment Committee to be arranged. |
| Contractors notified of decision | Subject to a date yet to be arranged but shortly thereafter. |

**Please note that should any of the above dates changed you will be notified.**

**10. Contact Details**

In the event of any queries regarding the above please email to

info@blythtowncouncil.gov.uk or telephone 01670 361 668.

**11.** **Contractor** **Form**

The Town Council requires to know details of any individual organisation or partnership with whom it may enter into a contract. This will enable it to demonstrate safeguarding of public funds and that there will be no conflict of interest in awarding this contract.

***Any*** ***false*** ***information*** ***knowingly*** ***provided*** ***will*** ***immediately*** ***deem*** ***the*** ***tender*** ***submission*** ***invalid.***

**Company** **Details**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name of Company in whose name business is to be transacted |  | |
| Registered Address |  | |
| Principal Contact |  | |
| Telephone – mobile number preferred |  | |
| Email address |  | |
| Please indicate membership of any professional or trade bodies |  | |
| Please indicate how many years this company has traded |  | |
| Company number (if relevant) |  | |
| Staffing levels | Permanent | Casual |

**12.** **Legal** **Information** **and** **Professional** **Conduct**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| What is the legal status of your organisation (e.g. sole trader, private limited company, partnership etc) |  |
| VAT Registration Number |  |
| If this is a partnership please supply the full names of all partners on a separate sheet if necessary |  |
| Has your organisation been convicted (or has any outstanding actions) of a criminal nature relating to the conduct of its business or profession?  If yes please provide details on a separate sheet | Yes/No |
| Has your organisation failed to fulfil its obligations relating to the payment of contributions or taxes under the law of any part of the United Kingdom.  If yes please provide details on a separate sheet | Yes/No |
| Has your organisation had a contract cancelled, or not renewed, for failure to perform to the terms of that contract?  If yes please provide details on a separate sheet | Yes/No |
| By Law (RIDDOR), you must report certain injuries, diseases and dangerous occurrences to the Health and Safety Executive. Has your organisation had to make any such reports under RIDDOR in the past five years?  If yes please provide details on a separate sheet | Yes/No |
| In the past five years have you or your organisation, or any of your employees, been served with a prohibition or improvement notice, or been convicted of any offence in law, enforced by the Health and Safety Executive, Local Authority, Police or the Department of Transport?  If yes please provide details on a separate sheet | Yes/No |

**13.** **Financial** **Details**

Please indicate the annual turnover of your organisation over the last three years

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| £ | Year: |
| £ | Year: |
| £ | Year: |

The Town Council may carry out a financial assessment on all applicants. Sets of accounts are not required at this stage but may be requested prior to awarding the contract.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Please provide details of your bankers. They may be, should you be shortlisted, required to provide you with a reference |  |

Please note that all payments will be made by bank transfer.

**14.** **Health** **and** **Safety**

All applicants undertaking works under this tender must satisfy the Town Council of their competency regarding Health and Safety.

Please enclose details of your current Health and Safety Policy and any relevant certificates pertinent to this tender, together with the name of the person responsible for the management of health and safety in your organisation.

**15.** **Insurances**

Please provide details of your organisation’s insurance protection in relation to employer’s liability and public liability.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Policy** | **Insurer** | **Value** **£** |
| Employer’s Liability |  |  |
| Public Liability |  |  |

Please enclose a copy of the insurance certificates, which must be current.

**16.** **References**

Please provide two references for work carried out in the past three years; one of the references must be either a current contract or one that has completed within the last twelve months (no earlier than February 2023). The referees should not be related to any member of your company. To speed up the assessment process it would be advantageous to be able to contact referees via email – **please** **provide** **a** **relevant** **email** **address** **for** **each** **reference**. **Please inform your referees that we may contact them in order to allow a speedier response and of the date we require references by**.

**Reference** **1**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Contact name |  |
| Contact phone & email |  |
| Full postal Address |  |
| Brief description of works, their value and the date the work was carried out |  |
| Please confirm this referee is aware and that you authorise the Council to contact the referee at the Council’s discretion |  |

**Reference** **2**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Contact name |  |
| Contact phone & email |  |
| Full postal Address |  |
| Brief description of works, their value and the date the work was carried out |  |
| Please confirm this referee is aware and that you authorise the Council to contact the referee at the Council’s discretion |  |

**17.** **Tender** **and** **Price** **Contract**

I believe that the company, as detailed in Section 11 of the Tender Form, meets the entire requirements outlined in this brief and that I and my company are qualified to undertake the works described. I will comply with the requirements for a contractor performing the work stated as set out in invitation to quote and JCT Minor Works Building Contract 2016.

I agree to the terms and conditions as set out in these documents.

To carry out the works detailed in the schedule of works, the company, as detailed in Section 11 of the Quotation Form, will charge, where applicable:

**£** **……………..** **Cottingwood Green Play Area**

Please detail below the guarantees in relation to the above:

I anticipate commencing the necessary works and completion of works, subject to agreement, on:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Project | Commencement Date – where appropriate | Completion Date – where appropriate |
| Cottingwood Green Play Area |  |  |
|  | Council will liaise once a date agreed with Play Area Contractor |  |

I agree that this sum will/may be paid over interim payments on the production of suitable evidence as agreed by the Town Clerk.

Any contract variation, whether affecting the contract sum or not, shall be agreed prior to the specific addition/deletion carried out.

**Signature** **……………………………………………….** **Date…………….**

**Name** **………………………………………………..**

**Company Name ……………………………………………………………**