ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

| Tender note | Question | Answer |
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| To be returned by 1200hrs on Friday 12 February 2021 | Can this be extended? | No. |
| details of materials used | What details / information are you looking for? | We wish to know what if any plastics are involved, and what percentage of recycled and recyclable materials. Type of steel used in materials and fixings – i.e. galvanised mild steel, alloys, stainless steel etc. What timber is being used – and what sustainability certification i.e. FSC, PEFC or other regime that manages supply chain sustainability. |
| photographs | Can we include renders in the return – must visual examples be photos ? | Renders would be acceptable, although photographs are preferred. |
| Warranties references form | This is the form you have supplied completed and returned? Or for us to provide a break down of our warranties and guarantees | Please use the form provided. |
| Site welfare and storage facilities if needed | Do you require us to have them? does the council have a preferred approach here ? | You will need to ascertain what storage and welfare facilities are required as part of your planning and RAMS. We cannot provide any such facilities. |
| examples of up to 3 previous projects | Local projects ? same value ? same materials ? or mixed? | Local projects of a similar value with similar materials would be desirable, so the closer to these criteria the better, but we appreciate this may not be possible. |
| description of their play value | What does play value mean to the council ? do you have an example of how you evaluate play value ? | Play value is a well known concept in the play equipment industry. For clarity we expect play value to encompass a mix of the following:   * Equipment that promotes creative play and feeds the imagination. * Equipment that encourages children to manage risk and learn problem-solving at a suitable level. * Accessible for differing abilities including space where non-disabled and disabled children can play together. * Where children of differing ages can play together, whether within the early years age or older age ranges. We appreciate that not all age ranges can use the same equipment, hence there being an early years age range item and another for older aga ranges. |
| Contract award (Council meeting) | What is the reason for project delivery time line | Partly to meet funders’ requirements and to tie in with our Council meetings schedule, but mainly to have installed ahead of the summer months. |
| Our priority is to provide the local community with excellent learning through play provision. | Can you explain what the council means by this – give and example of what learning through play provision means to you ? | Again learning through play is a well known concept in the play equipment industry. For clarity we understand it to meant that equipment should provide each child with opportunities to develop social and cognitive skills. These include learning about their own abilities, and how these can be stretched, working together with others as part of a social group, sharing with others, and assessing risk. Learning through play is fundamental to a child’s development and wellbeing and creates a foundation for future happiness. |
| The softpour surfaces may be re-usable, and should, where possible, be utilised and enlarged if feasible | What do you mean by this ? does the council mean to keep the material in place and overlay new rubber (\*this ensure a safe and certified play area) – or use the exiting old rubber as the safety surface and just “patch” the area during install \*certifying the old rubber meets current Critical fall height needs / standards would need to checked by an independent inspector and will likely not meet current requirements. | We are hoping that the existing material is suitable and appropriate to be utilised, to reduce the cost and carbon footprint of the project.  It may be that the existing area needs to be patched, or possibly extended, depending on the tenderer’s offer.  It is for the tenderer to be ensure that the completed project will supply a RoSPA post-installation inspection within the price quoted. If the existing surface would not meet current standards for the equipment intended then the tenderer will need to illustrate what work is required and the cost implication. |
| All equipment and surfaces must comply with EN1176, 1177 and any other standards that apply to supply and installation. All installed equipment shall be fit for purpose. | Reference above re surfacing.  Do you require that we present the certification document to confirm that the equipment has been independently inspected to and is Certified as passing all EN standards (as apposed to items “designed” to conform which have not been independently certified? | The equipment needs to be certified that it passes EN standards and pass a RoSPA post-installation inspection.  If the finished project does not pass the RoSPA inspection, the tenderer will need to undertake all remedial actions to ensure a pass, at their own expense, including any re-test. |
| Wherever possible, some form of accessible equipment should be part of the design, to allow use by people with disabilities. It is planned that an accessible path will be constructed to provide step free to both locations. The path is outside of the scope of this tender. | What does the council mean by accessible ? | Accessible does not mean that all parts of each item are within reach of or able to be used by every child. It does mean that we expect there to be at least some activity available and reachable for wheelchair users and those with other disabilities, to ensure that all members of the local community are able to benefit from the play equipment. |
| the desire is that equipment is of a more natural looking nature than the existing structures | \*I see you have already supplied answer to similar question on the portal – if the same answer applies please ignore this question. Please explain more – natural shape and form ? or natural colours and theme ? do you want colours ? | Natural shapes and form would be welcome. Bright colours are less likely to provide a natural looking feature. Please provide any ideas that you have whether with or without colour. |
| Following a public consultation | Can we see the consultation docs / info ? | Not at this late stage in the tender process. We have used the findings to inform the brief. |
| Details of any warranties on the equipment or materials used in the contract should be submitted with the tender | Is the council preference for all steel to be hot dipped galvanised and / or stainless steel so that the warranties and guarantees do not have caveats that relate to paint being maintained and inspected over years of use ? | Please use the form to provide details of the warranties and guarantees provided. |
| A satisfactory post-installation RoSPA | What is satisfactory ? | See above. |
| budget of £30,000 plus VAT. | Does the council want to spend the entire budget ? would coming in under budget be preferable ? | The council wishes to provide the very best resource to the local community within the stated budget. Please see the tender document for the evaluation criteria. |
| All installations to be completed and all plant, equipment and arisings to be removed by 30th June 2021. | I there a reason for this time line/ date ? | See above. |
| Tender evaluation criteria Category |  |  |
| Benefit to community in terms of play value | What does the council mean by this – how do you want us to shoe this in the return ? | Please see previous query on play value. |
| Sustainability (taking into account items listed under Sustainability above) |  |  |
| Material |  |  |
| Steel - Warranty Period (Years) | How do we should that all steel is hot dipped galavanised in the return form compared to powered coated steel ? | You can detail this on the warranty form. |
| Seating | What is meant by seating – does the tender require site furniture to be provided ? | No requirement for site furniture. This refers to any seats incorporated within equipment, e.g. swings. |
| Naturally durable timber such as robinia is preferred to treated timber. However, options including use of treated timbers will be considered. All timber products must be FSC or PEFC certified. | Does the council see soft wood as a sustainable and durable materials that will last? | Softwood may be acceptable if a suitably long warranty period is provided. The Council prefers hardwood or naturally durable softwoods to softwoods requiring treatment due to their inherent non-durability. |
|  | Does the council have an example of what they would like to see / example of what a good play area looks like to them ? | We would value ideas that the tenderer has, as you may have options that we have not seen, and we do not wish to reduce the possible designs by giving suggestions. |
|  | What is the play area being replaced? | This is explained in the tender which includes photographs. |
|  | How has the project been funded? | Not particularly relevant to tender, but some of the budget is from our own funds and some from a s106 contribution. |
|  | Would the council accept an alternative safety surfacing – e.g. Artificial grass | The Council is open to alternative options as long as they meet safety standards. |
| To be returned by 1200hrs on Friday 12 February 2021 (tenders received later than this may not be opened) | What format does the council want to document return in ? Doe you have a preferred size for designs / plans ? are we returning digitally or by post – if so may we have the address – how will the council view the returns – digitally via a zoom meeting – round a table discussion ? who will be evaluating the returns ? | Please send by email. We are not meeting face to face at the moment, so evaluation will be done by officers and councillors viewing proposals on screen. |