

(CCC) Cambridge Market Redevelopment

I am asking you to provide all information held regarding the procurement of market consultant services relating to Cambridge Market during the period from 2018 to the present. The information I am requesting includes, but is not limited to: documents, contracts, tenders, estimates and responses to offers from the Council.

Response

Mace Consulting were appointed to provide multi-disciplinary design services for Cambridge City Council on the redevelopment of the Market Square and commissioned the consultancy team.

Attachment: CCC Cambridge Market Square Project - Management Proposal

Attachment: Cambridge Market Square project - email confirmation _Redacted

Mace undertook a mini tender to select the appropriate specialisms who could provide masterplan proposals and a clear business case understanding of the current and future opportunities of the Market. The tender scope was broken into two lots,

Lot 1 – Design Services and

Lot 2 – Market Consultancy/ Investment Appraisal.

We attach the Invitation to Quote which was issued by Mace to carry out the tender exercise on behalf of Cambridge City Council

Attachment: CCC_ Market Square Project - Invitation to Quote.pdf

Mace provided a summary report on the evaluations of all bids received in the Invitation to Quote

Attachment: ITQ Recommendation Report.pdf

Following a review of the first set of proposals and a discussion between the council and Mace, LDA and another company were the top scorers in Lot 1 and Quarterbridge was the top scorer in Lot 2 and so LDA and Quarterbridge were selected. Quarterbridge were deemed to have provided the strongest response to Lot 2 and we were advised they had experience of working on similar projects. Due to budget constraints it was decided we would carry out the stakeholder engagement elements ourselves

Management proposal submitted to the City Council from Mace for Lot 2

Attachment: Cambridge - MACE Consultants - REVISED_Redacted

You will note that some information contained within these documents has been withheld. This is because an exemption applies

S40(2) Personal information

In considering the exemption for personal data under s 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act, we need to consider whether disclosure of personal information would contravene any of the data protection principles.

Names of junior staff and correspondents are withheld as it constitutes personal information as defined in Article 4 (1) of the UK GDPR.

The Data Protection Principles state that personal information must be processed lawfully and fairly and for specified purposes. This information is held by the council in correspondence with us, and as junior (lower than Head of Service)

staff. The data subjects would not have an expectation that this information would be publicly disclosed, and therefore any disclosure would be unfair and in breach of the data protection principles.

The identity of these individuals is therefore exempt from disclosure under s 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act. This is an absolute exemption and there is no requirement to consider the public interest.

S43(2) Information that would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person.

In considering this exemption the Council has considered that the following information constitute commercial interests of Quarterbridge

- 1) Breakdown of work carried out in each phase/costing of the project
- 2) Fees for breakdown of scope of work
- 3) Hourly and day rates of Quarterbridge staff

The commercial information contained within the Management Proposal provide details of what information and rates of pay are included in specific deliverables of the project. These reflect the business model of Quarterbridge and provide information on rates of pay and project breakdown. Disclosure of this information under would be likely to prejudice the services offered by Quarterbridge by revealing their rates of pay and operational costs to competitors in the sector.

The exemption under Section 43 of FOIA is a qualified exemption, which means that the Council must consider the public interest in maintaining the exemption against the public interest in disclosure.

The Council has considered the following aspects of public interest in this exemption

- Openness in the Council's dealings regarding the procurement of services
The Council has made available through the attached project proposal and the ITQ documents clear information on how the services for Lot 2 of the project have been procured.

- Accountability for the spending of public money

The Council has provided information relating to the costings of each stage of Lot 2 of the project bid, and has only withheld minimal information on the breakdown of costings. The rest of the information relating to the work undertaken in the course of the project is outlined in detail in the Management Proposal.

In addition to this, the council is providing the outputs of these projects through public committee meetings, the latest being reported to the Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee in March 2021.

We therefore find that the balance of public interest lies in maintaining the exemption under Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act.

Further queries on this matter should be directed to foi@cambridge.gov.uk