

## **COUNCIL**

**WEDNESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020**

### **CONTRACT FOR PROVISION OF FLORAL DISPLAYS AND WATERING**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To approve the renewal of the contract for the provision of floral displays and watering with Willows Garden Centre

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Quotations were last sought in 2016 and Willows Garden Centre was successful in being awarded the work for 2017 and 2018 and the contract was extended in January 2019 for 2019 and 2020. The cost in 2019 and 2020 remained at £9158 and included the planters on St John's Square and Nevill Street at no extra cost.
- 2.2 In addition, in September 2019 MCC contracted with Willows Garden Centre for the watering of the 12 new large planters in Frogmore Street for 12 months. This arrangement ceases in September 2020.
- 2.3 For no additional cost in 2020, Willows Garden Centre took on the watering of the 8 planters located in Lion Street. Previously these planters were being watered by volunteers but this arrangement was not sustainable.
- 2.4 There is now contact between Sarah Price Landscapes and Willows Garden Centre, to alert Willows Garden Centre to watering requirements during dry spells. This arrangement is working well.

#### **3. CONTRACT RENEWAL**

- 3.1 Under the Council's financial regulations, for a contract with a value over £5000 three quotations should be obtained. However, the Council can approve a waiver to financial regulations if they consider there is a justified reason to do so. As quotations have not been sought since 2016, it would be prudent to consider seeking quotations.
- 3.2 In the past it has been difficult to attract competitive quotations. Willows Garden Centre has been working with Abergavenny Town Council for 17 years and have proved competitive with little or no increase in the price and accommodation of additional responsibilities at no extra cost.
- 3.3 The Town Clerk contacted the other towns in Monmouthshire and neighbouring areas to establish which contractor undertook their planting and watering with a view to seeking quotations. Willows Garden Centre has contracts with Monmouth, Usk, Risca, Caerleon and Pontypool. Chepstow are

currently seeking a new contractor for the supply of plants with watering undertaken by a local person.

- 3.4 No other local companies have been identified who offer the combined planting and watering package. There are companies that would undertake the planting but not the watering. Willows Garden Centre is willing to continue the watering of the 34 planters planted up by Sarah Price Landscapes although they usually only offer the combined planting and watering package. Therefore, a quotation was requested from Willows Garden Centre only.
- 3.5 Willows Garden Centre has quoted a price of £12,715 per annum for the following service:

Planting and watering of:

- 35 hanging baskets
- 29 blue planters
- 7 tiered planters
- Troughs on the planters at the Angel & Fairfield Car Park crossing
- Trough planters at A40 entrances to the town
- Replace any damaged or removed plantings
- Watering & feeding from March to September, at least twice a week
- Replanting of 29 blue planters with winter planting
- Removal and storage of planters, baskets, troughs when not out in the Town

Watering of:

- 34 planters on Frogmore Street, Lion Street, Nevill Street and St Johns Square. To be annual watering.

- 3.6 Please note the increase in price reflects the watering of the 34 additional planters that Sarah Price Landscapes plant up, extended period for watering as March and April have recently been dry months and increased winter planting. The watering element totals £6880 with the planting element totalling £5835.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 To commence a new contract with Willows Garden Centre for two years 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 at an annual cost of £12,715.