

Your reference number is ECPR362426450.

Thank you for submitting Exemption from Contract Procedure Rules - Request Approved

**First name:** Paul

**Last name:** Stacey

**Email address:** paul.stacey@watford.gov.uk

**Job title:**

**Section / Department:**

**Exemption category:** Limited market

**Details / Circumstances / Explanation of why an exemption was required:** Groundwork have hosted ColneCAN working towards improving the River Colne for a number of years, delivering projects for different administrative areas so have an established network of partners and comprehensive understanding of the river across its entire catchment area. They have also managed the programme development phase for the Council. As a supplier they are unique in having the range of skills and resources for this programme, notably technical knowledge, an established network of supporting stakeholders engaged in improving the river, an established pool of resources with the required specialist knowledge, community engagement and fundraising capacity. As a third sector organisation they are able to access external funding that the Council would not normally be able to apply for.

More specifically:

- They have a landscape architecture team to design and manage physical improvements and are a Landscape Institute Registered Practice. They can develop and run contracts but are also used to consulting and engaging the community, putting across complex issues in a clear, simple way. They can manage large and small contracts, run projects that have elements of both contractor and volunteer delivery and are used to varied projects that can involve specialties such as supervising art elements with or without engagement.
- Their community team includes qualified youth workers and teachers; generalist community support; experienced staff to run a range of activities from family play attracting young families to use their outdoors, tasks to promote health and wellbeing or to engage local companies in Corporate Social Responsibility and programmes of messaging about important issues – in this instance water saving & pollution.
- Their training teams can deliver physical improvements through short term programmes which typically work with those at furthest distance from the labour market linking them to entry level jobs.
- They have a marketing team to support all areas of our work ensuring awareness, benefits and engagement are maximised.
- They are local, have good local links, a long track record and good reputation.
- They are also ISO 9001 quality and BS 8555 environmentally accredited.

They are also a charitable trust committed to delivering environmental improvements through working with communities which is at the heart of this proposal.

Consultation with East Hertfordshire Council confirmed that when similar procurement exercises were carried out Groundwork were the only bidders interested in the work.

Groundwork South will focus on the in river and habitat improvements which in turn will be supported by the activities of Groundwork East.

The contract was let on 13th May 2021

The appended project proposal, and clarification email sets out further details

**Attach copy of email(s) if appropriate:** Rediscovering the River Colne - Gwk fee proposal, implementation stage 14.1.21.pdf, Gwk East amended River Colne Fee Proposal 23.3.21.pdf, FW Rediscovering the River Colne - updated fee proposal.msg

**Contract Title:** Rediscovering the River Colne

**Vendor / Contractor:** Groundwork East

**Date Contract let:** 12/09/2021

**Term / Duration of Contract:** 12 months

**End date:** 31/05/2022

**Total Value of Contract:** £158440

**WBC Contract Manager name:** Paul Stacey/Hayley Page

**WBC Contract Manager email:** paul.stacey@watford.gov.uk

**Comments / Other Information:** The piece of work will lead to delivery of 4 work streams to improve the River Colne in Watford

**Date:** 13/09/2021

**Group Head of Service approving / rejecting::** Alan Gough

**Decision:** Approve and forward to the Managing Director

**Comments (optional):**

**Date:** 13/09/2021

**Decision:** Approve the request

**Comments (optional):** I understand that this has been reviewed by the Monitoring Officer and Legal Services, and there are no issues with the approach outlined. Approved on this basis.

**Managing Director:** Donna Nolan

**Date:** 13/09/2021

**Name of the Portfolio Holder informed:** Councillor Ian Stotesbury

**Date the Portfolio Holder was informed:** 16/09/2021

**Date reported to Cabinet (If over £100K):** 04/10/2021