

6.2.6 Contract 23-0015 - Provision of Open Space Mowing and Horticultural Maintenance Service 2024-2027

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Recommendation(s)

That Council:

1. Enter a three-year contract with **Skyline Landscape Services Pty Ltd**, for the provision of Open Space and Horticultural maintenance services in **Zone 1 (North)**, with the option to extend the agreement for two further periods of up to three years each.
2. Enter a three-year contract with **UDLM Pty Ltd**, for the provision of Open Space and Horticultural maintenance services in **Zone 2 (South) and Zone 4 (Central)**, with the option to extend the agreement for two further periods of up to three years each.
3. Enter a three-year contract with **Antler Environmental**, for the provision of Open Space and Horticultural maintenance services in **Zone 3 (Eastern Central) and Zone 5 (Western Central)**, with the option to extend the agreement for two further periods of up to three years each.
4. Notes that an additional cost of \$715,000 will be incurred this financial year to continue the provision of mowing and horticultural maintenance services.

Attachments

1. Tender Evaluation Report - Confidential memorandum [6.2.6.1 - 26 pages]

Executive Summary

This report outlines the tender process for selecting preferred suppliers for mowing and horticultural services in Cardinia. The current open space maintenance contract with Citywide, set to expire in March 2024, prompted a redesign of the contract model. The new contract covers litter clearing, mowing, and garden maintenance for an initial three-year period, with potential extensions. Eleven submissions were received, with one deemed non-compliant.

The evaluation process involved independent scoring, panel discussions, and interviews with top-ranked tenderers. An external probity advisor was present throughout to ensure transparency and fairness. Based on evaluations, Skyline Landscape Services, UDLM Pty Ltd, and Antler Environmental are recommended for specific zones.

Financially, the new contract model anticipates increased costs for service delivery. Despite allowing tenderers to propose discounts for multiple zones, no savings were identified. The total cost for the first year is \$6,342,775.04.

Background

In 2020, Council entered an open space maintenance contract with Citywide, which is scheduled to expire on March 2nd, 2024.

The current open space maintenance contract model was redesigned, and a decision was made to award separate contracts to manage different portions of the service. This report relates to the tender process undertaken to select preferred suppliers of the mowing and horticultural services.

The contract includes the clearing of litter, mowing, garden and shrub maintenance throughout the municipality for a three-year initial period, commencing 4th March 2024 together with Council's option to extend the contract for two further periods of up to three years each.

For this tender, Cardinia was geographically split into five zones and tenderers were able to submit for one or more zones of their choosing, but it was a requirement that they must apply for Zone 1 (North) and/or Zone 2 (South) as part of their submission. 11 submissions were received, including one non-compliant.

Tender Process

All compliant tenders were assessed and scored by each panel member independently using a set criteria, with two subsequent meetings held to discuss submissions and determine consensus scores for each tenderer. An independent external probity advisor (see Policy Implications section) was present for these meetings.

Further clarifications were sought from the Tenderers and the top ranking six tenderers. The external probity advisors were again present (via teams) during these meetings. After each interview, the evaluation panel discussed the presentations and rescored evaluation criteria where necessary.

A final panel meeting was held to discuss value for money and allocate zones to each preferred Tenderer.

Recommended Tenderers

The evaluation panel is confident in these Companies abilities to complete the contract work successfully:

Tenderer	Recommended Zone(s) for Contract Award
Skyline Landscape Services Pty Ltd	Zone 1 (North)
UDLM Pty Ltd	Zone 2 (South) and Zone 4 (Central)
Antler Environmental	Zone 3 (Eastern Central) and Zone 5 (Western Central)

Policy Implications

Council's Procurement Policy states that where the proposed Total Contract Sum exceeds \$10 million over the life of the contract, a probity advisor should be appointed. After a separate competitive quotation process, Pitcher Partners was appointed as probity advisors to oversee this Tender.

Relevance to Council Plan

2.1 We support the creation of liveable spaces and places

2.1.2 Plan and maintain safe, inclusive and connected open spaces, places and active travel routes.

3.1 We value our natural assets and support our biodiversity to thrive

3.1.1 Partner with community, business and industry to take action on, and adapt to, climate change.

5.1 We practise responsible leadership

5.1.4 Maximise value for our community through efficient service delivery, innovation, strategic partnerships, and advocacy.

Climate Emergency Consideration

Nil

Consultation/Communication

Nil

Financial and Resource Implications

Preparing for an increase in costs for the delivery of the service, the decision to simplify service standards and establish a contract model for payment based on works completed was made prior to the tender being released to the market.

The tendering process allowed officers to establish market costs to service each one of the areas across Council. It is clear that without substantial reductions to the standard, area, or frequency of service, the cost of providing the maintenance of the Shire's open spaces will increase.

The Tender documentation allowed the Tenderers to nominate discounts in the event they were awarded multiple zones. The combination of zones allocated to the proposed recommendations did not furnish any savings in this instance.

The total cost for these service comes to \$6,342,775.04 excluding GST for the first year of this service. This results in an additional and over-budget expense of approximately \$715,000 for this financial year.

Conclusion

The tender process successfully identified preferred suppliers for open space maintenance services in Cardinia. The selection of Skyline Landscape Services, UDLM Pty Ltd, and Antler Environmental is based on rigorous evaluation and ensures capabilities for successful contract fulfillment. The decision to redesign the contract model anticipates increased costs, and although efforts were made to identify potential savings through zone allocation, no reductions were realised.