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**LANDSCAPE TENDERS FOR WALTON HIGH AND WAVENDON GATE
COMBINED SCHOOL**

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 To agree the tenders for landscape works at Walton High and Wavendon Gate Combined School.

2. Summary

- 2.1 Tenders have been received for the landscaping contracts at Walton High and Wavendon Gate Combined School. These are in excess of the original estimated budgets.
- 2.2 On 6 July 1999, the Community Learning Committee agreed a revised Capital Programme which is within the cost envelope then approved by Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 13 July 1999. This revised Capital Budget for 1999/2000 now takes account of the increased expenditure for these two contracts.
- 2.3 The Council's Standing Orders require that because of the size of the contract to be awarded, the Education Committee must agree the awarding of the contract.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Committee is recommended to agree the awarding of the following contract:
- (a) Wavendon Gate Combined School and
 - (b) Walton High to Agripower Ltd. at £349,589.62.

4. Background

- 4.1 The original estimates for the landscape tenders at both these schools were prepared by the Landscape and Countryside Team in the Environment Directorate based on the most recent prices for tenders at that time (November 1997). These were £105,000 for Wavendon Gate Combined School and £304,000 for Walton High.
- 4.2 However, both contracts involve abnormal elements which will require additional expenditure. These are detailed in paragraph 6.3.
- 4.3 Although the building projects for Walton High (Phase 1A) and Wavendon Gate Combined Phase 1 are due for completion in August 1999, it was not possible to let the landscape contracts earlier mainly due to the delays in formally agreeing access to the school sites with the Commission for New Towns (CNT) and final acquisition of the sites.
- 4.4 The delay has meant that it has not been possible to undertake the essential work to ensure that the playing fields are available for use from September 1999.
- 4.5 In order to avoid further delay and ensure that the essential work is completed during the present growing season, the contracts now need to be agreed and let.

5. **Issues and Choices**

- 5.1 The budget was previously agreed by Community Learning Committee at its meeting in July 1998. However, this budget was based on data available at that time and the tenders received for these projects were above that budget.
- 5.2 The Community Learning Committee at its meeting on 6 July 1999 agreed a revised Capital Programme which now takes account of the increased costs identified following receipt of the landscape tenders and other issues.
- 5.3 The fields to be used by pupils at these schools are already behind in terms of availability mainly because of the site purchase issues. It is now essential to let these contracts so that work can be done during summer 1999, otherwise there is potential for another year's delay in availability (from September 2001 to September 2002) as the growing season will have been missed.

6. **Implications**

6.1 Environmental

Both sites have abnormal ground conditions which require additional landscaping work to the playing fields leading to additional costs. The playing fields will require a bedding in period to enable the grass to be suitable for games.

6.2 Equalities

Pupils will not have full access to the PE curriculum while the fields are not available for use. Alternative arrangements are having to be made.

6.3 Financial

The landscape tenders for the two schools are to be let in two phases. The tenders before the Committee now are phase 1 for each of the schools. Annex A to this report sets out details of the tenders submitted. The figures below show that these tenders alone are within the original budgets referred to in 4.1, but when an allowance is made for phase 2 this is no longer the case. However, the revised programme agreed by the Community Learning Committee now provides sufficient funds for schemes to proceed at the lowest tender value.

	Wavendon Gate	Walton High
Phase 1 (tender)	£96,581.54	£252,008.08
Phase 2 (estimate)	£54,000.00	£113,000.00
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	£150,581.54	£365,008.08

6.4 Legal

The Council's Standing Orders require that the Committee agree to award the contracts to the lowest tenderer, Agripower Ltd.

6.5 Staff and Accommodation

There are no issues arising from this report.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 In order for the playing fields to be available at Walton High and Wavendon Gate Combined School from September 2000, the Committee is asked to agree to award the contract to Agripower Ltd as the lowest tenderer.

Background Papers: Education Committee 7 July 1999 Items 18a and 18b
Policy and Resources Committee 13 July 1999 Item 12