

In addition, given that the current contract was coming to an end, it was agreed that the tender would be prepared to go out early in 2012, with a view to the contract being confirmed and in place in time for the spring survey.

We have now begun the procurement process for the Citizens' Panel, and the tender document is currently being prepared. Given the value of the contract, the Citizens' Panel contract will be advertised as a 'closed tender', with selected organisations being invited to apply.

This paper recommends that the evaluation of the tender and the choice of organisation to which the new contract be awarded be devolved to the management committee and its chosen representatives.

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