

Record of officer decision

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| Decision title: | Commission of work to continue the preparation of Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (MWLP). |
| Date of decision: | 15 th August 2017. |
| Decision maker: | Director for Economy Communities and Corporate |
| Authority for delegated decision: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The chief executive's scheme of delegation |
| Ward: | Countywide |
| Consultation: | None. |
| Decision made: | To continue to engage Hendeca through Hoople to undertake the next steps in the plan making process in accordance with proposal for the work prepared by Hendeca (June 2017). |
| Reasons for decision: | <p>Continuing to engage Hendeca Ltd (through the existing approach of using Hoople) to provide specialist consultancy advice for the preparation of the MWLP will enable timely progress on the project to continue. This decision would support the completion of the MWLP in accordance with the Corporate Delivery Plan.</p> <p>Knowledge developed over the past 18 months increase the chances of the MWLP successfully progressing through the regulatory processes (including public examination) to adoption.</p> <p>The preparation of the MWLP began in 2016. Kirsten Berry of Hendeca Ltd was commissioned and engaged through Hoople to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> prepare of a "gap" analysis in the available evidence for the preparation of the MWLP; produce need assessments for both minerals and waste; and prepare an Issues and Options Report for public consultation. |
| Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations: | <p>This decision will secure specialist advice to deliver the preparation of a statutory planning document increasing the likelihood of a successful outcome.</p> <p>If no specialist advice is secured for the preparation of the MWLP, then the time required to prepare the Plan will significantly increase and it is less likely that the this element of the statutory local plan will be found sound due to lack of in-house expertise.</p> <p>There is a budget for the cost of preparing the Local Plan documents and money has also been secured in reserves to pay for the plan making process. The cost of this work is not anticipated to exceed £78,325.</p> <p>Once adopted the MWLP will form part of the statutory development plan for the area and be used as such for the purpose of determining planning applications in the county.</p> <p>Where the decision has financial, legal or equality considerations you should ensure that you have discussed the decision with.</p> <p>There are no health and safety or equality implications.</p> |

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| Details of any alternative options considered and rejected: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit a senior planning officer within the Strategic Planning Team with specialist experience in minerals and waste policy. There are a limited number of suitable candidates with sufficient expertise and the recruitment process will result in delays to the plan making process. There would still need to be an element of support for the process/evidence base development which would have to be commissioned at additional cost. • Commission or join with another local authority, with a specialist minerals and waste policy team, to prepare the MWLP. This was considered prior to commissioning Hendeca, with discussions being held with Shropshire and Worcestershire Councils. These authorities either did not have the capacity or were already committed to preparing joint plans. • Commission BBLP to deliver the plan under the public realm contract. This was investigated previously, BBLP proposed subcontracting the task to WSP and discussions were held regarding the scope of the works before WSP pulled out from the project. • Procure via a competitive tender process. There are a very limited number of consultants with the specialist background to be able to prepare the MWLP. This process would take a number of months and any successful organisation would need to review the work already undertaken, gain essential local knowledge and establish a working rapport with officers, which would lead to unnecessary and undesirable delays to the plan production process. |
| Details of any declarations of interest made: | None |

Officer name: Richard Gabb

Officer Title: Programme Director Housing & Growth

Signed..... Date: 15 August 2017