

Record of officer decision

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| Decision title: | Commissioning of professional advice to support development of an affordable housing strategic programme |
| Date of decision: | 13 July 2020 |
| Decision maker: | Director for Economy & Place |
| Authority for delegated decision: | <p>The decision by the Cabinet Member Housing, regulatory services and community safety dated 14 May 2020 authorised the Programme Director Housing and Growth to commence expenditure from the earmarked financial resilience reserve of £150,000, to fund the commissioning of an investigation of different models of delivering council housing</p> <p>http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=6830</p> |
| Ward: | Countywide |
| Consultation: | The Cabinet Member Housing, regulatory services and community safety, legal services and Chief Finance Officer have been consulted and confirmed that the decision may be taken |
| Decision made: | That the work required in the investigation of different models of delivering council housing is commissioned from Engie under the term of the Development and Regeneration Partnership Overarching Agreement under an Additional Services Agreement. The work will be undertaken in two phases up to the value of £148,636.85. Phase 2 will only be undertaken following successful completion of Phase 1 and cabinet approvals |
| Reasons for decision: | <p>The Council is keen to progress the investigation of delivering affordable housing as quickly as possible. Expert advice is required to inform decisions regarding how housing could be delivered and the most appropriate models for delivery.</p> <p>The council entered into a Development and Regeneration Partnership (DRP) with Engie in June 2018. Engie have the expertise in this area and are able to accelerate progression and meet the timescales required to feed into the planning for bringing forward developments on council owned land and the council's budget processes in the autumn of 2020</p> |
| Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations: | <p>Not awarding this work to Engie would compromise the council's ability to deliver on time, utilizing the services of a procured partner is considered value for money</p> <p>The council have a statutory duty to deliver housing solutions to meets the needs of the county, affordable housing is essential to address the inequalities in Herefordshire</p> <p>Additional housing is urgently needed not only to meet the growing demand on the County waiting list but also due to the abnormally high numbers of household who have presented as homeless due to the Covid 19, the council have a statutory duty under the Homeless Reduction Act</p> |

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| | <p>2017 to assess and accommodate those who are deemed vulnerable and at risk of homelessness</p> <p>A full understanding and awareness of the legal implications of developing council housing presents a risk to the council and therefore this piece of work has to be commissioned</p> |
| <p>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</p> | <p>Commission elements individually or manage them in house. These have been rejected as we do not have sufficient capacity or expertise in house and would jeopardise delivery timescales and potentially put the council at risk due to the lack of expertise knowledge</p> |
| <p>Details of any declarations of interest made:</p> | |

Signed

Date: 13 July 2020

Richard Ball
 Director for Economy & Place