

## Record of officer decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	Decision to agree and sign the Hoople SLA 20/21.
<b>Date of decision:</b>	9 November 2020
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Chief Finance Officer
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	<p>Cabinet Member Finance and Corporate Services decision on 30 September 2020:</p> <p><i>a) the S151 Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member be authorised to finalise and sign the Hoople Service Level Agreement (SLA) for 2020/21</i></p> <p><a href="http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50033797">http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50033797</a></p>
<b>Ward:</b>	Countywide
<b>Consultation:</b>	Cabinet Member Finance and Corporate Services, Legal and Finance have been consulted on this agreement
<b>Decision made:</b>	The Chief Finance officer has finalised the terms of the Hoople SLA 20/21 that was appended in draft to the decision taken by the cabinet member finance and corporate services on 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2020; and will sign the finally agreed document.
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	To agree the Hoople SLA 20/21 allows effective ongoing management of the services delivered and a mechanism to monitor these services against.
<b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b>	The provision of back office services is essential to the continued running of the council. By approving the SLA for 2020/21, this will ensure effective management of the services delivered.
<b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That alternative service provision for all or part of the services described in the Hoople SLA is sought from other external provider(s). This is not recommended as the council's opportunity to support partnership arrangements across the public sector through its established model for the provision of excellent business support services will be constrained. Further, it is unlikely that the council's costs, in regard to these services will be no less than that provided by Hoople Ltd as an 'in house' company with no profit element. Such services would have to be the subject of regular procurement, the cost of which is avoided by maintaining the exemption under Regulation 12 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. An options appraisal and procurement(s) would have to be progressed before this option could be taken, with Hoople Ltd continuing to deliver services in accord with existing contractual obligation during transition.</li> <li>2. That service provision for all or part of the services described in the Hoople SLA is provided in house through directly employed staff. This</li> </ol>

	<p>is not recommended as the council's opportunity to support partnership arrangements across the public sector through the provision of excellent business support services will be lost in regard to those elements of service provided in house. Further, it is considered likely that the council's costs, in regard to its back office services will increase as all associated operational overheads would have to be directly supported by the council, as opposed to overheads being shared amongst other public sector partners and Hoople Ltd's clients. An options appraisal would have to be progressed before this option could be taken, with Hoople Ltd continuing to deliver services in accord with existing contractual obligation during transition.</p>
<b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b>	None.

Signed:  
Andrew Lovegrove Chief Finance Officer

Date: 9 November 2020