

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	To appoint an independent expert within a budget of £20k to advise on the building of housing to maximise the environmental benefits to meet the council's climate emergency responsibilities
Date of decision:	18 December 2020
Decision maker:	Director of Economy and Place
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>Cabinet decision on 26 November 2020 approved the appointment of an independent expert within a budget of £20k to advise on the building of housing to maximise the environmental benefits to meet the council's climate emergency responsibilities.</p> <p>Link to decision: http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=7360</p> <p>Financial delegated authority for this spend is within the corporate Project Manager's scope</p>
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	<p>Consultation has taken place with the Head of Economic Development. The senior project manager consulted with all senior officers at the project board. Procurement, legal and finance colleagues have been consulted and are content that the decision can be made.</p>
Decision made:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Award a contract to Zero Carbon House for the provision of an independent expert to help maximise the environmental standards of the affordable houses being developed. The contract will have a maximum value of £20,000. II. To delegate authority to the senior project manager to authorise spend and manage the internal recharges of council costs and other professional fees up to a total cost of £20,000 <p>The contract award is within the budget of £241,000</p>
Reasons for decision:	<p>On the 26 November 2020 the Cabinet agreed to the procurement of an independent expert within a budget of £20k to advise on the building of housing to maximise the environmental benefits to meet the council's climate emergency responsibilities. The use of a procurement mechanism for the completion of the project, informed by methodology advised by the council procurement team;</p> <p>Following a competitive tender process which followed the council's contract procedure rules, 4 quotations for the Independent Environmental Expertise were received and an evaluation process, based upon a quality and cost assessments, has been undertaken.</p> <p>The highest score from the evaluation was Zero Carbon House, who are being selected as the preferred service provider to carry out this work.</p>

Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<p>The costs for the works are included in the Affordable Housing Strategy budget that has been approved by Council and in the cabinet decision on 26 November 2020.</p> <p>Without the appointment of an external Independent Environmental Expertise Service the project may not achieve its aspiration of:</p> <p>Improving energy efficiency of homes and build standards for new housing – good design and high levels of energy efficiency in council-owned or influenced developments will provide a blueprint principle to other developers in Herefordshire</p> <p>There is no in house expertise to complete the role and the council is not in a position to appoint the roles internally to complete the role</p>
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	<p>An alternative option would be to not employ any Independent Environmental Expertise, but this was rejected on the following grounds;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All new housing needs to achieve the net carbon zero target set by the Cabinet for its Affordable Housing Strategy. Without expert input these standard may not be achieved <p>For this reasons, this option was rejected</p>
Details of any declarations of interest made:	<p>None</p>

Signed

Richard Ball
 Director for Economy & Place

Date: 18 December 2020