

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Commissioning of professional advice to support development of a net carbon zero affordable housing scheme on Sites 1b, 1c, 2a and 2b Station Approach at a cost of up to £68K
Date of decision:	29 January 2021
Decision maker:	Director for Economy & Place
Authority for delegated decision:	Cabinet decision on 17 December 2020 approved the commissioning of professional advice to support development of net carbon zero housing scheme on sites 1b, 1c, 2a and 2b Station Approach at a cost of up to £68K Link to decision: Decision - Recommendation for the first proceedable affordable housing scheme - Herefordshire Council
Ward:	Widemarsh
Consultation:	The Cabinet Member Housing, regulatory services and community safety and legal services have been consulted and confirmed that the decision may be taken
Decision made:	That the work required on the development of the proposal 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 up to a value of £68,000
Reasons for decision:	The Council is keen to progress the investigation of delivering affordable housing as quickly as possible. Expert advice is required to inform decisions regarding the feasibility of a housing scheme at Station Approach, Hereford. 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
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	Not awarding this work to Engie would compromise the council's ability to deliver on time, utilising the services of a procured partner is considered value for money 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
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	Commission elements individually or manage them in house. This option has been rejected as the council does not have sufficient capacity or expertise in house and this approach would jeopardise delivery timescales and potentially put the council at risk due to the lack of expertise and knowledge
Details of any declarations of interest made:	

Signed

Richard Ball
Director for Economy & Place

Date: 29 January 2021