

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Commissioning of professional advice to complete the site valuation before purchase of land at the rear of 72 Whitecross Road, Hereford HR4 0DG ahead of the Council purchase. The cost of the site is £2k
Date of decision:	7 July 2021
Decision maker:	Director for Economy & Place
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>Cabinet decision on 5th May 2021 approved the commissioning agreement to proceed with the creation of a Housing Pipeline Investigation Account budget of up to £350k which could be utilised to procure technical services to undertake initial site studies for sites in third party ownership to advance the creation of a pipeline of developable sites.</p> <p>Link to decision: http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=50037287</p>
Ward:	Widemarsh
Consultation:	The Cabinet Member Commissioning, Procurement and Assets, Cabinet Member Housing, regulatory services and community safety, Commercial Services and Legal Services have been consulted and confirmed that the decision may be taken.
Decision made:	That the work required on the valuation service is commissioned from Fisher German LLP. They were selected following the receipt of three quotes from separate organisations where they provided the lowest submission for the service. The work will be undertaken up to a value of £2,000.
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 the site value of any purchase of third party owned housing schemes across Herefordshire. Fisher German have the expertise in this area and are able to complete a Red Book Valuation and initial assessment of the site.</p> <p>The council has opted to use three quotes to assess the value for money of this contract. The procurement process complies with the council's contract procedure rules for a contract of this value</p>
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	Not awarding this work to Fisher German would compromise the council's ability to deliver on time, utilising the services of a procured partner is considered value for money.
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	Commission this work in house. This option has been rejected as the council does not have sufficient capacity or expertise in house and this approach would potentially put the council at risk with any site purchase due to the lack of expertise and knowledge.
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None

Signed:

Andrew Lovegrove
Acting Deputy Chief Executive / S151 Officer

Date: 7 July 2021