

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	Decision to award the contract for the asset valuation service
Date of decision:	18 January 2024
Decision maker:	Director of Resources and Assurance
Authority for delegated decision:	Chief Executive's Scheme of Delegation dated 22/11/2022 CS-26 Finance services
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	None
Decision made:	To award a contract to Wilks Head and Eve LLP for the provision of asset and insurance reinstatement valuations for the financial years 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26 at an estimated cost of £60k.
Reasons for decision:	<p>Asset valuations and associated advice from a suitably qualified valuation professional is a statutory requirement to ensure that the Statement of Accounts are prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting.</p> <p>Following a competitive tender the procurement of an asset and insurance reinstatement valuation service was initially approved for a three year term ending 31 July 2021. Due to the Covid 19 restrictions, the continuing use of the current service provider was subsequently approved through until 31 July 2023.</p> <p>The decision was made to direct award the current service provider a new contract through a procurement framework. This is considered to be the best option because any change in service provider would likely be more costly to the council. Any new provider would have to spend time gaining knowledge of council assets and if they changed valuations methods then this would lead to increased external audit scrutiny and costs. Remaining with the same provider offers value for money to the council.</p>
Equality Considerations	<p>Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows: A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act; b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. <p>The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision</p>

	making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services.
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	Asset valuations, by a suitably qualified expert, are required to enable the Statement of Accounts to be prepared and audited. The Council does not have the expertise to undertake this work in-house therefore this work must be provided by external professionals. The contract was awarded through the ESPO framework.
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	To re-procure now would present difficulties in ensuring that the statutory deadlines are met due to a new provider having to obtain knowledge of the asset base.
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None

Signed..... Date: 18th January 2024

Andrew Lovegrove
Director of Resources and Assurance