

Portfolio Holder decision record sheet

Name of decision maker: Assistant Director – Planning Development & Regeneration

Portfolio: Planning and Infrastructure

Date of Portfolio Holder Decision:

Title of Decision: Approval to award contract for Hemel Garden Communities Transport Plan to ITP - with an increase in scope and cost

Part II:

Part II reason:

Background to report: (this will be sent to members in the initial notice email so they know the content of the decision)

A 2019 Portfolio Holder Decision Record Sheet (PHDRS) reported and gave approval to the Hemel Hempstead Sustainable Transport Plan work with a cap of around £100k for both stages. Since then, the consultants (ITP) have delivered the interim Hemel Garden Communities (HGC) Transport Strategy and are leading on a related but less detailed study - the Hemel Hempstead Transport Plan for the Local Plan. The timeframe for transport planning to support the Local Plan work is up to 2038, whereas the HGC Transport Plan will provide costed interventions up to 2050.

The PHDRS gave approval for ITP to lead on the more detailed HGC Transport Plan. However since this PHDRS was approved, the Stage 1 transport work - Interim HGC Transport Strategy work needed to be expanded to cover some of the stage 2 works, which led to the £30k costs being exceeded by £10k. The brief and quote for work to enter into Stage 2 works with ITP has broadened which takes the cost beyond the expected cost of £70k and the total combined cap of £100k, to a new combined cost of around £135k.

Dacorum Borough Council has led on the procurement of the Hemel Garden Communities Transport Plan work, whilst the Transport work itself has been jointly managed by Dacorum Borough Council, St. Albans City and District Council and Hertfordshire County Council to support the Hemel Garden Communities programme work. This work will also contribute to Hemel Garden Communities Transformational Plan, HGC Concept Masterplan, HGC Transformation and Infrastructure Framework SPD, as well as contributing to Dacorum's emerging Local Plan. Going forward, there is an expectation that Stage 2 HGC Transport Plan will be led by HCC Highways team with input from the wider HGC programme team.

The authorities will expedite the Stage 2 HGC Transport Plan commission with ITP since it is a fundamental component of the Transformation Plan and both are needed to support the emerging draft Local Plan. However, there will be a break clause inserted subject to Procurement's approval, to ensure the authorities have the authority and funding in place to deliver the latter phase of the Stage 2 work.

Decision made and reasons:

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Decision: Approval to award contract for a Hemel Garden Communities Transport Plan to ITP – with increased scope and cost.

Reason:

MHCLG, working with Homes England have designated Hemel Hempstead a Garden Town, and awarded funding of £750k to Dacorum Borough Council and St. Albans City and District Council to assist bringing transformational change to Hemel Hempstead alongside new growth of over 11,000 homes and 10,000 jobs to the east and north of the town (Hemel Garden Communities).

Part of the planning process is the preparation of new evidence to underpin the emerging HGC Transformational Plan and HGC Concept Masterplan, which is all expected to support the emerging draft Local Plan, as well as influencing phased delivery in North and East of Hemel Hempstead Growth Areas. The second Stage of the Transport Plan will build upon the interim HGC Transport Strategy to identify a stepped approach to 2050, with costed interventions, to encourage existing and new communities to use sustainable modes of transport over the use of the private motor car.

Reports considered:

Cabinet Report on 30 July 2019 – Hemel Hempstead Garden Town and Hemel Garden Communities.

Cabinet Report 14 January 2020 – Hemel Garden Communities Memorandum of Understanding

Officers/Councillors/Ward Councillors/Stakeholders Consulted:

Cllr. Graham Sutton – Portfolio Holder for Planning and Infrastructure
James Doe – Assistant Director, Planning Development and Regeneration
Ian Charie – Programme Director, Hemel Garden Communities
Nathalie Bateman – DBC Lead, Hemel Garden Communities

Deputy Chief Financial Officer Comments:

The proposed increase in cost of this element of the HGC programme can be funded through the small contingency built into the programme budget. The increasing cost of the transport plan will put additional strain on the overall finances of the programme as this one element utilises half of the existing contingency.

Deputy Monitoring Officer Comments:

Officers should ensure that the increased scope of the work for Stage 2 is covered in the contractual documents. Officers should also be mindful that any further costs under the contract over and above which are included in this decision, may trigger OJEU procurement requirements.

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Implications:**Value for Money:**

ITP consultancy was appointed to lead on a wider multi-modal transport strategy for the South-West Herts Joint Strategic Plan, of which there is some overlap between the wider study and transport work focussing on HGC and wider connections. They have also delivered the Interim HGC Transport Strategy and leading on the Hemel Hempstead Transport Plan for the emerging Local Plan.

Financial:

The increased scope and value of both stage 1 and 2 is expected to cost around £135,000. Stage 1 included a small element of stage 2 work to help develop a more robust interim strategy and cost £40,000. Stage 2 will commence in November and is expected to cost £90,000. A further £5,000 has been added to the total cap to provide a buffer in case the scope or value marginally increases.

The costs of the stage 2 work will be met by the programme budget which has had receipts from MHCLG/Homes England of £750k in 2019, and where wider programme costs are underwritten by the two authorities. HCC are also considering allocating funds to this work and the wider programme and a new bid to MHCLG/Homes England was submitted in August 2020 for further funding to support the ongoing programme.

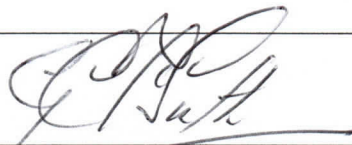
Risk:

The delivery of this evidence is necessary to inform the emerging draft Local Plan and the first delivery phases of Hemel Garden Communities (i.e. Land East of Hemel Hempstead, the majority of land is within St. Albans City and District Council).

Failure to progress will impact on transport modal share aspirations and associated targets. This was a critical element of the authorities successful bid to join the Garden Communities, which was encapsulated in the Hemel Garden Communities Charter which was agreed by Cabinet late in 2018.

Options considered and reasons for rejection:**Portfolio Holder's Signature:**

Date: 28th JANUARY 2021

**Details of any interests declared and any dispensations given by the Standards Committee:****For Member Support Officer use only**

Date decision record sheet received from portfolio holder:

Date decision published:

Decision no:

Date of expiry of call-in period:

Date any call-in received or decision implemented:

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