

OFFICER DECISION RECORD SHEET

Name of decision maker:

James Doe – Strategic Director, Planning, Development & Regeneration

Service Area: Hemel Garden Communities

Title of Decision:

Decision to award contract for the Hemel Garden Communities (HGC) Green Infrastructure Plan using the Bloom framework

Decision made and reasons:

Decision: Approval to award contract for HGC (Hemel Garden Communities) Green Infrastructure Plan to CBA (Chris Blandford Associates) by a direct award process via the Bloom framework

Reason:

The council requires appropriately qualified consultants to undertake a Green Infrastructure Plan to develop a suitable plan alongside delivery guidance, which will form part of the evidence base for the Local Plan.

The plan will guide Hemel Garden Communities on how the Green and Blue Network will be strategically planned and delivered across the town and the new communities to implement green infrastructure policies, standards and targets.

It will guide green infrastructure investment over the short, medium and long term to 2050 and beyond.

A key role of the plan is to demonstrate the value of GI for delivering a wide range of social, economic and environmental benefits for Hemel's existing and future communities. It will enable effective and cost-effective delivery of the local authorities' statutory functions by focusing limited resources on areas where investment in GI will provide the greatest benefits.

Background Information - HGC procured CBA from March to December 2022 to complete the early evidence gathering stages of this piece of work, this was procured by obtaining three quotes from consultants and evaluating each tender brief against the same criteria.

Commissioning process:

A commissioning checklist was completed and submitted to the Commercial Board with a report on 17 January 2023.

The recommendation was to make a direct award to CBA using the Bloom framework. The Commercial Board has approved this procurement method.

Tender process:

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This will be a direct award process to Chris Blandford Associates - this supplier is on the Bloom framework

The Bloom framework can be used for direct award to a suitable supplier and is compliant with the Public Contract Regulations 2015.

- NEPO is the lead contracting body that awarded the Framework Contract in 2019.
- NEPRO is the name of the framework (also referred to as a 'solution'), wholly owned by NEPO.
- Bloom Procurement Services Ltd is the name of the organisation currently operating as delivery partner to NEPRO.
- "Bloom Procurement Services Ltd is delivering NEPRO on behalf of NEPO and all participating contracting authorities"
- The scope of NEPRO only includes Professional Services and Consultancy Services.

Commercial Board:

Hemel Garden Communities took this commission report to Commercial Board on the 17th January, where it was endorsed.

Reports considered:

Reports to Commercial Board dated 17 January 2023

Officers/Councillors/Ward Councillors/Stakeholders Consulted:

- Juliet Amoruso – Hemel Garden Communities
- Nathalie Bateman - Hemel Garden Communities
- Phillipa Zieba - Hemel Garden Communities

Green Infrastructure Sub-Group Members (Internal Officers)

A Green Infrastructure workshop was held on 13-10-22 where some further stakeholders and some ward councillors attended.

- Cllr Colette Wyatt-Lowe (Woodhall Farm – Dacorum)
- Cllr Julie Banks (Grovehill Ward – Dacorum)
- Cllr Rob Beauchamp (Hemel Hempstead Town Ward, Dacorum)
- Cllr Chris White (Clarence Ward, St Albans)
- Cllr David Mitchell (Redbourne Ward, St Albans)
- Cllr Paul Zukowskj (Hatfield South)

Financial Comments:

This spend has been included within the HGC financial plan. It is currently phased as follows: £50k in 22/23 and £56k in 23/24.

(Darren Flanagan – Accountant for Place and People – 06-02-23)

Monitoring Officer Comments:

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No comments to add to the report.

S151 Officers Comments:

This procurement will be funded by approved budgets.

Implications

Value for Money:

The consultants will be required to provide detailed schedule of fees associated with each of the tasks, along with time allocations and day rates for all team members. This would also include a fully detailed programme.

Financial:

A preliminary budget of up to £100,000, excluding VAT has been reserved for the project.

The HGC budget is funded by the HGC Partner Authorities (Dacorum, St Albans, and Hertfordshire County Council) and via successful DLUHC funding bids, DBC supports the management of HGC finances.

Risk: If this contract is not awarded, the main risk is that the commissioning and tendering processes take longer to complete than anticipated and that this results in a delayed inception and project start

The Green Infrastructure requirements will provide evidence to support the Regulation 18 Local Plan, Stage 2 outputs are required by July/August 2023, therefore a longer tendering process would significantly impact the evidence produced for the local plan and the policies going forward

Another risk may include the project costing more than anticipated, however we do have a set budget for this piece of work as set out above.

Officer Signature:

Date: 09/03/23