

OFFICER DECISION RECORD SHEET

Name of decision maker: Sara Whelan, Assistant Director

Service Area: Planning

Title of Decision: Approval to extend Hyas Associates Ltd contract to provide Hemel Garden Communities with external resource

Decision made and reasons:

Decision: That a 6 month extension of Hyas Associates Ltd contract is approved to secure external programme resource to support the Hemel Garden Communities programme.

Reason:

In 2019, the government working with Homes England, designated Hemel Hempstead a Garden Town after a successful transformational garden communities bid.

Since 2019, Hemel Garden Communities has been supported by further capacity and capital funding to support growth of over 11,000 homes and 10,000 jobs to the east and north of the town, alongside the wider transformation of the town and wider routes.

Over the last 18 months, the programme has benefitted from external resource from Hyas and it has accelerated a number of strategic workstreams, including, planning policy, design guidance, landowner engagement and developing a joint committee.

Over the next 6 months, the programme has three key priorities to achieve, these include, ensuring important strategies, guidance and policies are developed to support the Local Plans, and these are well understood by different audiences; progressing key workstreams linked to a Homes England funding bid with deadlines at the end of March 2024; and working with The Crown Estate to ensure progress is being made on the delivery of the growth areas.

In addition to programme priorities, the Hemel Garden Communities team has 3 vacancies, and the extra resource will enable the programme to maintain progress in key priority areas.

Reports considered:

Cabinet Report, 30 July 2019 – Hemel Hempstead Garden Town and Hemel Garden Communities. Sets out in further detail how the authorities will seek to progress work on these projects, including a two year spending plan for the funding received.

Cabinet Report, 21st July 2020 - Hemel Garden Communities Memorandum of Understanding – the Cabinet endorsed the Memorandum of Understanding of the partners, including the Terms of Reference for the Governance of the programme

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including the Delivery Board.

Commercial Board virtual report, January 2024 – Hemel Garden Communities
Hyas Associates Report and Appendices

Officers/Councillors/Ward Councillors/Stakeholders Consulted:

Phillipa Zieba, Programme Director Hemel Garden Communities
Nathalie Bateman, Programme Manager Hemel Garden Communities
Ben Hosier, Head of Procurement
Darren Flanagan, Accountant

Financial Comments: There is budget in place to fund the extension of contract.
Spend to date is £136,238.44, with a final requisition due of up to £7,302.79.

The proposed 6 month contract extension is for £74,972. This is based on 122 days work covered by 4 associates over a 26 week period at different rates of pay – highest £712.50/day and lowest £488/day.

The combined value of the contract and contract extension is £218,513.23.

Deputy Monitoring Officer Comments:

Deputy S151 Officers Comments:

Implications:

Value for Money:

Financial:

Risk:

Officer Signature:

Date:

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