

OFFICER DECISION RECORD SHEET

Name of decision maker: Diane Southam, Assistant Director - Place, Communities and Enterprise

Service Area: Place

Title of Decision: Approval of a Framework Agreement with ESPO to issue a Direct Award to Aecom to carry out the Phase 2 works of the North Hemel Transport Study and Wider Transport Activities to support Dacorum's Local Plan.

Decision made and reasons:

Decision: A Framework Agreement is commissioned with ESPO to issue a Direct Award to Aecom to carry out the Phase 2 works of the North Hemel Transport Study and Wider Transport Activities to support Dacorum's Local Plan.

Reason: Following Aecom's recent completion of the Hemel Hempstead Transport Study, an additional transport strategy and evidence is needed to support the Dacorum and St Alban's Local Plans. The detailed work for North Hemel spanning land between the Leighton Buzzard Road and Redbourn Road will provide greater delivery certainty for site allocations for the authorities and HGC programme. The work will also provide an update to the Hemel Hempstead Transport Study.

Aecom has recently started work on Phase 1 of these activities in November 2024. Phase 1 commenced to allow the time necessary to set up a Direct Award Framework ahead of the bulk of the work in Phase 2. A Framework Agreement commissioning Aecom for the Phase 2 works will allow Aecom to provide outputs that are needed to inform the Dacorum and St Alban's Infrastructure Delivery Plans (IDPs) which is due for completion in April 2025; this is a fundamental consideration of a Local Plan examination. The Local Plans have been expedited to meet the National Planning Performance Framework transition arrangements, which has brought forward the requirements for the Transport and IDP work.

Reports considered:

Commercial Board, 28 November 2024 – paper to consider endorsing a Framework Agreement.

Officers/Councillors/Ward Councillors/Stakeholders Consulted:

- Diane Southam, Assistant Director - Place, Communities and Enterprise
- Catherine Silva Donayre, Strategic Director – Corporate and Commercial Services
- Ben Hosier, Head of Commercial Development, Commissioning, Procurement and Compliance
- Phillipa Zieba, Hemel Garden Communities Programme Director
- Nathalie Bateman, Hemel Garden Communities Programme Manager
- Lyndsey Evans, Commercial Manager
- Sue Foster, Procurement Manager
- Darren Flanagan, Accountant

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Financial Comments: This expenditure has been captured within the HGC financial tracker forecast. I can confirm there are sufficient funds to cover these costs.

Darren Flanagan, Accountant for People & Place.

Monitoring Officer Comments:

Direct award of the contract is permitted by the procurement for Dacorum procurement processes for extended contracts beyond £75k noted in the report. Officers should however ensure the appropriate contract and terms are agreed. I therefore have no further comments to add.

S151 Officers Comments:

This project is part of the approved HGC programme and approved budget the procurement costs are within budgeted expectations.

Implications:

Value for Money:

Aecom are a specialist consultancy providing expertise and their costs are competitive.

Financial:

Phase 1 costs - £24,989
Phase 2 costs – £55,000
Total £ 79,986.03

Latest fee breakdown below, however we expect some minor changes as a result of an update to the final proposal for work, from conversations with Aecom on 28/11/2024.

Risk:

Delaying or not taking forward the Phase 2 North Hemel Transport Study will affect the transport and IDP evidence base risking the Local Plans being found as unsound.

The work will also inform the SADC Planning Performance Agreement for Land East of Hemel Hempstead, which has started and will provide timely deliverables to ensure the right priorities are delivered by the landowner/developer.

Officer Signature:

Date: