

## 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 Bloom to issue a Direct Award to Arup to carry out the Phase 2 works of the HGC Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP)

### **Decision made and reasons:**

**Decision:** A Framework Agreement is commissioned with Bloom to issue a Direct Award to Arup to carry out the Phase 2 works of the HGC Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP).

**Reason:** Following Arup's recent completion of IDPs for both Dacorum and St Albans Local Plans, an additional IDP is needed focussing on Hemel Hempstead and the HGC programme.

Arup recently started on Phase 1 of these activities in October 2024. Phase 1 commenced to allow sufficient time to set up a Direct Award Framework ahead of progressing the main part of the work in Phase 2. A Framework Agreement commissioning Arup for the Phase 2 works will allow Arup 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.

Arup will develop an HGC IDP chapter for both Local Plan IDPs as well as updates to both Local Plan IDPs. The IDPs ensure there is proper consideration for the right infrastructure to support the growth and transformation of the town, and the outputs will also inform Planning Performance Agreements between landowners and Authorities as part of the planning application process.

### **Reports considered:**

**Commercial Board, 28 November 2024** – paper approved at Commercial Board 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

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- Sue Foster, Procurement Manager
- Darren Flanagan, Accountant

**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 contract is permitted by the procurement for Infrastructure Delivery Plans (IDPs) agreement noted in the report. I therefore have no further comments to add.

### **S151 Officers Comments:**

The cost of this provision is included in the approved HGC programme budget.

### **Implications:**

#### **Value for Money:**

Arup are a specialist consultancy providing garden towns (such as Harlow and Gilston) with IDP expertise and their costs are competitive.

#### **Financial:**

Phase 1 costs - £31,557.

Phase 2 costs - £52,500 includes 5% Bloom costs and 10% contingency

Total - £84,057

#### **Risk:**

The IDP will set out the necessary infrastructure required to support growth at HGC and feed into the Planning Performance Agreements between landowners and Authorities including apportionment of costs required for the infrastructure delivery of the HGC programme.

If the IDP schedule is not met, there is a risk that the schedule will be delayed affecting evidence related to both regulation 19 Local Plans and Regulation 22 Submission.

### **Officer Signature:**

Date: