

OFFICER DECISION RECORD SHEET

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

Service Area: Place

Title of Decision: To approve an award to Bloom to carry out a Further Competition exercise via the NEPRO framework for legal support for the Hemel Garden Communities programme.

Decision made and reasons:

Decision: To approve an award to Bloom to carry out a Further Competition exercise via the NEPRO framework for legal support for the Hemel Garden Communities programme.

Reason: Legal support is required to support Hemel Garden Communities (HGC) with wide-ranging legal expertise to secure Garden Town/Communities development growth and infrastructure expectations for the HGC Programme Area including the delivery and planning application delivery stages (pre application and application stages).

Reports considered:

- Virtual Commercial Board Report – December/January 2025
- Virtual Commercial Board Approval Report – approved: 08/01/2025

Officers/Councillors/Ward Councillors/Stakeholders Consulted:

- 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
- Lynsey Evans, Commercial Manager
- Sue Foster, Procurement Manager
- Darren Flanagan, Accountant

Financial Comments:

The HGC budget is funded by the HGC Partner Authorities (Dacorum, St Albans, and Hertfordshire County Council) where DBC supports the management of HGC finances and therefore has oversight of budgets.

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The HGC financial tracker is monitored on a quarterly basis by the HGC project team and the Place accountant.

I can confirm that the proposed £157k has been captured within the HGC tracker and there are currently sufficient funds to cover this cost in 24/25 & 25/26.

Darren Flanagan, Accountant for Place & People

Monitoring Officer Comments:

Deputy S151 Officers Comments:

Implications:

Value for Money:

A further competition exercise via the NEPRO framework will be carried out.

Financial:

£157,500 includes 5% Bloom costs

Risk:

The main risk with not taking forward a Framework Agreement approach to procure legal support via Bloom would be elongated delay affecting the development growth and infrastructure expectations for the HGC Programme.

Officer Signature:

Date: