

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEADER SIGNING HELD ON TUESDAY, 4TH OCTOBER, 2016, 10:00

PRESENT:

Councillor Claire Kober (Chair)

48. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Leader referred those present to agenda Item 1 as shown on the agenda in respect of filming at this meeting and asked that those present reviewed and noted the information contained therein.

49. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

50. EXTENSION OF CONTRACT WITH HOUSING REVIEWS LIMITED

The report sought Leader approval for a further extension of the contract with Housing Reviews Limited for the conduct of reviews of allocation and homelessness decisions under Parts VI & VII of the Housing Act 1996. The contract was due to expire on 31 October 2016 and the extension was for a period of 12 months.

RESOLVED

- I. To authorise the extension of the contract with HRL (and consequent contracting out of reviews of allocations and homelessness decisions as set out in that contract) until 31 October 2017

Reasons for decision

The Council has responsibilities under Parts VI and VII of the Act that it can only delegate to third parties under the terms of the Local Authorities (Contracting Out of Allocation of Housing and Homelessness Functions) Order 1996. The Council has a statutory duty to carry out these functions or to contract them out to a third party.

Homes for Haringey intend to bring the reviews function back in-house and the transformed service has provision for a Reviews Manager in the structure. This post was advertised externally with a closing date of 7 August 2016. Unfortunately, the recruitment did not lead to any candidates being shortlisted for interview and as such the recruitment has been delayed.

Once the Reviews Manager has been recruited and in a position to take over responsibility for conducting all reviews no further reviews will be passed to HRL. It will however be necessary to provide for a run-off period to allow HRL to complete all reviews passed to it to avoid disruption in the review process. A further extension until 31 October 2017 will allow for all reviews contracted to HRL to be determined and for the recruitment of a Reviews Manager in HfH. As the contractor is paid per review there are no financial implications in regard to approving an extension of this length.

Alternative options considered

If the contract with HRL is not extended, HRL will not be authorised to carry out reviews on behalf of the Council or HfH and any reviews conducted by HRL would be open to legal challenge. The lack of quality candidates for the vacant Reviews Manager post means that HfH cannot yet bring this function back in-house.

51. LEGAL ADVISOR FOR TOTTENHAM AND BOROUGH WIDE REGENERATION INCLUDING THE HARINGEY DEVELOPMENT VEHICLE

The report sought approval for the extension of the contract term for the legal advisor for Tottenham and Borough wide regeneration, and to approve additional expenditure, outside the authority of the Director of Regeneration, Planning and Development.

RESOLVED

- I. To extend the contract term for the provision of legal advice by Pinsent Masons for Tottenham and Borough Wide Regeneration to 31st July 2017.
- II. To approve additional expenditure to a maximum of £592,400 including contingency.
- III. To delegate authority to the Director of Regeneration, Planning and Development after consultation with the Chief Operating Officer to approve further expenditure to a maximum of £200,000 in the event of exceptional circumstances e.g. withdrawal of the preferred bidder and renegotiation with an alternative bidder.

Reasons for decision

The decision is required to ensure the provision of ongoing effective legal advice to the Council as it procures and establishes the Haringey Development Vehicle. Pinsent Masons have provided the advice so far and continuity of advice is crucial.

Alternative options considered

The alternative option would be to invite further quotations under the CCS Framework, for the provision of legal services to assist the Council in the remaining stages of the

procurement and establishment of the HDV. This would itself take a period of some weeks and trigger a delay to the ongoing procurement of the Haringey Development Vehicle.

This would also potentially increase risk to the project, with financial and resource implications due to the comprehensive hand over required and to the fact that documents developed to date would not be warranted by the new providers.

Pinsent Masons LLP has a comprehensive understanding of the project and the parameters in which the legal advice will sit. They are fully integrated into the project delivery team, and have established an effective working relationship with the other appointed advisers. To date they have produced high quality outputs and met the ambitious project timetables.

52. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

N/A

53. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting as the items below contained exempt information, as defined under paragraphs 3 and 5, Part 1, schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

54. LEGAL ADVISOR FOR TOTTENHAM AND BOROUGH WIDE REGENERATION INCLUDING THE HARINGEY DEVELOPMENT VEHICLE

Noted the information contained within the Exempt Part B of report.

55. NEW ITEMS OF EXEMPT URGENT BUSINESS

N/A

CHAIR: Councillor Claire Kober

Signed by Chair

Date