



To: Executive Councillor for Housing
Report by: Alan Carter
Relevant scrutiny committee: Housing 20 June 2017
Wards affected: All

Appointment of Cost Consultant

Non Key Decision

1. Executive summary

This report is about securing the services of a cost consultant to independently verify that schemes in the Council's New Build Housing Programme represent value for money and to provide ancillary services in respect of compliance with health and safety regulations.

2. Recommendations

The Executive Councillor is recommended to agree delegated authority to a Strategic Director to procure the services of a cost consultant to independently verify that schemes in the Council's New Build Housing Programme represent value for money and to provide ancillary services in respect of compliance with health and safety regulations.

3. Background

At the March 2017 Housing Committee, the Executive Councillor for Housing approved a development framework within which new housing by the Council would be delivered. The development framework was approved in the context of the Council's opportunity to fund new social rented housing using Devolution Housing Grant and to use the Council's new development partnership, Cambridge Investment Partnership (CIP), as the prime investment and delivery vehicle.

Irrespective of the partnership philosophy behind CIP, it is recommended that the Council commission the services of an independent cost consultant

to verify that the costs on new housing schemes delivered through CIP represent value for money in the housing market. In a more traditional contractual relationship the Council would commission the services of a quantity surveyor or an employer's agent to undertake this role and for example, AECOM have been fulfilling this function in recent years following a procurement exercise.

In addition to verifying costs it is the intention that the cost consultant will be also act on behalf of the Council to ensure certain health and safety requirements for new housing schemes are met.

4. Implications

(a) Financial Implications

The cost of the consultant will be charged to the capital budget for each scheme.

(b) Staffing Implications

The Housing Development Agency will manage the cost consultant on behalf of the Council as part of their project management role to deliver new housing schemes.

(c) Equality and Poverty Implications

There are no specific equality and poverty implications of this report. The development framework for new housing by the Council, approved at the March 2017 Housing Scrutiny Committee was informed by an EQIA. Each scheme specific approval will be informed by an EQIA if current residents are required to move.

(d) Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications of this report. Each scheme specific approval will cover any environmental implications.

(e) Procurement

The Housing Development Agency will procure the cost consultant on behalf of the Council in line with the Council's procurement rules.

(f) Consultation and communication

There are no consultation and communication implications of this report. The development framework for new housing by the Council, approved at the March 2017 Housing Scrutiny Committee sets out the Council's commitment to involve residents in new housing schemes.

(g) **Community Safety**

There are no community safety of this report.

5. Background papers

None

6. Appendices

None

7. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

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