



PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

INDIVIDUAL DECISION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES

TOPIC – CENTRAL HAMPSHIRE/NEW FOREST HOUSING MARKET ASSESSMENT

PROCEDURAL INFORMATION

The Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 4, Section 22 of the Council's Constitution provides for a decision to be made by an individual member of Cabinet.

In accordance with the Procedure Rules, the City Secretary and Solicitor, the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance are consulted together with Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Principal Scrutiny Committee and all Members of the relevant Scrutiny Panel (individual Ward Members are consulted separately where appropriate). In addition, all Members are notified.

Five or more of these consulted Members can require that the matter be referred to Cabinet for determination.

Contact Officers:

Case Officer:

Simon Maggs, 01962 848 203, smaggs@winchester.gov.uk

Committee Administrator:

Frances Maloney, 01962 848 155, fmaloney@winchester.gov.uk

SUMMARY

In order to support the Housing Strategy, Core Strategy and planning policies it is desirable to commission an assessment of local housing markets. The housing market assessments (HMA) will provide information on a wide range of housing market issues, including the need for affordable housing. As housing markets do not reflect administrative boundaries HMAs need to be carried out on a sub-regional basis. In addition, there are potential savings if the assessment is carried out by the local authorities acting collectively. It is therefore proposed that the City Council work in partnership with Basingstoke and Deane BC (BDBC), East Hampshire DC, Test Valley Borough Council, New Forest DC, Hampshire CC and the Government Office for the South East for this purpose.

A partnership steering group (which involves officer representatives from the City Council) has been established and BDBC have agreed that they will act as the procuring authority. In consultation with the steering group, BDBC will organise the procurement process, including advertising for potential providers, evaluating tenders and contracting with the selected provider. The contract between BDBC and the provider will require the provider to carry out an assessment which will cover all the participating authorities' areas, and provide information to the authorities in such a form so that they can use the information to support the relevant strategies and policies. The steering group would oversee the assessment work carried out by the provider.

As BDBC will be the lead authority in the contract, they have asked each district/borough council to sign a partnership agreement, which will set out the role of BDBC and provide for the costs incurred in the procurement exercise to be shared between the participating authorities.

It is estimated that the likely cost to the City Council will be in the region of £40,000. Growth bids of £20,000 each have been made for the Strategic Housing and Strategic Planning budgets which are due to be considered by Council on 28 February 2007.

The agreement requires approval to be obtained from the City Council before any contract is entered into with a consultant and there is the ability to terminate the contract should it be unable to obtain budgetary or other approval. The consultants will be selected following a selection process that has included an OJEU (European Journal) advertisement.

The proposal has been discussed with the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities and meets with his approval.

The HMA will support the Corporate Strategy Objective of Homes and Jobs.

DECISION

That Basingstoke and Deane BC be authorised to procure a Housing Market Assessment on behalf of Winchester City Council and the other participating authorities, subject to prior budgetary approval and approval by the Director of Communities of the selected consultants.

REASON FOR THE DECISION AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

See summary

FURTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

N/A

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY THE DECISION MAKER OR A MEMBER OR OFFICER CONSULTED

None

DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

N/A

Approved by: (signature)

Date of Decision

Councillor Frederick Allgood – Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources