

**NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL  
DECISION**

**DECISION OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HUMAN RESOURCES, ASSET  
MANAGEMENT, CAPITAL PROGRAMME, TRANSFORMATION  
PROGRAMME WITH ADVICE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**



**DECISION NO:** 2018/2019 CSD27

**SUBJECT:** Specialist Support for Key Strategic Projects

**KEY DECISION:** No

**BACKGROUND:** North Somerset Council has been working closely in partnership with the other West of England Councils – Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol City and South Gloucestershire to develop a Joint Spatial Plan (JSP) for the area.

The JSP provides a strategic framework to help deliver the number of new homes required by Government to be built in North Somerset over the next 20 years and the supporting infrastructure that will also be needed.

As the Chief Executive and Director of Development & Environment posts remains vacant pending the outcome of a comprehensive review of senior management structures, specialist support is needed to help ensure that the council's interests continue to be represented as the strategic frameworks are developed further, including key and high impact infrastructure projects such as: Metrowest (Portishead Rail); Banwell By-Pass; new Secondary School for 'Mendip Springs' and related housing developments and new link(s) to Bristol Airport.

Fradd Consultancy Limited are able to ensure continuity in these key areas by providing specialist advice and support with detailed knowledge and understanding of matters which directly impact on the council's interests in the JSP and linked infrastructure and transport projects.

**DECISION:** To appoint Fradd Consultancy Limited to provide specialist advice and support in connection with the West of England Joint Spatial Plan (JSP) and related capital projects.

**REASONS:** Fradd Consultancy Limited are able to provide specialist consultancy support with extensive knowledge and experience of the JSP and the linked infrastructure and transport projects as the lead consultant was previously employed as the lead officer on behalf of the West of England Councils for these initiatives.

It is vital that strategic input continues to be provided for a number of key and high impact infrastructure and transport projects on behalf of North Somerset Council during the period when a number of senior leadership roles remain vacant pending the conclusion of a senior management review.

It is proposed to apply Contract Standing Order exception 6.3.4 as the supplier (Fradd Consultancy Limited) has specialist knowledge and experience which is not available elsewhere. It would take considerably longer, and therefore add to the cost, if another provider needed to be brought up to speed with the latest position.

#### **OPTIONS CONSIDERED:**

The option of providing less strategic input to the JSP and linked infrastructure and transport projects until permanent resources can be secured was considered. However, this was not deemed a viable option as there is a continued need for the council's interests to be represented and opportunities to secure funding for capital projects may be lost.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

- Costs** It is anticipated that the cost of engaging Fradd Consultancy Limited for a period of 5 months commencing July 2018 will be circa £60,000.
- Funding** The cost will be met from within existing budgets. A proportion of the cost will be allocated to relevant capital projects where appropriate.

#### **LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS**

None

#### **CONSULTATION**

The Corporate Management Team and other senior managers have been consulted over the proposal.

#### **RISK MANAGEMENT**

There would be an increased risk of the council's interests not being fully represented and lost funding opportunities if specialist support was not available.

#### **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

An Equality Impact Assessment has not been completed as not directly relevant to this decision. There are no adverse equality issues.

#### **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

It will be important to ensure that strategic input continues to be provided for the high impact infrastructure and transport projects associated with the Joint Spatial Plan.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

West of England Joint Spatial Plan.

SIGNATORIES:

DECISION MAKER(S):

Signed: .....  .....

TITLE: Executive Member for Human Resources, Asset Management, Capital Programme, Transformation Programme

Date: ..... 03/07/18 .....

WITH ADVICE FROM:

Signed: .....  .....

Title: Chief Executive

Date: ..... 03/07/18 .....

**Footnote: Details of changes made and agreed by the decision taker since publication of the proposed (pre-signed) decision notice, if applicable:**

