

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Asset Management, Environment and Climate Change, and Resources and Personnel Policy

APPOINTMENT OF UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM CONSULTANTS TO SUPPORT HOUSING DECARBONISATION

1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval for the appointment of consultants from the University of Nottingham to inform the council's approach towards meeting 2050 net-zero carbon emissions targets.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE that:

1. The appointment of the University of Nottingham consultants to inform the Council's approach towards meeting 2050 net-zero carbon emissions targets be approved.

2. A one-off budget allocation of £44,650 (inclusive of £3,000 for disbursements) that will be required for this purpose to be funded from General Fund Reserves in 2023/24 be approved.

3. Detail

Broxtowe Borough Council seek to enter into an agreement with the University of Nottingham (Department of Architecture and the Built Environment) to provide a realistic understanding of the conditions of all housing stock within the Borough and to produce a roadmap to support the decarbonisation of Broxtowe's housing stock. The work will inform where cost-effective retrofit investment is possible for maximum carbon emission reduction benefits and supports Broxtowe County Council preparedness to meet 2050 net-zero carbon emission targets

The university's agreement is attached as within the confidential Appendix.

4. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

There is currently no budgetary provision for the proposed consultation to inform the Council's approach towards meeting 2050 net-zero carbon emissions targets. If Members were minded to approve this spend, the one-off revenue cost of £41,650 would be funded directly from General Fund Reserve balances in 2023/24. A proportion of this cost, around 10%, would be recharged to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) based upon property numbers across the Borough.

In terms of procurement, the University of Nottingham is providing specialist environmental consultancy advice with the relevant expertise in terms of academic research, tools and local knowledge. The University has been successful in delivering a similar exercise with Nottingham City Council. Furthermore, there is also an opportunity for future collaboration between the Council and the University in this area.

The need to provide three quotes for this contract has been waived. In accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules (Contracts), waivers may be considered where the purchase of supplies or the execution of works or services involve specialist or unique skills or knowledge which cannot be obtained from other providers. The waiver may be granted by the Deputy Chief Executive (Directorate Waiver) at this quoted contract value.

5. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

The Climate Change Act 2008 imposes a target on Central Government to be carbon neutral by 2050. The Council has, set an earlier target of 2027. This work will allow the Council to deliver their target.

Single tender actions are permitted under Regulation 32 of The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 in the exceptional circumstances.

Every contract and the procedures relating to the selection of tenderers and the obtaining, opening and evaluation of tenders or quotations shall comply with these Procedure Rules and no exception from any of the following provisions of these Procedure Rules shall be made otherwise than by the direction of the Council or by Cabinet or by the Chief Executive or duly nominated substitute.

6. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

7. Union Comments

Not applicable.

8. Climate Change Implications

The comments from the Waste and Climate Change Manager were as follows:

In 2021, 36% of the Borough's carbon emissions came from domestic heating and lighting. The consultancy work by the University of Nottingham is an important first step in helping the Council understand where the most cost effective retrofit investments and measures are required for the Borough's

dwelling stock. In turn, this will help to deliver maximum carbon emission reductions, supporting the Council's commitment to align to the UK's net zero target by 2050.

9. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any [OFFICIAL (SENSITIVE)] information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

10. Equality Impact Assessment

Not applicable.

11. Background Papers

Nil.