

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

TRAM COMPENSATION LEGAL ADVICE1. Purpose of report

To seek approval to appoint external specialist solicitors and counsel to help progress this Council's compensation claim against Nottingham City Council.

2. Background

Committee may recall that in 2011/12 the City Council used a parliamentary Act to compulsorily acquire or temporarily use 127 plots of Broxtowe Borough Council-owned land to construct and operate the tram extension from Nottingham Station to Toton Lane. This Council subsequently appointed FHP as its advisors on the compensation claim associated with these losses.

The most significant land-take, and the biggest element of associated compensation claim, is at The Square in Beeston. However, there are other important elements of land-take from this Council such as car parks, retirement living schemes and public open space.

Policy and Performance Committee on 21 November 2017 granted delegated powers to make a reference to the Upper Tribunal (Lands Chamber) should that be necessary to progress this Council's compensation claim against Nottingham City Council.

3. Progress to date and suggested way forward

Progress to date is summarised in the exempt appendix to this report. Progress has slowed again and, as the City Council has already taken its own legal advice, FHP believe that the most appropriate way for this Council to further progress its compensation claim against Nottingham City Council is to appoint specialist external solicitors and counsel of its own.

4. Risks and Financial implications

These are set out in the exempt appendix.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that the allocation of £25,000 from General Fund reserves to cover the cost of appointing specialist external solicitors and counsel be approved.

Background papers

Nil