

RECORD OF OFFICER EXECUTIVE DECISION

Subject: Sustainability Assessment of Cross-Boundary Options for the Mid Sussex District Plan

Officer: Claire Tester

(1) Record of decision taken:- to agree to award the contract to Land Use Consultants for the 'Sustainability Assessment of Cross-Boundary Options for the Mid Sussex District Plan' at the cost of £15,225.

(2) Date of decision:- 18th August 2014

(3) Statement of reasons for making the decision

Legal Basis for Decision - Contracts up to £20,000

- (a) *Where the estimated value or amount of a proposed contract does not exceed £20,000 and provision has been made in the Council's annual budget for such expenditure, the Head of Service concerned shall have the authority to enter into any such contract provided the Head of Service is satisfied that the Council is receiving value for money. In the event of a Head of Service exercising their right to enter into a contract under this Rule 5 the Head of Service or other officer appointed to do so on their behalf shall prepare and retain a report detailing the reasons for the appointment of the relevant contractor having regard to the experience, competency, workmanship and the financial status of the contractor.*
- (b) *A Head of Service may at his/her discretion invite quotations in accordance with Rule 6 where the estimated value or amount of a proposed contract is £20,000 or less.*

A brief was drawn up and sent out to the consultants listed on the Sussex Framework Agreement as having expertise in the field and others identified as having provided similar studies to local planning authorities. Of the two fee proposals submitted, that of Land Use Consultants emerged as the best study using the MSDC weighted assessment criteria. It was also the cheapest (the spread was £15,225 to £20,812).

Land Use Consultants have the capacity and ability to produce a sound and robust study within the deadline which has been set.

The fee will be financed from the District Plan Examination Reserve as the 'Sustainability Assessment of Cross-Boundary Options for the Mid Sussex District Plan' report is required to support the evidence base for the District Plan.

(4) Alternative options considered and rejected

Appointing a different consultant, but this would not have represented best value for money.

(5) Name of Cabinet Member with whom decision discussed

Councillor Norman Webster

(6) Any Code of Conduct Interests of the Cabinet Members

None

(7) Any relevant Code of Conduct dispensations

N/A



Signed:

Officer – Claire Tester, Head of Economic Promotion & Planning