
STRATEGIC PLANNING: SLA WITH PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL

Committee: Resources & Finance Committee

Date: 29 January 2018

Author: Director Commercial

[S217]

1.0 **ISSUE**

- 1.1 Arrangements for delivery of Strategic Planning and Strategic Housing services for 2018/19-2020/21.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 Members are requested to authorise the Director Commercial to enter into a Service Level Agreement with Peterborough City Council from 1 April 2018 - 31 March 2021.

3.0 **BACKGROUND/OPTIONS**

- 3.1 On 4 December 2014 Corporate Governance & Finance Committee (Agenda Item 11) approved alternative arrangements for the delivery of Strategic Planning Services, i.e. entering into a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Peterborough City Council (PCC) for the provision of Officers to deliver the Strategic Planning Service. The SLA was secured for 2014/15 and 2015/16.
- 3.2 On 28 September 2015 Corporate Governance & Finance Committee (Agenda Item 11) extended these arrangements until 31 March 2018.
- 3.3 The SLA allowed for additional services to be provided, namely Strategic Housing Services; Housing Enabling advice is provided to planning officers to enable them to determine planning applications that seek to secure affordable housing. The ability to access these additional services represented savings of approximately £25,000 in 2016/17 and will provide the same level of savings in 2017/18.
- 3.3 The quality of service that has been received through the SLA with PCC has been excellent and allows the Council to continue to run an efficient service as it is not over resourcing the service at times when less resources, particularly senior resource, is required.
- 3.4 The proposed SLA provides for the following:

3.4.1 **Planning Policy Services**

1 April 2018 - 31 March 2019:

- 3 Full Time Equivalent (FTE), comprising; Manager (0.5 FTE) and predominantly Senior Planning Officer support (2.5 FTE)
- 0.3 FTE Local Plan Programme Officer

1 April 2019 - 31 March 2021

- 1.1 FTE, comprising; Manager (0.1 FTE) and Senior Planning Officer support (1FTE)

If in the event of a successful conclusion of the Local Plan and associated matters occurs significantly before 31 March 2019, then the FTE will drop to 1.1 FTE at an earlier date than 1 April 2019.

If in the event of unforeseen delays in the adoption of the Local Plan, the date identified above (1 April 2019) at which the FTE service provision drops from 3.5 FTE to 1.1 FTE can be extended.

3.4.2 Housing Enabling Services

1 April 2018-31 March 2021

- Up to 0.2 FTE, comprising a principal (or near equivalent) Housing Enabling Officer.

4.0 ARGUMENTS/CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 For continuity and to continue to operate an efficient and effective service it is recommended that the SLA with PCC is extended to 31 March 2021.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The costs in the table below reflect the stage the Council is at in submitting and adopting the emerging Local Plan.

	Rate	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Manager	£450/d	100 days	20 days	20 days
Senior Policy Officer	£330/d	400 days	150 days	150 days
Policy Officer	£290/d	100 days	50 days	50 days
Local Plan Programme Officer	£240/d	75 days	n/a	n/a
Housing Enabling Manager	£345/d	40 days	40 days	40 days
Total		£237,800	£91,000	£95,000

- 5.2 Equality Impact Assessment (INRA) not required

6.0 APPENDICES

- 6.1 None

<u>Background Documents</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Officer</u>
None	The Grange, Ely	Emma Grima Director Commercial (01353) 616960 E-mail: emma.grima@eastcambs.gov.uk