

Chief Executive Urgency Decision

This form is to be used for the purposes of recording the Chief Executive's agreement to proceed with an urgency decision. The form should be signed by the Monitoring Officer or other Chief Officer prior to submission to the Chief Executive.

Your Name	Nikki Tagg
Job Title	Projects Specialist
Brief description of the matter	<p>This paper is seeking a decision to procure new Gas & Electricity supply contracts. The current contracts expire on 11 October 2021 and 30 September 2021 respectively, and there is no time for agreement at Committee as the next Housing Committee is scheduled for 28th September.</p> <p>Procurement of the new Gas and Electricity contracts are to be procured via a compliant framework.</p> <p>Inspired Energy are the Council's energy partner and were appointed in 2018 on a 3-year term which was renewed as of 1 October 2021 for a further 3 years, as approved by the Corporate Procurement Board. Inspired Energy provide 2 services:</p> <p>Bureau Service. This is an outsourced service providing invoice validation, reconciliation and allocation for all utility invoices, Electricity, Gas and Water. This service was outsourced in 2018 as there was no resource internally to undertake the work.</p> <p>Procurement Service. To procure the Gas & Electricity contracts. This is in line with the advice from central government that public sector organisations should procure energy contracts through an aggregated, flexible, risk-managed framework.</p> <p>The current 3-year contracts for Gas & Electricity were procured in 2018 via the University of Lincoln (ULT) framework and are due to expire on 11/10/21 and 30/9/21 respectively.</p> <p>The contracts were awarded to: Gas - Opus Electricity - Opus</p> <p>The spend for 2020/2021 was: Gas = £97,359 Electric = £272,576</p> <p>The spend for 2019/2020 was: Gas = £77,576 Electric = £261,212</p>

	<p>Approximately 60% of the gas spend and 75% of electric spend is paid from the Housing Revenue Account.</p> <p>It is proposed that Inspired Energy procure the new Gas and Electricity supply contracts via the compliant framework the current contracts were procured through.</p> <p>Given the volatility of the energy markets, contracts need to be signed on the same-day as the provided quotes. If agreed, permission will be granted to the Executive Head of Communities to make the decision on which energy quote to accept based on the specialist advice provided by Inspired Energy.</p> <p>The multi supplier ULT framework offers a number of 100% renewable only suppliers and also brown mix suppliers that offer also green contracts.</p> <p>If agreed, a full report will be taken to the next Housing Committee on 28 September 2021.</p>
Lessons Learnt	A paper seeking agreement from Members should have been taken to the June Housing Committee. Due to lack of resources, this did not happen.
Comments from Head of Legal / Monitoring Officer	
Is the matter urgent? If so, why.	The matter is urgent as the current contracts expire on 11/10/21 and 30/9/21 respectively.
Authority	<p>The Council's constitution contains the following urgency provision:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No. 33</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GENERAL URGENCY PROVISION</p> <p><i>"The Chief Executive and other Chief Officers shall be authorised to take decisions on the grounds or urgency regarding matters which would otherwise be reserved for determination by a Committee or the Council. A matter can be deemed urgent if, in the reasonable opinion of the Chief Officer concerned, a delay would seriously prejudice the interest of the Council or of the public and it is not practicable to convene a quorate meeting of the relevant decision-making body in sufficient time to take the decision."</i></p> <p>The Chief Officer concerned shall also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advise and seek the views of the Political Group Leaders and the Chair of the appropriate Committee at the earliest opportunity; and • report the matter to next scheduled meeting of the appropriate Committee.

<p>Are there any key risk factors for example organisation reputation, financial or political interest?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an obligation to procure energy through an aggregated, flexible, risk-managed framework and the appointment of a managing agent through which we will access a framework, will fulfil this obligation. • Energy markets are volatile and it is not uncommon to see prices move by as much as 10% in one week. By collectively buying via a framework, we are able to use the group energy spend to secure the best possible supplier energy price. • Not using an agent could see energy prices increasing • There is no capacity within the Council to carry out an internal bureau service
<p>Any additional information.</p>	<p>Responsibility is with the Housing Committee as the majority of the energy spend is used by Council-owned housing and is funded from the Housing Revenue Account.</p>
<p>Signed by the Executive Head of Communities</p>	
<p>Date</p>	
<p>Signed by the Chief Executive</p>	
<p>Date</p>	

Alison Boote

14 September 2021

Alison Boote

Lidia Harrison

14 September 2021

Lidia Harrison

David Ford

14 September 2021

David Ford