
Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee

22 February 2021

Award of Contract: Horsham Enterprise Park Delivery Partner

Report by Director of Law and Assurance

Summary

A public procurement process to secure a delivery partner to develop the Horsham Enterprise Park scheme was authorised by Cabinet Decision (CAB13 19/20). The procurement process is now complete and the Executive Director Place Services will be asked to confirm the award of the contract to the successful bidder to give effect to the member decision previously subject to scrutiny.

The attached report sets out again the aims and objectives of the scheme as approved by members for the delivery of the Horsham Enterprise Park scheme on land acquired by the County Council with particular aims linked to the local economy. The steps to deliver the scheme include entering into a development agreement with a development partner, who would carry out commercial and residential development in accordance with the approved outline planning permission for the site.

The main features of the scheme are to develop a mixed-use development of employment space and up to 300 new homes, including provision of 35 per cent affordable housing.

£4.157m is to be drawn from the Horsham Enterprise Park capital programme allocation to progress the development.

Focus for scrutiny

The Committee is asked to note the background and progress of the scheme which has led to the proposed award of contract for the Delivery Partner (as set out in the report attached). Key areas for scrutiny include:

- 1) That the Committee is satisfied the scheme will continue to deliver the aims and objectives of the original proposal for the site;
- 2) That the development proposals will still meet the Council's objectives given the changing economic position;
- 3) That the procurement process and outcome have not altered the expected achievement of the scheme's aims;
- 4) That risks of the development have been identified and are being actively managed; and

- 5) That the Committee recognises the purpose and value of the use of £4.157m from the Horsham Enterprise Park capital programme allocation.

The Chairman will summarise the output of the debate for consideration by the Committee.

Details

Development of the Horsham Enterprise Park has been brought to the committee a number of times through its development journey. The first formal scrutiny took place in November 2015 at a joint meeting with the Environment and Communities scrutiny committee where the final business case was reviewed and purchase of the site supported. This committee last scrutinised the development in January 2020 when the Development Agreement was supported as the way forward.

Further background and context to this item for scrutiny are set out in the attached reports listed below.

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Appendices

Annex A – Part II (*available for Members only*) Draft Decision Report – contract award

Appendices 1 to 5 – Part II (*available for members only*) Procurement process information

Background papers

None