
Report to Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee

13 September 2021

Joint Venture Partnership for County Council Property Development

Report by Director of Law and Assurance

Summary

At its May 2019 meeting, the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee considered the proposal to set up a joint venture (JV) for property development on selected Council sites across the county. The Committee supported the proposal in principle and reviewed its progress in January 2020.

The Cabinet Member for Finance took a decision in June 2019 to set up an arm's length vehicle and to competitively procure a private sector organisation to partner the County Council in the joint venture. The decision by the Executive Director Place Services to award the contract to the successful bidder from the procurement exercise was scrutinised by the Committee in March 2021. At that meeting the Committee requested a progress report be brought to the Committee after six months to review the governance arrangements being established and the progress being made in setting up the Partnership.

Focus for scrutiny

The Committee is asked to consider the progress report attached. The key areas of focus for scrutiny are:

- That progress is being made as expected in setting up the partnership;
- That the governance arrangements for the joint venture are clear in terms of how decisions are taken and will meet the needs of the County Council; and
- That risks associated with the arrangements have been properly identified and are being actively managed.

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

Background and Context

- 1.1 The decision for the Award of Contract: Joint Venture Partnership for County Council Property Development was taken in March 2021 by the Executive Director Place Services. This followed the procurement process undertaken following decision FR05 19-20 in June 2019 which recommended entering into a joint venture partnership agreement. This decision was further scrutinised by the committee in January 2020.

- 1.2 The successful bidder will provide property development resources and services to enable the partnership to develop identified land in which the Council has an interest, subject to commercial viability and identified benefits in accordance with the agreement.
- 1.3 The background and context to this item are set out in the attached report to help the Committee consider the issues identified as the focus for scrutiny.

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Appendices

Annex Report setting out progress made in establishing the joint venture partnership since the contract was awarded in March 2021.

Background papers

None