

Report to the Council

Portfolio: Planning Policy

Date: 27 September 2016

Subject: Overview and Scrutiny Rule 53 (Special Urgency)

1. PROCUREMENT OF CONSULTANTS TO SUPPORT THE DRAFT LOCAL PLAN

Recommending:

To note that the Chairman of Council agreed that the following decision of the Cabinet be treated as a matter of urgency and not be subject to the call-in provisions, in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Rule 53 (Call-In and Urgency):

- (a) That the letting of the entire contract for the provision of technical support for the Draft Local Plan for a total sum of £366,272, and the publication of an appropriate Contract Award Notice in the Official Journal of the European Union, be agreed.**

1.1 At its meeting on 21 July 2016, the Cabinet considered a report of the Planning Policy Portfolio Holder, seeking authority to regularise the appointment of Ove Arup to support the development of technical evidence required in the preparation of an updated Local Development Scheme. As the preparation of the new Local Plan for the Epping Forest District was an ongoing and complex process, the procurement of external expert support was central to the timely delivery of the plan.

1.2 In accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Rule 53 (Special Urgency) of the Council's Constitution, the Chairman of the Council was satisfied that the decision of the Cabinet was reasonable in all the circumstances and should be treated as a matter of urgency. The Chairman of Council was also satisfied that any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's interests in this respect, as a result of a possible failure to meet the revised timetable for the consideration of an updated Local Development Scheme.