

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 17 December 2013

Subject: Call-In and Urgency – North Weald Master Plan – Appointment of Consultants

Portfolio Holder: Councillor C Whitbread (Leader of the Council)

Recommending:

To note that the Chairman of the Council agreed that the decisions of the Leader of the Council, (a) to waive the requirements of Contract Standing Orders C5 (Contracts exceeding £50,000 etc), C15 (Receipt and Custody of Quotations and Tenders) and C16 (Opening of Tenders and Quotations - Contracts in Excess of £25,000 and (b) to appoint Savills as consultants to advise on the Council's interests within the North Weald Master Plan should be treated as a matter of urgency and should not be subject to call-in.

1. Representations on the North Weald Master Plan being prepared by the Council's Planning Officers as part of the Local Plan have to be made by 31 December 2013.
2. The Council holds land assets in North Weald and it has a duty to obtain best value and is looking to increase revenue generation from property assets. Accordingly, it is necessary for the Council to obtain specialist advice regarding its land holdings independent of advice being received from the consultants advising the Council on the Local Plan process.
3. In view of the time restraint decisions have been taken to waive Contract Standing Orders and appoint Savills who have specialist knowledge of property and aviation and will be able to advise the Council on both of these aspects. Savills also have local knowledge as they have advised the Council on the St John's Road, Epping area proposals.
4. Savills will be paid a fixed fee of £17,000 for a report and up to £8,000 for the preparation of marketing material for soft market testing of aviation.
5. The Leader of the Council took the decision as the Asset Management and Economic Development Portfolio Holder disclosed an interest.
5. The Chairman of the Council agreed to waive the call-in procedure as any delay in appointing consultants caused by the call-in process would have seriously prejudiced the Council's interests.