

Report to: Cabinet



Date of Meeting 1 May 2024

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

Exemption to Contract Standing Orders - Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) – commissioning Level 2 work

Report summary:

This report advises of appointment of consultants, as an Exemption to Standing Orders, to undertake a Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment to support the emerging Local Plan. The exemption has been formally signed by the Assistant Director for Planning Strategy and Development Management, Strategic Lead – Finance and Strategic Lead – Governance and Licensing

In response to a brief issued in 2022 the Council appointed JBA Consulting to undertake a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA). SFRAs are needed to support local plan production and in the first instance the appointment was at what is defined as being for Level 1 work. At this first level the assessment work gives a broad overview of flooding concerns but does not consider site specific considerations where/if there may be more nuanced concerns.

Site specific matters become relevant, if through a local plan, we are considering the allocation of sites for development where there may be flooding concerns. We are at this position and as such there is the need for Level 2 work. This Level 2 work will inform on the acceptability, or otherwise, of such allocations and any relevant mitigation needed. The brief for the Level 1 work touched on the potential, subject to outputs, of the possible need for commissioning Level 2 work.

The consultants that have completed the Level 1 work have been very competent and have produced high quality work in a timely manner. They have built up a substantial body of understanding and evidence about relevant flooding matters and the sites that need investigating. We do not believe that any other company could compete financially with the Level 1 consultants. We have trust in the quality of their work and they can progress now without time delays. Appointment was therefore made as an Exemption to Standing Orders and this report notifies of the fact.

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes No

Policy Framework Yes No

Recommendation:

That Cabinet notes that Exemption to Standing Orders have been approved in accordance with the Council's Contract Standing Orders Rule 3.2 in respect of the appointment of JBA Consulting to undertake a Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

Reason for recommendation:

To notify Cabinet that an Exemption to Contract Standing Orders has been granted.

Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- Climate Action and Emergency Response
- Coast, Country and Environment
- Council and Corporate Co-ordination
- Communications and Democracy
- Economy
- Finance and Assets
- Strategic Planning
- Sustainable Homes and Communities
- Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism

Equalities impact Low Impact

Climate change High Impact

Risk: Medium Risk;

Links to background information

Link to [Council Plan](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

- Better homes and communities for all
- A greener East Devon
- A resilient economy

Financial implications:

The request is within existing budget approval.

Legal implications:

There are no legal implications requiring comment.