

Urgent Business Application

Subject	Nuclear New Build – Procurement of Consultancy Support
Background	<p>At its meeting on 27th July Executive agreed a report and recommendations regarding utilising £200,000 of external funding from the Board of Britain's Energy Coast for the Council to act as procuring authority and accountable body and to use the funding to procure planning consultants to carry out spatial and economic impact studies.</p> <p>In summary, under the auspices of a Cumbrian-wide Nuclear New Build Spatial Planning Group, with representatives from all local authorities across Cumbria and including representatives from Lancashire County Council and Lancaster City Council and led by Copeland Borough Council, the work will provide the necessary evidence base to support the understanding of the implications of nuclear and wider Energy Coast proposals in West Cumbria and contribute to the Local Development Framework process. Specifically the work will;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the current evidence base and impact analysis which supports the argument for the infrastructure implications of the nuclear new build and other strategic investment plans in the area (Phase 1) • Through a gap analysis identify with partners further work required to provide a robust and comprehensive evidence base to support subsequent discussions/negotiations with developers/IPC and feed into the production of the Local Development Frameworks/LTPs/Mineral Plans (Phase 2) • From the provision of the comprehensive evidence base develop the spatial implications of the Britain's Energy Coast West Cumbria current and future Investment Plans in order to offset the impact of nuclear decommissioning (Phase 3) • Prepare a framework for the provision of a planning obligations, infrastructure levy and community benefits strategy (Phase 4) • Prepare a framework for the provision of a Local Impact Report for potential major investment projects in West Cumbria and in so doing review the adequacy of the evidence base required.(Phase 5)

	<p>The procurement process for the above work has progressed accordingly and subject to confirmation of funding and the receipt of a grant offer letter, consultants will be appointed to commence work in October.</p> <p>Following the Government's decision to review funding available via the Regional Development Agencies, a review of priority projects has been undertaken by the Board of BECWC, hence the delay to confirming available funds for this project. However the project has recently been approved by the Board and a grant offer letter is expected.</p> <p>The BECWC Board has also identified as a further priority project the need for an economic development delivery plan to take forward projects and proposals within the Energy Coast Investment Plan. The plan will build on the spatial planning work to identify the future investment priorities, programmes and projects for Britain's Energy Coast and define the key economic sectors, developments and support structures that will underpin the future economy of West Cumbria. The focus of the plan will be on identifying and monitoring the delivery of economic development priorities for West Cumbria.</p> <p>In the report to Exec in July it was highlighted that the spatial planning work would need to receive the outputs from a study to be commissioned by the NDA to update the skills, workforce and social implications of the decommissioning process. This will assist the understanding of travel to work movements and potential implications for planning scenarios. The intention is to utilise partners' data, knowledge and understanding of the subject and only commission additional work where necessary.</p> <p>As this piece of work and the skills and workforce study are both closely tied in to the spatial planning work, the Borough Council have been asked by the NDA and BECWC if it would act as procuring authority and accountable body for the additional funding. The estimated cost of the three components is £350,000. Project Management arrangements will be put in place to cover and co-ordinate all three with a Project Board made up of representatives from key stakeholder partners.</p>
<p>Reason for urgency</p>	<p>The imminent receipt of the grant offer and the need to appoint consultants to meet the original programme milestones requires the Council to have agreed to its accountable body responsibilities for the greater sum of grant monies and this is required before the next meeting of</p>

	Executive.
Action taken	The Council will act as accountable body for £350,000 of external funding from Britain's Energy Coast and will use this funding to procure planning consultants to carry out spatial and economic impact studies, Authority for the selection of the Ad Hoc list of consultants, and acceptance of a tender is to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the relevant Portfolio Holder.
Officers consulted and views	Monitoring Officer comments: Signed:
	151 Officer comments: Signed:
Proposer	
Department	
Date	
Chief Executive Decision - Agreed	