

## Operational Decision Record

<b>Publication Date</b> 16/05/23	<b>Decision Reference Number</b> 4944
<b>Decision Title</b>	
Employment of advisors to provide specialist advice and support to the District Heating and Waste Disposal Review	
<b>Decision Value</b>	
£249,999	
<b>Revenue or Capital Spend?</b>	
Revenue	
<b>Department</b>	
Resident Services	
<b>Contact Officer (Name, job title, and contact details)</b>	
Ian Vernalls, Programme Manager, 01158763475	
<b>Decision Taken</b>	
Approve the appointment of advisors to provide advice and support to the District Heating and Waste Disposal Review.	
<b>Reasons for Decision and Background Information</b>	
<p>There is a need to engage consultants to provide specialist legal, technical, financial and other advice to Council officers undertaking the District Heating and Waste Disposal Strategic Review.</p> <p>Contracts to provide energy to the district heating system and for the city's waste disposal needs are due for renewal. Specialist advice and support not available within the Council is required.</p> <p>The advice will inform the Review, a report on which is scheduled for consideration by Executive Board in Autumn 2023. Funding for the appointment will be met from existing Residents Services budgets.</p>	
<b>Other Options Considered and why these were rejected</b>	
In-house options for providing the required advice were considered, but the necessary skill sets are not available. As such this option was rejected.	
<b>Reasons why this decision is classified as operational</b>	
The decision is below £250,000 with budget available to cover expenditure. There are no policy implications.	
<b>Additional Information</b>	

**Procurement Comments**

Procurement will work with the Project Team to ensure appointment or extension of external advisors are compliant with Contract Procedure Rules.

Steve Oakley, Head of Contracting and Procurement, 3 May 2023

**Legal Comments**

It is accepted that the Council in-house team neither possesses the capacity nor the expertise required to fully support the District Heating and Waste Disposal Review.

It is proposed that the legal work is undertaken by the law firm Bevan Brittan via the EM Lawshare framework, which provides competitive hourly rates. Bevan Brittan have previously supported the Council in matters closely linked to the District Heating and Waste Disposal Review. Their appointment will provide some continuity and value based on their existing understanding of some of the issues to be considered.

Legal Services are happy to support the procurement of this support for this Review and the Review itself as far as it is able to.

Anthony Heath, Senior Solicitor, 25 April 2023

**Finance Comments**

This decision seeks to approve the employment of advisors to provide specialist advice and support to the District Heating and Waste Disposal Review.

The value of the decision is up to £0.250m and can be funded in full from existing MTFP provision, namely that of overachievement of income generated through the sale of electricity to the grid, under contract with EDF. This is contained within the EE & Waste Strategy Service with the Energy & Sustainability Division.

The service will need to realign income and expenditure budgets to reflect the overperformance and funding of the advisors.

The service will need to monitor income levels to ensure this decision remains affordable and that no overspend occurs.

Phil Gretton, Strategic Finance Business Partner, 27 April 2023

**Decision Maker (Name and Job Title)**

Ita O'Donovan, Interim Corporate Director Residents Services

**Scheme of Delegation Reference Number**

1

**Date Decision Taken**

10/05/2023