

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

2941

Author:

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Department:

Development and Growth

Contact:

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Subject:

Metro Dynamics Contract (Metro Project Plan & Midlands Engine Action Plan)

Total Value:

Exempt (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

To grant dispensation from Contact Procedure Rule 5.1.2, in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.29, to award contracts to Metro Dynamics for 2 projects - Project 1 Derby and Nottingham Metro Project - assessment of opportunities and challenges, and Project 2 Midlands Engine Action Plan, both to be delivered within the budget specified in the exempt appendix.

To delegate authority to the Strategic Director for Economic Development to finalise the details of the projects and contracts and authorise expenditure.

Reasons for the Decision(s)

The Derby-Nottingham Metro Project will include developing a report which identifies new ways in which the two cities can collaborate to deliver growth and prosperity. The report will identify the economic potential for the Metro area, policies and the ways in which this potential can be realized. This project is being commissioned jointly with Derby City Council and 50% of project costs will be met by them. Consulting support is required to bring independence and broader thinking to the two Councils.

The Midlands Engine Action Plan Project will support the delivery of an Action Plan for growth and productivity across the Midlands. This is being developed by the Midlands Engine Partnership in response to a Government strategy and will inform future regional delivery and investment. Consulting support is required to bring together the outputs from a wide range of stakeholders into a coherent and compelling plan. Nottingham City Council is the Accountable Body for the Midlands Engine Partnership (Delegated Decision reference 2598) and are acting on behalf of a decision taken by the Midlands Engine Operating Board.

The direct award to Metro Dynamics is on the basis that the consultancy is uniquely able to develop the work within required timescales to required standards.

Other Options Considered:

Option 1 - Not awarding the Midland Engine contract was rejected as it would delay the development of the Midlands Engine Business Case which is required for sign off in September to enable draw down of this years funding.

Option 2 - Going out to tender was rejected as Metro Dynamics were responsible for the City Growth Commission and are uniquely placed to undertake this piece of work. Metro Dynamics have a wide range of experience they bring to this project which they can draw on to deliver this piece of work effectively and efficiently. They were responsible for writing strategies for the City Regions such as Sheffield, Greater Manchester and Glasgow. They have also worked with Newcastle to create shared city narrative, alongside their work in helping the West Midlands Combined Authority and other Combined Authorities establish their core rationale and negotiate their devolution deals. Therefore Partners felt they had a huge breadth of knowledge, expertise and skills which will support this project to be completed effectively.

Background Papers:

None

Published Works:

DD2598 - Midlands Engine - Accountable Body

Affected Wards:

Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests:

None

Any Information Exempt from publication:

Yes

Dispensation from Financial Regulations:

Yes

Exempt Information:

Description of what is exempt:

The value of the decision and Finance advice

An appendix (or appendices) to this decision is exempt from publication under the following paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

The public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information because it could prejudice future negotiations

Documents exempt from publication:

Metro Dynamics.docx, Midlands Engine - Metro Dynamics.docx

Use of Consultants

Number of Days:111

Rate per Day:0

Total value:0

Start date:01/07/2017

End date:30/09/2017

Reason for using a consultant:

Metro Dynamics are national experts in their field of work and there is an urgency to finalise the work underway as part of the Midlands Engine Programme. Any further delays will impact on the funding of the Midlands Engine

Other options considered:

Going out to full tender was considered, but rejected on the basis Metro Dynamics were responsible for the City Growth Commission and were uniquely placed to undertake both of these pieces of work.

Name of consultant:

Metro Dynamics

Reason for selection?

To ensure the timeline of commitments remained on track, the quality of the work undertaken by the consultants was of a high standard to be able to inform the work already undertaken by the Midlands Engine Programme to ensure effectively and timely delivery. All work undertaken in both projects will dovetail work already completed or underway to ensure a holistic approach is applied, thereby ensuring effective uses of time and resources.

In addition to the unique ability of Metro Dynamics, their proposals were subjected to rigorous approval by senior individuals from partner organisations. The resulting final proposals were considered by all partners to deliver requirements within timescales at an affordable cost

Has the consultant previously completed work for the City Council?

No

Specific activities to be undertaken by the consultant are:

In exempt appendix

Project 1- Production of a report and communications plan

Project 2 - Production of Midlands Engine Action Plan

Period of engagement:

3 months

By what process was the consultant selected?

Project 1 - consultant selected by Metro Strategy lead officers

Project 2 - consultant selected by senior officers responsible for the Midlands Engine Action Plan. Both decisions were made following appraisal of costed proposals received from Metro Dynamics

Consultations:

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications:

There are no crime and disorder considerations to be made

Equality:

EIA not required. Reasons: The decision doesn't have an impact on new policies, services or functions

Social Value Considerations:

N/A

Relates to staffing:

Yes

Decision Type:

Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In:

Yes

Call In Expiry date:

25/09/2017

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance, Procurement, Human Resources

Legal Advice:

This advice raises no significant legal issues as the aggregate monetary value of the proposed contracts is below the applicable financial procurement threshold. Advice provided by Andrew James (Team Leader Contracts and Commercial) on 14/08/2017.

Finance Advice:

This advice is exempt from publication and is contained within an exempt appendix Advice provided by Susan Tytherleigh (Senior Finance Manager) on 17/08/2017.

Procurement Advice:

There are no significant procurement issues in supporting this recommendation as the value of spend is below the EU procurement threshold.

Advice provided by Paul Ritchie (Lead Procurement Officer) on 15/08/2017.

HR Advice:

Specific consultants are required for this work on the Midlands Engine due to the specialist nature of knowledge that is not held in house. The time scales imposed by grant funding mean selection of appropriate consultants and subsequent advice to proceed needs to be very prompt. Advice provided by Hannah Gemmill (HR Business Partner) on 25/07/2017.

Signatures:

Jon Collins (Leader of the Council)
SIGNED and Dated: 08/09/2017
Jon Collins (Leader & PH Strategic Infrastructure & Comms)
SIGNED and Dated: 08/09/2017
David Bishop (Deputy CE, CD for Development and Growth)
SIGNED and Dated: 06/09/2017
Geoff Walker (Strategic Director Finance/CFO) - Dispensation from Financial Regulations
SIGNED and Dated: 15/09/2017
Chief Finance Officer's Comments: