

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer (Introduced by Cabinet Member (Finance and Public Protection))	Cabinet Meeting	Wednesday 15 November, 2023

Property Valuation Services Procurement

Is this report confidential?	No
Is this decision key?	Yes
Savings or expenditure amounting to greater than £100,000	Significant impact on 2 or more council wards

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Member approval to engage in a joint procurement exercise with Chorley Council and Blackburn with Darwen Council to procure property valuation services for assets within the Council's portfolio.

Recommendations to Cabinet

2. That Members agree to the procurement exercise with Chorley Council and Blackburn with Darwen Council, being a collaborative exercise.
3. To delegate authority to the Cabinet Member (Finance and Public Protection) to agree the route to contract (e.g. full tender, framework) and to agree the scoring methodology and scoring matrix.

Reasons for recommendations

4. The procurement will result in a separate contract for each council's valuation requirement, however running the procurement process together will create efficiencies in officer time and cost.
5. Working with Blackburn with Darwen Council will provide access to greater resource and expertise in procurement than we currently have in-house.

Other options considered and rejected

- 6. Tendering for this procurement without the benefit of the joint exercise would lead to additional officer resource to deliver the tender, for the same or less competitive results.

Corporate priorities

- 7. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

An exemplary council	Thriving communities
A fair local economy that works for everyone	Good homes, green spaces, healthy places

Background to the report

- 8. Member approval is being sought to undertake a procurement exercise with Chorley and Blackburn with Darwen Councils for the renewal of the property valuation services.
- 9. The current contract is for a twelve month period and will expire December 2024. New arrangements will be contracted under a longer term agreement to create more interest and competition in the procurement exercise and to achieve preferential pricing.
- 10. The tender exercise will be undertaken in compliance with Contract Procedure Rules and Procurement Guidance. Considering the annual cost of the valuations across the councils, and the multiple years the contract will run for, this will be a high value procurement.

Joint Procurement Exercise

- 11. As this would be a joint procurement exercise, details on route to procurement, scoring methodology and scoring matrix cannot be included at this stage.
- 12. It is possible that a procurement framework, such as Crown Commercial Services may be used, or a full tender exercise undertaken.
- 13. Tender Evaluation Criteria and Weighting will be decided jointly between the councils involved in the exercise.
- 14. The points in paragraphs 12 and 13 will be agreed by the Cabinet Member.

Climate change and air quality

- 15. The work noted in this report does not impact the climate change and sustainability targets of the Councils Green Agenda and all environmental considerations are in place.

Equality and diversity

- 16. Not applicable.

Risk

17. Valuation of the councils' assets is a statutory requirement for completion of the annual accounts and without the timely valuations provided by appropriately qualified surveyors the accounts could not be completed.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

18. There are no direct financial implications at this stage. As the procurement moves forward, the outcome will be reported through relevant approval routes. There is an existing budget for this service and it is not anticipated there will be a significant increase in costs

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

19. The proposal is lawful and enables continuing service provision with the economies of scale of a joint procurement likely to lead to savings. The procurement exercise itself must be in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules if it were proposed to depart from them (for example to comply with BwDBC CPR's) then it would be appropriate to get executive approval at that time.

Background documents

There are no background papers to this report.

Appendices

There are no Appendices to this report.

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This decision will come into force and may be implemented five working days after its publication date, subject to being called in in accordance with the Council's Constitution.