

WIRRAL COUNCIL

ECONOMY AND REGENERATION OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14 MARCH 2011

SUBJECT:	LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK FOR WIRRAL – EVIDENCE BASE – APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANTS TO CARRY OUT A WATER CYCLE STUDY
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	KEVIN ADDERLEY – INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	CLLR. ANDREW HODSON
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report informs Members that consultants have now been appointed by the Interim Director of Corporate Services under delegated powers to undertake a joint Water Cycle Study with Liverpool City Council in line with the resolution of Cabinet on 14th October 2010 (Minute 176 refers).

2.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

- 2.1 That the appointment of Scott Wilson for the sum of £27,800 (excluding VAT) under the delegated powers of the Interim Director of Corporate Services be noted.

3.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 3.1 Cabinet on 14th October 2010 agreed to the commissioning of a joint Water Cycle Study with Liverpool City Council as part of the evidence base for the Core Strategy – part of Wirral's emerging Local Development Framework (Minute 176 refers).
- 3.2 It was agreed that Wirral will be the commissioning authority and the study will be jointly funded to a maximum cost of £50,000, to be divided between Wirral Council and Liverpool City Council on a 50:50 split basis. A joint approach with Liverpool City Council was agreed, to achieve economies through joint commissioning and because the City Council is a partner in the Mersey Heartlands New Growth Point.
- 3.3 The study is necessary to provide an up-to-date evidence base for the preparation of the Core Strategy Development Plan Document, future site-

specific allocations and to comply with the conditions of the designation of the Mersey Heartlands New Growth Point.

4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The Council's Corporate Procurement Unit advised that the recommended procurement route was via a 'Request for Quotation' exercise as the commission was valued less than £50,000. This advice supports the Constitution and Standing Orders for the Authority.
- 4.2 Requests for Quotation were sent to a short list of five consultants via 'The Chest' electronic procurement system on 5 November 2010 for reply by 12 noon on 26 November 2010. The companies selected were those which had carried out similar commissions for local authorities and Growth Point areas in the past, particularly those that operate in the North West. By the close of the period, four quotations had been received, from the following consultants: Aecom, Entec, Halcrow and Scott Wilson.
- 4.3 Following analysis of the quotation submissions against the technical and financial criteria set out in the Request for Quotation the Council's standard terms and conditions for services, it was decided to appoint Scott Wilson.
- 4.4 The decision to appoint Scott Wilson was taken on 15 December 2010 by the Interim Director of Corporate Services using delegated powers under paragraph 14.4 of the Contract Procedure Rules of the Council's Constitution and was formally confirmed in writing on 16 December 2010.
- 4.5 The Inception Meeting for the Study was held on 6 January 2011 and the Study is expected to conclude by 29 April 2011.

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 5.1 There are no risk implications arising directly out of this report. The Water Cycle Study is, however, expected to include a review of the existing Flood Risk Assessment evidence base and surface water systems, which will seek to protect and improve community risk.

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 6.1 The use of external consultants is required because the necessary capacity and specialist technical expertise to carry out this work is not available within the Council.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 In developing the brief for the project, the Draft Request for Quotation was circulated to Liverpool City Council, United Utilities, the Environment Agency, Welsh Water, Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service, Natural England and Countryside Council for Wales and was subsequently amended to take account of comments received.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

8.1 There are no implications for voluntary, community and faith groups arising from this report.

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

9.1 The cost of the study will be jointly funded between Wirral Council and Liverpool City Council on a 50:50 split basis. The cost will be met from existing resources, involving the use of Investment Strategy funding allocated to Strategic Development. The Director of Finance has confirmed the availability of these resources. The price for the Study will be £27,800 excluding VAT and including expenses.

9.2 The management of the commission will be led by officers in the Forward Planning and Investment Strategy teams and supported by officers from the Coast Protection and Drainage and Development teams, as part of the Steering Group.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The procurement exercise has been undertaken in line with the Council's financial regulations and standing orders.

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no implications for equal opportunities arising directly from this report.

11.2 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

(a) Is an EIA required? No

(b) If 'yes', has one been completed? No

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

12.1 The Water Cycle Study will provide the evidence base for setting policy and encouraging more water-sustainable forms of development. Encouraging development with higher water efficiency standards will contribute towards carbon reduction priorities.

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 The Water Cycle Study will be a key part of the evidence base for the emerging Local Development Framework, including the Core Strategy Development Plan Document which, once adopted, will form part of the statutory development plan for Wirral alongside the remaining parts of the Council's Unitary Development Plan (which have not been replaced by the Core Strategy).

13.2 The Water Cycle Study will also have implications for the determination of individual planning applications and other decisions under the Planning Acts.

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APPENDICES

There are no appendices associated with this report.

REFERENCE MATERIAL

There is no reference material associated with this report.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet	14 October 2010