



## **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, 17 March 2021**

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| <b>REPORT TITLE:</b> | <b>BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICES: COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS PAPER</b> |
| <b>REPORT OF:</b>    | <b>DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE</b>                            |

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

The report provides for consideration the final recommendations of the Economy Regeneration and Development Committee in respect to the Business Support Services: Commissioning Intentions Paper. The report recommends the Policy and Resource Committee to endorse an extension of the Business Support Services contract to 30 September 2021. And to approve the final Business Support Services specification for delivery of a new service from October 2021 to October 2024, with an option to extend by one year to October 2025 based on satisfactory performance.

The full report was presented to the Economy Regeneration and Development Committee Report on 4 March 2021 is attached as an appendix.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

That Economy Regeneration and Development Committee request that Policy and Resources Committee approve the following recommendations:

1. To endorse an extension of the Business Support Services contract to 30 September 2021.
2. To authorise the Director of Regeneration and Place, in consultation with the Chair and Spokespersons of the Economy and Regeneration and Development Committee to:
3. Approve the final Business Support Services specification for delivery of a new service from October 2021 to October 2024, with an option to extend by one year to October 2025 based on satisfactory performance.
4. Commence procurement and select the most economically advantageous supplier(s) to deliver the commissioned services.
5. Conclude the final contract award.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1.1.1 This matter is being referred to Policy & Resources Committee because the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee is recommending the Policy and Resource Committee to endorse an extension of the Business Support Services contract to 30 September 2021. And to approve the final Business Support Services specification for delivery of a new service from October 2021 to October 2024, with an option to extend by one year to October 2025 based on satisfactory performance.
- 1.1.2 This decision will require funding to be made available by virement between budget funds and in accordance with the Council's Constitution the virement of funds requested by a Committee or Officer in excess of £100,000 is reserved to Policy & Resources Committee.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 Closure of service: Provision of frontline business growth support remains critical to the economic recovery, regeneration and growth ambitions for the borough.
- 2.2 Recommissioning based on the current service specification: This would fail to take into consideration changes in our economy that include Brexit and Covid-19, external developments in business support provision and/or the strategic priorities of the Council.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 This paper summarises progress of Wirral Council's Business Support Service (BSS) commission which runs to May 2021. It asks Committee to endorse the extension of the current contract to September 2021 to align procurement timescales with the complementary Third Sector Infrastructure service and seeks authority to undertake market procurement for a reprioritised Business Support Service in 2021. The report provides an overview of the emerging business support services specification, which is being developed in line with Wirral's strategic priorities and seeks authority for the Director of Regeneration and Place, in consultation with the Chair and Spokespersons, to sign off the support specification, commence market procurement and select a supplier.

### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The financial implications are detailed within the report submitted to Economy Regeneration and Development Committee 4 March 2021.

### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The legal implications are detailed within the report submitted to Economy Regeneration and Development Committee 4 March 2021.

5.2 the Policy & Resources Committee is charged by full Council to provide a co-ordinating role across all other service committees and retain a 'whole-council' view of performance, budget monitoring and risk management. In particular, this includes specific responsibility for a decision regarding land and property including major acquisition and disposals, which includes reserved decision making concerning any purchase, sale or transfer of a value in excess of, or likely to exceed, £100,000;

As part of the matter of business that was the subject of the report to Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee falls under that responsibility reserved to the Policy and Resources Committee, the Economy, Regeneration and Development Committee's proposed resolution is presented as a recommendation.

5.3 As the decision in this matter is the subject of a recommendation from another Committee, the Policy and Resources Committee must take into account the resolution of that Committee and give due regard to the guidance and comments made by its members. The Policy and Resources Committee must not, however, consider itself bound by that Committee's recommendations or otherwise fetter its discretion; its Members must come to their own decision. In doing so, the Committee must satisfy itself that it has been provided with all relevant information or a suitable précis to enable it to comply with its duties and make a lawful decision.

## **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS**

6.1 The resource implications are detailed within the report submitted to Economy Regeneration and Development Committee 4 March 2021.

## **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

7.1 The relevant risks are detailed within the report submitted to Economy Regeneration and Development Committee 4 March 2021.

## **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

8.1 The engagement/consultation are detailed within the report submitted to Economy Regeneration and Development Committee 4 March 2021.

## **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 The equality implications are detailed within the report submitted to Economy Regeneration and Development Committee 4 March 2021.

## **10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 The environment and climate implications are detailed within the report submitted to Economy Regeneration and Development Committee 4 March 2021.

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## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Minute extract  
Appendix 2 – Committee Report

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Wirral CWB Hub – Emerging Findings, Centre for Local Economic Strategies,  
Feb 2021 Stronger Economy Plan for Wirral Emerging findings email, Mickledore,  
Feb 2021

## **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

| <b>Council Meeting</b>                                | <b>Date</b>         |
|---|---------------------|
| <b>Economy Regeneration and Development Committee</b> | <b>4 March 2021</b> |