

## RECORD OF INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE DECISION MADE BY AN OFFICER

Decision Maker	Decision Type	Date
Paul Clifford Director of Economy	Administrative Decision	22/02/2024

### Planning Skills Delivery Fund

Exempt/Confidential Report		No
Key Decision		No

#### Decision

That the Planning Skills Delivery Fund grant award of £50,000 from DLUHC be accepted and utilised to appoint XAIS Asset Management Ltd to provide drainage advice on planning applications for the Lead Local Flood Authority.

#### Reasons for the decision

To accept the award of £50,000 grant funding from the Planning Skills Delivery Fund (DLUHC) and agree the procurement of consultancy support using this funding to provide drainage advice related to the backlog of planning applications.

#### Options/Alternatives considered

The PSDF funding has to be spent on addressing any backlog of planning applications. Whilst other aspects of the Planning Service and wider council services can contribute to a backlog of planning applications at times (for example the validation of planning applications, consultations on highways matters and environmental health / ground contamination matters), at the current time the lack of resource to provide drainage advice in the LLFA is the single most significant cause of a backlog in planning application decisions.



PSDF funding could also be utilised to employ temporary staff, or an agency contractor, but it is considered that consultancy support would be the most appropriate route in this instance given the need to speedily commit the funding by 31 March 2024, and to then spend the funding and address the backlog in the next 6-9 months.

The only other alternative is to not utilise the funding we have been granted, and return it to DLUHC.

**Conflict of Interest declared**

None

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. A.' with a flourish underneath.

**(Signature of Director)**

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**(In consultation with relevant Cabinet Member if required)**

**Decision made pursuant to:**

- a) General delegation under the Council's officer scheme of delegation. Non-contract decisions up to £250k.**