

Delegated Decision

Delegation of planning functions to Salford City Council

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Reason for Decision

The planning service experiences peaks of work load which need to be managed in a way that enables performance to be maintained. The purpose of this report is to enable Salford City Council to be commissioned to provide support as and when required to enable the workload to be managed within performance targets.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Salford City Council are approved to provide those planning services which are delegated to them from time to time.

Delegation of planning functions to Salford City Council

1 Background

- 1.1 The planning service has a number of staff who are on maternity leave and also is looking to recruit where officers have recently left the authority.
- 1.2 There is a need to manage the workload to ensure that performance targets are met and that developers are not adversely affected by a delay in response

2 Current Position

- 2.1 In addition there is a clear need to ensure that planning enforcement is undertaken in an effective and timely manner.
- 2.2 There is a need to ensure that the gap in resource is dealt with and the temporary use of the planning staff sourced by Salford City Council is considered to be a cost effective solution to short term need. A draft agreement is attached at Appendix A.

3 Options/Alternatives

- 3.1 Option 1 - Delegate planning functions to enable short term resource support to be provided.
- 3.2 Option 2 - Accept a reduction in performance with the risk that the service could be placed in special measures if the trend was to continue

4 Preferred Option

- 4.1 Option 1 - Delegation of planning functions on an ad hoc basis to Salford City Council

5 Consultation

- 5.1 N/A

6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 Option 1 is the preferred option, to delegate planning functions on an ad hoc basis to Salford City Council.
- 6.2 The planning service currently has a shortage of staff due to maternity leave and officers having left the Authority.
- 6.3 Due to the nature of the business there is a need to manage the peaks in workloads, so that performance targets continue to be met and there are no response delays that could adversely affect Developers.

- 6.4 The temporary use of planning staff sourced by Salford City Council is a cost effective solution to a short term need. The service has available budget within cost centre 23700 Development Control and is currently forecasting an under spend of c £83k. The underspend does include for the vacant posts but is offset against a pressure on income from planning applications. This is due to the under capacity of the team.
- 6.5 It is anticipated that the daily rates will be similar to that of our Planning Enforcement Officers and any revenue associated with the planning applications will remain with OMBC, therefore the assumption is there will be no additional cost or pressure to the Authority.

(Vicki Hayes)

7 Legal Services Comments

- 6.1 Oldham's Legal Services have liaised with Legal Services at Manchester City Council who provide legal support to Salford City Council. Together they have agreed that the way forward is to delegate the planning functions to Salford City Council under the terms of a collaboration agreement. Oldham's Legal Services have provided a draft agreement to Manchester City Council which awaits approval.
- 6.2 Salford City Council will need to accept the delegation of the planning function from Oldham Borough Council and agree the terms of the collaboration agreement before the planning services can be provided. (Elizabeth Cunningham-Doyle)

8. Co-operative Agenda

- 8.1 N/A

9 Human Resources Comments

- 9.1 N/A

10 Risk Assessments

- 10.1 N/A

11 IT Implications

- 11.1 N/A

12 Property Implications

- 12.1 N/A

13 Procurement Implications

13.1 There are no direct procurement implications arising from this proposed solution as a result of services being delivered by a public sector organisation part of the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities

13.2 An interagency agreement would need to be drafted between Oldham Council and Salford City Council which details the scope of services to be delivered covering the resource requirement period. (Nicola Wadley, Senior Sourcing Manager)

14 Environmental and Health & Safety Implications

14.1 N/A

15 Equality, community cohesion and crime implications

15.1 N/A

16 Equality Impact Assessment Completed?

16.1 No

17 Key Decision

17.1 No

18 Key Decision Reference


18.1 N/A

19 Background Papers

19.1 None

20 Appendices

20.1 Appendix 1 – Draft Agreement

APPROVAL	
Decision maker Signed  Executive Director – Economy, Skills & Neighbourhoods	Dated <u>1.11.2017</u>