

Delegated Decision Report



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| Subject: | Low Carbon Heat Network GPR & Topo Surveys – appointment of Met Geo |
| Decision maker: Senior Officer | Neil Consterdine, Director of Communities |
| Decision maker: Cabinet Member | Cllr Abdul Jabbar, Cabinet Member for Finance & Sustainability |
| Decision date: | 14 November 2025 |
| Report author: | Andrew Hunt, Green Energy & Sustainability Manager |
| Ward (s): | N/A |

Reason for decision

To appoint Met Geo to carry out Ground Penetrating Radar and Topographical surveys for the Oldham Low Carbon Heat Network project, at a cost of £240,845 excl. VAT.

Recommendation(s)

1. That the Council appoint Met Geo to carry out the required surveys.

Background

In February 2024, Cabinet accepted £8.8m of Green Heat Network Fund grant funding to support development and delivery of the Oldham Low Carbon Heat Network. £1m of this is Commercialisation (revenue) grant and the remaining £7.8m is Construction (capital) grant. The report to Cabinet delegated authority to appoint consultants and contractors to the Deputy Chief Executive and to Legal Services to sign and seal the associated contracts.

To achieve RIBA Stages 3 and 4 design for the heat network, and in particular the proposed Early Works in the Town Centre, the Council needs to commission a set of surveys including Ground Penetrating Radar and Topographical surveys of the area. The area which has been identified in particular for the proposed Early Works will be prioritised for these surveys.

The funder (Triple Point / DESNZ) has confirmed that the survey works can be charged to the £7.8m Construction (Capital) grant which has already been secured by the Council.

Alternative option(s) to be considered

1. Appoint Met Geo (preferred option). Under this option, Met Geo will carry out the survey work which is on the critical path for the Low Carbon Heat Network project and in particular the proposed Early Works, enabling other consultants to complete RIBA Stages 3 and 4 design for the procurement of a delivery contractor.

2. Do not appoint Met Geo. Under this option, the surveys will not be carried out and the Low Carbon Heat Network project will not progress.

Consultation

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Sustainability has been consulted.

Risks

N/A

Implications

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| Financial | <p>Capital implications</p> <p>The Council was awarded £7.8m capital grant from Triple Point and the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) to design and develop a Low Carbon Heat Network in Oldham. The proposal is to appoint Met Geo to carry out a set of surveys including Ground Penetrating Radar and Topographical surveys in order to achieve RIBA Stage 3 and 4 design for the Heat Network.</p> <p>The surveys are expected to cost £240,845. The expenditure is capital in nature and will be fully grant funded through the capital Green Heat Network Fund grant.</p> <p>Leonnie Wharton-Brown, Senior Accountant</p> |
| Legal | <p>The procurement route and award decision are lawful and compliant with procurement legislation and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.</p> <p>Pamela Nsofor - Solicitor</p> |
| Equality impact including implications for Children and Young People | N/A |
| Procurement | <p>The tender for Consultancy Services for Survey-Topographical and GPR Survey was issued on 29 July 2025. Local tender was chosen as a sourcing route as it was envisaged that the cost will be less than £100k. Tender closed on 21 August 2025.</p> <p>Six(6) bidders were invited out of which Four (4) responded. Two (2) bids were dismissed as they were non-compliant. These bidders submitted cost for the tender and partially answered associated tender documents (1 ITT question out of 5 and did not submit any Social Value response) leading to their bid dismissal.</p> <p>Evaluation was undertaken by external consultants (Buro Happold) and internal staff.</p> <p>The overall evaluation result is:</p> |

| Evaluation Criteria and Weighting Matrix | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| | | | CC Geotechnical | | Malcolm Hughes | | Met Geo | | Subvision Surveys Ltd | |
| | | | Score | Weighted Score | Score | Weighted Score | Score | Weighted Score | Score | Weighted Score |
| Weighting | | | | | | | | | | |
| Criteria | | | | | | | | | | |
| Price Pro-rata (£) - % | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fully Compliant Tender price | | 50% | Bid Dismissed | 0.00% | 38.89% | | 50.00% | | Bid Dismissed | 0.00% |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Understanding of the brief: | 15% | 2 | 6.00% | 5 | 15.00% | 5 | 15.00% | 0 | 0.00% |
| 2 | Past Experience: | 5% | 0 | 0.00% | 5 | 5.00% | 4 | 4.00% | 0 | 0.00% |
| 3 | Methodology for project delivery: | 15% | 0 | 0.00% | 5 | 15.00% | 5 | 15.00% | 2 | 6.00% |
| 4 | Team | 5% | 0 | 0.00% | 5 | 5.00% | 5 | 5.00% | 0 | 0.00% |
| 5 | Insurance | | 0 | 0.00% | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |
| 6 | Social Value | 10% | | 0.00% | | 2.43% | | 5.20% | | 0.00% |
| Combined (Cost and Quality) Total | | | | 6% | | 81% | | 94% | | 6% |

The recommended award is based upon the outcome of the tendering process. The contract award represents value for money at £240,845 excl. VAT (£289,014 incl. VAT) with preferred supplier Met Geo Environmental Ltd. being the lowest bid received.

SKapoor (Commercial Procurement Unit)

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| Has the relevant Legal Officer confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council's Constitution? | Yes |
| Has the relevant Finance Officer confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council's budget? | Yes |
| Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council? | No |


Background Papers under Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972


1. Cabinet report February 2024 – OGNDP Grant Acceptance



Cabinet Report
Feb24 - OGNDP Gr

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|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Report author sign-off | Andrew Hunt |
| Role | Green Energy & Sustainability Manager |
| Date of sign-off | 14 November 2025 |

| Approval | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Officer approval sign-off |  Neil Consterdine |
| Role | Director of Communities |
| Date of sign-off | 19.11.25 |

| Approval | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Member(s) approval sign-off |  Cllr Abdul Jabbar |
| Role | Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate Services and Sustainability |
| Date of sign-off | 14 th November 2025 |