

## DECISIONS DELEGATED TO OFFICERS

Complete this form to record details of all decisions made by officers acting under delegated powers. Send the completed form to [forwardplan@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:forwardplan@oxford.gov.uk)

<b>Decision title:</b>	Appointment of a multi-disciplinary team of consultants to provide the evidence base for the West End Spatial Framework.
<b>Decision date:</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> March 2021
<b>Source of delegation:</b> State how the decision was delegated. Was it an express delegation made at a meeting or a general delegation under the Council's Constitution?	The funding was authorised by <b>Cabinet on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020</b> . A report set out the Oxford Local Plan Local Development Scheme 2020-25 and in paragraph 4 refers to the work programme and specifically mentions the importance of the 'West End SPD to support the significant growth identified in the Local Plan.'
<b>What decision was made?</b> Explain briefly – include financial details of any income or expenditure relating directly to this decision. Please indicate whether information is exempt / confidential.	To appointment a multi-disciplinary team of consultants to provide the evidence base for the West End Spatial Framework, which would be used by the City Council to produce a Supplementary Planning Document. The amount secured for the project was £150,000 which comes from a combination of Planning Policy and CIL with the remaining £50,000 from the Regeneration Team. This was set out in the report to Cabinet.
<b>Purpose:</b> What does the decision deliver or achieve?	The funding allowed the City Council to appoint some master planning consultants to develop a spatial framework, public realm strategy, design code and viability costings that will provide the evidence base to support a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).
<b>Reasons:</b> Please provide the reasons for the decision.	The SPD will provide detailed advice and guidance for the implementation of adopted Local Plan policies for the West End Area. It would provide the spatial framework to help to achieve movement and connectivity links, infrastructure delivery, design approaches and public realm that is required to ensure that new development sites can come forward in a co-ordinated / holistic way.
<b>Decision made by:</b> Name and title of officer within the senior management structure	Tom Bridgman (Executive Director of Development) in consultation with the Planning Portfolio Holder Cllr. Alex Hollingsworth.

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<b>Other options considered:</b> List any alternatives that were available to the decision taker and why they were rejected	The evidence base could in theory have been prepared in-house, however there was insufficient expertise in master planning, transport and viability that is currently available. The consultants being sought did need to comprise a multi-disciplinary team of professional led and co-ordinated by master planners.
<b>Documents considered:</b> Please attach any new documents relevant to the decision and state if they are exempt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West End Tender Scores for shortlisting</li> <li>• Interview notes</li> <li>• Scoring Matrix for consultants interviewed</li> <li>• Appointment letter for chosen consultant Levitt Bernstein.</li> </ul>
<b>Key or Not Key:</b> (see notes below):	Not key
<b>Wards significantly affected:</b> If 2+ wards are significantly affected this will need to be treated as a key decision (see notes below)	
<b>Declared conflict of interest:</b> Please record any declared conflict of interest by any Cabinet Member consulted on the decision which relates to the decision.	None
<b>This form was completed by:</b> <b>Name &amp; title:</b> <b>Date:</b>	T. Morris Principal Planning Officer 6 <sup>th</sup> October 2021

### Approval checklist

<i>Approver</i>	<i>Name and job title</i>	<i>Date</i>
<b>Decision maker</b> The officer with authority to take the decision, either from a Cabinet delegation or in the Constitution.		

### Consultee checklist

<i>Consultees</i>	<i>Name and job title</i>	<i>Date</i>
<b>Senior officer</b> e.g. the relevant service manager / head of service		

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where the decision maker is the Chief Executive or an Executive Director.		
<b>Head of Financial Services</b> required by the delegation / Constitution		
<b>Head of Law and Governance</b> if required by the delegation / Constitution		
<b>Cabinet Member(s)</b> Some Cabinet delegations require consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member(s). For other decisions there is an expectation that Cabinet Members will be informed.		
<b>Ward Members</b> Ward Members should be told in advance about anything which particularly affects their ward and which is potentially controversial but please note that Cabinet Members must be consulted first		

This form must be completed and sent to Committee and Member Services **as soon as reasonably practicable** after the decision is made. Prompt notification is particularly important for **key decisions** which are subject to call-in, as the call-in deadline is 2 working days from the decision notice being published. Before completing the form please refer to the notes below

## NOTES

The law<sup>1</sup> requires the Council to record executive and non-executive decisions taken by officers under delegated powers and to publish them on the Council's website.

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<sup>1</sup> the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012/2089 (Regulation 13(4)) and The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014/2095 (Regulation 7)

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These requirements **apply** to decisions that would have been taken by Council or the Cabinet if delegated powers had not been given to an officer:

- under an express delegation granted at a meeting of Cabinet, Council or a Committee.
- under a general delegation (where responsibility is delegated in the Constitution) and the effect of the decision is to:
  - grant a permission or licence;
  - affect the rights of an individual;
  - award a contract or incur expenditure with a value in excess of £10,000;
  - award a contract with a value in excess of £10,000 but less than £1,000,000;
  - acquire or dispose of freeholds or leaseholds with a consideration or premium in excess of £10,000 but less than £500,000;
  - grant to new tenants or dispose of leases with a rental value in excess of £10,000 but less than £125,000 (this excludes assignments, holding over and rent reviews);
  - grant 'project approval' for projects in excess of £10,000 but less than £500,000;
  - make a regulatory order which affects a number of people, for example a Public Space Protection Order or a Parking Place Order;

These requirements **do not** apply to:

- planning and licencing matters where there are established arrangements for recording decisions: or
- decisions which are purely administrative or operational in nature

Officers making such decisions must complete a written statement containing details of the decision taken. A copy of this decision notice must be retained by the relevant service for at least 6 years and any background papers for 4 years.

### **Exempt or Confidential information**

Information relating to a delegated officer decision does not have to be made public if it is exempt or confidential. Summary information from this decision sheet (excluding all exempt or confidential information) will be published on the Council's website.

### **Key or Non Key Decision**

A key decision is an executive decision likely to have a significant effect on people living or working in at least two wards; or to incur spending or savings of £500,000 or more.

A key decision can only be taken and recorded here if notice of it has been published in the Forward Plan for at least 28 clear days. Key decisions taken by officers may be "called in" by any four councillors or the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee within two days of the notice of decision being published.

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