

## Decision under Delegated Powers

### Officer Requesting Decision

Group Leader Plans, Policies and Place-Making

### Officer Making the Decision

Head of Planning and Regeneration

### Recommendation

That approval is given to enter into a Partnering Agreement, executed as a deed, with Leicestershire County Council, Leicester City Council and Leicestershire District Authority partners with a commitment of £9,036 towards the commissioning of consultants.

### Reason

To define the terms and conditions for the joint procurement and funding of a consultancy to undertake a Housing and Employment Needs Assessment for Leicester and Leicestershire.

### Authority for Decision

Under the provisions of Section 8.2 of the Constitution (Delegation of Council functions), the Head of Service has delegated authority to sign contracts up to a value of £50,000 entered into on behalf of the Council in the course of the discharge of a Council function (subject to compliance with the Financial Regulations).

### Decision and Date



25 March 2021

### Background

There is a long history of the Leicestershire local planning authorities working together to commission studies which provide evidence of the requirements for housing and employment across the Housing Market Area.

The last study undertaken on housing and employment needs was the Leicester & Leicestershire 'Housing & Economic Development Needs Assessment' (HEDNA) (2017) which set out the 'quantitative' requirements and mix of housing and employment land in Leicester City and the Leicestershire Districts.

This new study will update the evidence contained in HEDNA providing forecasts to 2036, 2041 and consider longer term requirements up to 2050 to

align with the Strategic Growth Plan. This will consider the nationally derived local housing needs figures identified through the 'standard methodology' and consider whether there are any robust and justifiable reasons for a departure from the standard method – including whether economic forecasting supports a different need.

The study will also provide an update on the need for additional employment land and the type and mix of housing and employment needed within Leicester and Leicestershire.

The updated evidence will be used to inform Duty to Co-operate discussions between authorities and be used to inform Local Plans, the delivery of the Strategic Growth Plan, the emerging Local Industrial Strategy (LIS).

The Partnering Agreement has been checked by Legal Services and is considered legally sound.

### **Comments from HR**

The report has no HR implications.

### **Financial Implications**

The total estimated costs of the commission will run to a maximum £81,326 with a maximum £9,036 being apportioned to the Borough Council, as set out in Schedule 3 to the Partnering Agreement. The costs can be met from the Contributions budget within the Local Plans cost centre.

### **Risk Management**

No specific risks have been identified with this report.

Key Decision: No

Background Papers: Draft Partnering Agreement  
(North West Leicestershire District Council)