

Decision under Delegated Powers

Officer Requesting Decision

Town Deal Programme Manager

Officer Making the Decision

Head of Planning and Regeneration

Recommendation

That the contract to procure MACE be signed.

Reason

To ensure that the Town Deal Board obtain the support necessary to provide due diligence on project business cases and Project Leads are supported.

Authority for Decision

The Town Deal Board established a Delivery Sub Group and terms of reference at its meeting on 27 September 2021 including the authority to allocate Programme Support Funding to support project leads prepare business cases for submission to government. On 18 November 2021, the DSG agreed an indicative allocation of Programme Support Funding (in addition to the existing commitments made to MACE) to assist project leads, including the appointment of consultants, up to a value of £110k.

Decision and Date



15 December 2021

Background

- 1.1 The Loughborough Town Deal is a deal between Loughborough and Government to bring about a step change in outcomes for the town across thematic areas. A Town Deal Board and governance structure was established in 2020/21 and an Investment Plan was agreed and submitted to government in February 2021 seeking £25m in funding to deliver a programme of projects that will realise the town's vision. Government announced an award of £16.9m in June 2021 and in September 2021 they announced 5% of this award (£845k) could be used as capacity funding to support the programme.
- 1.2 In September 2021, the Loughborough Town Deal Board Delivery Sub Group resolved its requirement for consultancy support to assist it in

carrying out due diligence on business cases submitted under the programme and to ensure that the Local Assurance Framework was followed.

- 1.3 The timetable set by government for the submission of business cases is dictated by quarterly funding windows driven by their DELTA framework. This provides funding windows in April, July, October and January each year. The project programme is being managed so that projects are submitted in each of the funding windows up to July 2022.
- 1.4 The first projects were planned to be submitted for consideration by the Delivery Sub Group with a view to them being approved for submission to the government in the October 2021 funding window. On 8 September the government brought forward that funding window from 28 to 15 October causing a severe pressure on programme team resources to meet the dates.
- 1.5 On 18 November 2021, the DSG agreed an indicative allocation of Programme Support Funding (in addition to the existing commitments made to MACE) to assist project leads, including the appointment of consultants, up to a value of £110k

2. Programme Support Contract

- 2.1 Owing to the urgency to get consultancy in place to support the programme before the first submission window on 15 October, there was insufficient time to undertake a full tender process and a company called MACE were therefore selected off the SCAPE Framework.
- 2.2 A scope of works has been agreed in two parts. Phase 1 - due diligence to the Delivery Sub Group of £57k and phase 2- consultancy support to project leads of up to £70k (to be drawn down by project leads as required). The total contract value is therefore up to £127k to be funded from the £845k capacity support funding provided by DLUHC.
- 2.3 Only part 1 of the work was commissioned initially as funding committed by government was not received until 30 November 2021. Now that funding has been received it is now necessary to commission phase 2.
- 2.4 A Contract Waiver has been prepared that explains the reasons for urgency and the use of the SCAPE framework. This waiver has been considered and signed by the Contracts Compliance Officer. The contract provided by the supplier uses standardised NEC templates and Legal Services are satisfied with it from a contracts point of view.
- 2.5 Authority to spend Town Deal Programme Support funding has been given by the Town deal Delivery Sub Group at its meetings on 29 September and 18 November 2021.

2.6 Given the value of the project the contract must be considered and signed by two approved signatories of the council, or by Council Seal.

Comments from HR

N/A

Financial Implications

The contract can be funded from budget in the Town Deal.

Risk Management

There are no significant risks arising from this decision.

Key Decision

No

Background Papers

-) Contract Waiver
-) Town Deal DSG decision to appoint MACE 29 September 2021
-) Town Deal DSG decision to extend MACE contract to include support for project leads 18 November 2021