

## OFFICER DECISION RECORD

<p>Officer:  <span style="background-color: black; color: black;">██████████</span>, Assistant Director</p>	<p>Service:  Housing &amp; Community Support</p>
<p>CMT Officer:  Corporate Director &amp; Monitoring Officer</p>	<p>Delegated Power Being Exercised:  Table 4 and 5</p> <p>Value of the proposed work with an officer decision value range as agreed by Corporate Director in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder and Leader of the Council.</p>
<p>Subject of Decision: Procurement of a Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTANA) for Fenland</p> <p>Due to issues in Cambridgeshire with two other providers who have not been able to deliver a robust GTANA, the Council has sought an alternative who has the skill base and ability to deliver this, at a cost of £37,031.81.</p>	
<p>Decision Taken:  To utilise the funding already identified to spend in accordance with the proposal made above.</p> <p>Due to the size and diversity of the Traveller population in Fenland we need an agent who can engage effectively with all groups living on sites and in housing. This agent has been able to partner with a Traveller Support Group that were trained by Professor Margaret Greenfields to undertake the field work for the first Cambridgeshire housing sub-region GTANA and they have the necessary skills and connections to carry out this consultation.</p>	
<p>Reason for the Decisions:  <u>To make decisions on planning applications and for producing a Local Plan, the Council is required to have robust evidence in place in the form of a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTANA), which also includes boat dwellers and other caravan occupants. In 2019 consultants won the contract to deliver a GTANA jointly for eight local authorities in the area but failed to produce this and had to be relieved of the contract. The main alternative had also failed to deliver a robust study in 2016. A significant part of the failings in both cases has been an inability to engage successfully with the local traveller community as required by government policy in Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (PPTS 2015).</u></p> <p>With this is in mind, coupled with the very few alternatives, officers have sought to recruit suitable expertise in whom they have the confidence to deliver a sound and robust study. The proposed bespoke consultant team comprises Michael Hargreaves as the main author and coordinator who has extensive knowledge of Traveller issues in Cambridgeshire and is considered one of the leading experts in this field. He is to work in partnership with One Voice 4 Travellers, an organisation formed from the travelling community. In addition to having close links with the local travelling community, One Voice has a strong track record of academic achievement and carrying out similar research projects. As such they are in a unique position to successfully engage with the Fenland traveller community which would almost certainly not be achievable to the same extent were other organisations or consultants to be involved.</p> <p>Officers are confident that a sound, robust and objective report will be produced and from recent experience over a number of years do not think this would be achievable to the same required standard with any other consultant.</p>	

**Alternative Options Considered (if appropriate):**

Due to the specialist support required there are no other practical alternative options as a specialist provider. Officers did contact another potential consultant about carrying out a GTANA for FDC earlier this year. However, they are based in Sale, Greater Manchester and therefore do not have a readily available local connection with the area. However, they did advise that a GTANA would likely cost around £30k to £35k as a ballpark figure which is very similar to the amount suggested by Michael Hargreaves and One Voice 4 Travellers. After discussions with the lead officers in other authorities regarding previous performance of other providers across Cambridgeshire, this local approach provides best value and an alternative solution. It is therefore likely that no genuine competition currently exists looking at the awards made by other authorities and this proposal will provide a different approach using a company with important.

**Background/Reports/Information considered and attached:**

[Emerging Local Plan - Fenland District Council](#)

Legal – A procurement exemption form has been completed setting out the reasons for the exemption.

Finance for the work is available through the Local Plan reserve.

Officer's Signature  
Corporate Director & Monitoring Officer

Date: 6 July 2023

**Please forward to Democratic Services upon completion**

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Date copy passed to 7 July 2023  
Democratic Services

Implementation Date: 17 July 2023  
(if not called-in)  
(Allow 5 clear working days after publication  
of decision)

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