

EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD SHEET

Name of decision maker:	Cllr Margaret Griffiths
Portfolio:	Housing
Date of Portfolio Holder Decision:	

Title of Decision:	Appointment of Hayling Associates Ltd to the Housing Transformation programme.
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<p>Decision made and reasons:</p> <p>That, subject to the approval of the Housing Transformation programme by Cabinet on 30th March 2010, Hayling Associates Ltd. be appointed to undertake specific improvement objectives relating to Health and Safety and Supported Housing within the programme and that a separate contract for this work is awarded.</p> <p>It is further agreed that an exception is made in accordance with S.3 (2.2) of Procurement Standing Orders to confirm the appointment without seeking three quotes in order to protect the interests of the Council, should the transfer process restart, and as there is no reasonable prospect of someone else being to provide the same level of service and support to the transformation programme in the time required.</p>
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<p>Reports considered:</p> <p>Council's Procurement Standing Orders.</p>

<p>Officers/Councillors/Ward Councillors/Stakeholders Consulted:</p> <p>Steve Baker, Head of Legal Services</p>
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<p>Monitoring Officer comments:</p> <p>I have no comments to add to this report.</p>
<p>Deputy S151 Officer comments:</p> <p>A provision to cover the costs identified in this report have been included within the latest approved Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget.</p>

Implications:	
Risk:	Hayling Associates Ltd, through its Project Management support to the Housing Futures Project, has a thorough understanding of the Councils Housing Service. Given the need to implement the transformation programme quickly and effectively, the support Hayling Associates Ltd. could provide would accelerate the delivery of the programme.
Value for Money:	There is no reasonable prospect of someone else being to provide the same level of service and support to the transformation programme in the time required.

EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD SHEET

	In order to protect the interests of the Council retaining the services of Hayling Associates would be critical in ensuring the process of stock transfer could be reinstated quickly and effectively.
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Options Considered and reasons for rejection: Not to appoint Hayling Associates Ltd to undertake Housing Transformation work.

Improvements in the business critical area of Health and Safety need to be implemented quickly and effectively.

In the context of reinstating the Housing Futures project the Council may be at risk as the knowledge, experience and capacity of Hayling Associates Ltd. may not be available should the Council choose to restart the process of developing a transfer proposal.

Portfolio Holders Signature: Councillor Griffiths

Date: 20th April 2010

Details of any interests declared and any dispensations given by the Standards Committee:

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Date Decision Record Sheet received from portfolio holder: 21st April 2010

Date Decision Published: 21st April 2010

Decision No: PH/025/10

Date of Expiry of Call-In Period: 28th April 2010

Date any Call-In received or decision implemented:

BACKGROUND

As a result of the Governments announcement on its proposal for local authority housing to become self financing the Council has decided to suspend any further work on developing its housing stock transfer proposal until the benefits and disbenefits of self financing are better understood. This self financing evaluation will take place over the summer months.

This has meant that all consultants associated with the project have now been stood down.

While the project is suspended the Council will need to maintain Housing Futures knowledge, infrastructure and capacity to ensure that, should the Council choose to reinstate the project, it can do so without any additional risks and costs.

In undertaking stock transfer work Hayling Associates Ltd, which was appointed to project manage the transfer process, has developed a significant understanding and knowledge of the housing service which would be of benefit to the delivery of the housing transformation programme that will be presented to Cabinet on 30th March. Subject to approval of the transformation programme and funding by Cabinet, it is proposed that Hayling Associates Ltd is appointed to lead improvements in Sheltered Housing and also the business critical objective improving Health and Safety management.

EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD SHEET

The pressing need for these improvements to be developed and delivered quickly and effectively means that there is no reasonable prospect of someone else being to provide the same level of service and support in the time required.

In these circumstances, and in order to protect the Councils interests, it is recommended that the Portfolio Holder for Housing approves an exception to the Procurement Standing Orders. This would enable the appointment of Hayling Associates Ltd. to deliver the transformation programme improvements identified without the need to obtain three quotes. As there is a clear division in terms of the work that is now required a separate contract would need to be awarded for this work.

The appointment will only be made in the event that Cabinet approves the transformation programme and the budget at its meeting on 30th March. The cost of this appointment is £46,000 has been included within the proposed budget for the transformation programme which is proposed to be funded through the Housing Revenue Account.