



# AGENDA

For a Special meeting of the
<b>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT &amp; SCRUTINY PANEL</b>
to be held on
<b>TUESDAY, 1 MAY 2007</b>
at
<b>11.00 AM</b>
In the
<b>COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, ST PETER'S HILL, GRANTHAM</b>
Duncan Kerr, Chief Executive

Panel Members:	Councillor Peter Martin-Mayhew (Chairman) 01400 272896 Councillor Mrs Judy Smith (Vice-Chairman) 01778 422219
	Councillor Harrish Bisnauthsing, Councillor Pam Bosworth, Councillor Yvonne Gibbins, Councillor Reginald Howard, Councillor Peter Martin-Mayhew (Chairman), Councillor Bob Sandall, Councillor Mrs Judy Smith (Vice-Chairman) and Councillor Mrs Mary Wheat + one vacancy for the New Independent Group
Scrutiny Officer:	Paul Morrison 01476 406512 <a href="mailto:p.morrison@southkesteven.gov.uk">p.morrison@southkesteven.gov.uk</a>
Scrutiny Support Officer:	Lucy Bonshor 01476 406120 <a href="mailto:l.bonshor@southkesteven.gov.uk">l.bonshor@southkesteven.gov.uk</a>

**Members of the Panel are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business listed below.**

- 1. MEMBERSHIP**  
The Panel to be notified of any substitute members.
- 2. APOLOGIES**
- 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
Members are asked to declare interests in matters for consideration at the meeting.
- 4. CABINET MEMBER DECISION 16TH APRIL 2007 - APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANTS**  
The following decision has been the subject of a request of a call-in in accordance with rule 16 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules:-

*Non Key Decision taken by Councillor Mrs Frances Cartwright 16th April 2007*

**Decision:**

**That approval is granted to appoint Enterprise Beha Williams Norman Ltd (EBWNL) to provide consultancy support to the Working Group established to explore more innovative options for the management of the Council's housing stock.**

The reasons for exercising the call-in are:

Insufficient consideration of all options and/or weighting of options

Inadequate/insufficient consultation

Involvement of these consultants in the failed stock transfer ballot inevitably brings into question the extent of possible public confidence

whether unfairly or not, it raises the question of impartiality

Copies of the Call-in request form, the decision notice and report TSE020 are enclosed.

## **WORKING STYLE OF SCRUTINY**

### **The Role Of Scrutiny**

- To provide a “critical friend” challenge to the Executive as well as external authorities and agencies
- To reflect the voice and concerns of the public and its communities
- Scrutiny Members should take the lead and own the Scrutiny Process on behalf of the public
- Scrutiny should make an impact on the delivery of public services

### **Remember...**

- Scrutiny should be member led
- Any conclusions must be backed up by evidence
- Meetings should adopt an inquisitorial rather than adversarial style of traditional local government committees



**REQUEST FOR CALL-IN OF A CABINET DECISION**

TO: THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MINUTE/DECISION NUMBER By Mr F Eastwight

SUBJECT MATTER: Approval of BROWN as consultants

DATE OF DECISION: 16th April 2007

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 17th April 2007

I, being the Chairman<sup>a</sup> [or]

We, being <sup>b</sup> members<sup>c</sup> of the \_\_\_\_\_

Development and Scrutiny Panel request that the above mentioned decision be called in for scrutiny.

[<sup>d</sup> delete as appropriate]

<sup>e</sup>/We certify that none of us has subscribed to more than 3 requests for call-ins during the current Municipal year.

# Agenda Item 4

## REASONS FOR EXERCISING CALL-IN:

(i.e. where it is considered that a decision has not been taken in accordance with the principles of decision making as set out in Article 13 of the Constitution, for example:

- It is outside the budget or policy framework;
- It is outside the delegated powers of the Cabinet;
- It is a key decision which has not been included in the Forward Plan;
- There has been inadequate/insufficient consultation;
- Insufficient consideration of all options/relative weighting of options.)

① Overlapping consideration of all options and/or weighting of options

② Inadequate/insufficient consultation

③ Insufficient of these considerations in the context of the wider strategic context, including the impact on the public and the extent of any potential public confidence

④ Whether unfairly or not, it raises the question of impartiality.

Signed:

[Signature] (Political group) Labour

[Signature] (Political group) Labour

[Signature] (Political group) Labour

[Signature] (Political group) Labour

DATE: 20.04.07



## **CABINET MEMBER DECISION**

### **Decision:**

**That approval is granted to appoint Enterprise Beha Williams Norman Ltd (EBWNL) to provide consultancy support to the Working Group established to explore more innovative options for the management of the Council's housing stock.**

#### **(1) Details of Decision**

To approve the appointment of consultants to provide support to the Working Group established to explore more innovative options for the management of the Council's housing stock.

#### **(2) Relevant Considerations and Reasons for Decision:**

The Council meeting on 30 November 2006 agreed to set up a Working Group to investigate more innovative options for the management of the Council's housing stock.

One of the key tasks for the Working Group is to review the current position of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan. It will then be necessary to assess the potential impact on the HRA Business Plan of all of the options considered.

The Council does not have the resources to carry out this analysis in-house and so consultancy support will be needed.

Quotations were therefore sought from three consultancy firms.

EBWNL quoted £9,000 for this work, the second consultancy firm said that they would charge £10,000 and the third consultancy firm declined to bid for the work.

EBWNL's price is the lowest of the two quotes received and, based on their estimate of the work taking 14-16 days, equates to £562.50 per day which represents good value for money. In addition to this, EBWNL have a detailed knowledge of the Council's HRA having prepared the current HRA Business Plan financial analysis. Any other organisation would have to spend some 'unproductive' time familiarising itself with the HRA and the council.

Usually between 3 and 5 estimates are sought for work valued at under £10,000 however, in view of the above and the specialist nature of the support involved, an exemption from the Contract Procedure Rules has been authorised.

On the basis of these factors the portfolio holder is asked to make a non-key decision to award the contract for this consultancy support to EBWNL

### **Conflicts of Interest**

**(Any conflict of interest declared by any other Cabinet Member consulted in relation to the decision to be recorded).**

NONE

### **Dispensations**

**(Any dispensation granted by the Standards Committee on respect of any declared conflict of interest to be noted).**

NONE

### **Decision taken by:**

Name: Councillor Mrs Frances Cartwright  
Portfolio Holder: Housing & Organisational Development

**Date of Decision: 16th April 2007**

**Date of Publication of Record of Decision: 17th April 2007**

**Date decision effective (i.e. 5 days after the date of publication of record of decision unless subject to call-in by the Community DSP Chairman or any 5 members of the Council from any political groups):**

**25th April 2007**

# NON KEY DECISION: REPORT TO CABINET PORTFOLIO MEMBER

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY: COUNCILLOR FRANCES CARTWRIGHT  
ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT &  
HOUSING SERVICES

REPORT AUTHOR: DIRECTOR OF TENANCY SERVICES

REPORT NO. TSE20

DATE: 4 APRIL 2007

<b>SUBJECT OF NON KEY DECISION:</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANTS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO THE WORKING GROUP SET UP TO EXPLORE MORE INNOVATIVE OPTIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNCIL'S HOUSING STOCK</b>
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<b>CORPORATE PRIORITY:</b>	Category B - Housing Management	
<b>CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS:</b>	None	
<b>FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IMPLICATIONS:</b>	Within publication scheme	
<b>INITIAL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>Carried out and appended to report?</b>  <b>Not Applicable</b>	<b>Full impact assessment required?</b>  <b>Yes/No</b>
<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS:</b>	None	

## (1) PURPOSE OF REPORT

To approve the appointment of consultants to provide support to the Working Group established to explore more innovative options for the management of the Council's housing stock.



**(2) RECOMMENDATION(S)**

To appoint Enterprise Beha Williams Norman Ltd (EBWNL) to provide consultancy support to the Working Group.

**(3) REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)**

The Council meeting on 30 November 2006 agreed to set up a Working Group to investigate more innovative options for the management of the Council's housing stock.

One of the key tasks for the Working Group is to review the current position of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan. It will then be necessary to assess the potential impact on the HRA Business Plan of all of the options considered.

The Council does not have the resources to carry out this analysis in-house and so consultancy support will be needed.

Quotations were therefore sought from three consultancy firms.

EBWNL quoted £9,000 for this work, the second consultancy firm said that they would charge £10,000 and the third consultancy firm declined to bid for the work.

EBWNL's price is the lowest of the two quotes received and, based on their estimate of the work taking 14-16 days, equates to £562.50 per day which represents good value for money. In addition to this, EBWNL have a detailed knowledge of the Council's HRA having prepared the current HRA Business Plan financial analysis. Any other organisation would have to spend some 'unproductive' time familiarising itself with the HRA and the council.

Usually between 3 and 5 estimates are sought for work valued at under £10,000 however, in view of the above and the specialist nature of the support involved, an exemption from the Contract Procedure Rules has been authorised.

On the basis of these factors the portfolio holder is asked to make a non-key decision to award the contract for this consultancy support to EBWNL.

**(4) COMMENTS OF THE CORPORATE HEAD OF FINANCE AND RESOURCES (SECTION 151 OFFICER)**

Based on the contents of this report I support the recommendation contained in this report.

**(5) COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**

Although an exemption from contract procedures has been authorised in respect of the specialised area of this work, contract procedures for a contract of services for this value have been followed.

**(6) OFFICER CONTACT**

Tony Campbell  
DIRECTOR OF TENANCY SERVICES  
406501 t.campbell@southkesteven.gov.uk

**(7) DATE DECISION EFFECTIVE:**

**If decision made on 16th April date effective will be 25th April 2007.**