

Executive

Urgency Report

Item no: 9

Report by: Lisa Dominic **Job title:** Governance Support Officer
Date: 8 November 2022
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Summary

London Councils' urgency procedure was used to approve:

- Provision of Cleaning Services at 59 ½ Southwark Street and Chancery Exchange (10 Furnival Street)
- London Business Rates Pool 2023/24

Recommendations

Executive is asked to note the above decisions taken under the urgency procedure.

1.0 Provision of Cleaning Services at 59 ½ Southwark Street and Chancery Exchange (10 Furnival Street)

1.1 Summary

London Councils invited the submission of tenders for the provision of office cleaning services for its main administrative offices at 59½ Southwark Street and the London Tribunal Service at Chancery Exchange. The current cleaning contract expired on 31 July 2022. The proposal was for the new contract to commence on 1st August 2022 for a period of three years up until July 2025, inclusive of a break clause.

It was recommended that the contract be awarded to Solo Service Group from 1st August 2022, as it scored the highest overall score evaluated in accordance with the published weightings in the ITT for the most economically advantageous tender (MEAT).

1.2 Reason for Urgency

In accepting the tender of Solo Service Group for the provision of Cleaning Services at London Councils and London Tribunals offices for three years beginning 2022/25 at the cost of £92,740 per annum, a total of £278,220 for the three years of the contract, the amount exceeded £250,000. Approval was therefore required from Elected Officers in accordance with London Councils Financial Regulation 8.11.5.

1.3 The Urgency was approved on Tuesday 9th August 2022

2.0 London Business Rates Pool 2023/24

2.1 Summary

In January 2021, Leaders and the Mayor of London agreed to collectively withdraw from the pan-London business rates pool in 2021-22, because of the high level of economic uncertainty due to the pandemic. It was subsequently agreed, in September 2021, not to reconstitute the pool in 2022-23 as it remained unlikely to have been profitable

On 18 August 2022, the Government wrote to local authorities inviting them to indicate preferred pooling arrangements for 2023-24, by 22 September.

The Urgency report (available on request) provided the latest estimates for the “shadow” 2022-23 pool and sought a decision on pooling for 2023-24 ahead of the deadline.

It also sought agreement regarding the process for agreeing any significant variations to ongoing projects funded via the Strategic Investment Pot (SIP) from the 2018-19 and 2019-20 London business rates pilots, following a request from one project to rebase its grant agreement.

Elected Officers were recommended:

- not to reconstitute the London business rates pool in 2023-24;
- to continue to monitor a shadow pool to inform future pooling decisions;
- to agree the officer recommendation to agree the proposed changes by the LB Ealing on behalf of West London Orbital Strategic Growth project; and
- to agree the proposed approach to taking future similar decisions as set out in paragraphs 16 and 17 of the report, which is available on request.

2.2 Reason for Urgency

The deadline of 22 September was before the next meeting of London Councils Leaders’ Committee, and earlier agreement would provide more time for individual boroughs to consider alternative pooling arrangements for 2023-24.

Approval of the recommendations regarding the proposed changes to the aforementioned SIP project will provide that project with the certainty it needs to continue and agreeing to the wider approach for future such decisions now will enable the City of London to reconvene the SIP panel in good time were any further project changes proposed.

2.3 The Urgency was approved on 7 September 2022.

3.0 Recommendations

Executive is asked to note the above decisions taken under the urgency procedure.

Financial Implications for London Councils

There are no financial implications for London Councils.

Legal Implications for London Councils

There are no legal implications for London Councils

Equalities Implications for London Councils

There are no equalities implications for London Councils