

TITLE OF REPORT: **Approval of Schemes, Estimates and Tenders during the Summer Recess**

REPORT OF: **Paul Dowling, Strategic Director, Communities and Environment**

Purpose of the Report

1. This report seeks Cabinet approval for the Strategic Director, Communities and Environment and the Service Director, Council Housing, Design and Technical Services, following consultation with the Strategic Directors, Corporate Resources and Corporate Services and Governance, to be authorised to jointly approve schemes and estimates, and to invite and accept tenders over certain thresholds, during the summer recess following July Cabinet up to the Cabinet meeting on 18 September.

Background

2. The absence of Cabinet meetings during the summer recess could have a detrimental effect on the delivery of the capital programme.

Proposal

3. In order to avoid any delays in progressing capital building projects it is proposed that the Strategic Director, Communities and Environment and the Service Director, Council Housing, Design and Technical Services, in consultation with the Strategic Directors, Corporate Resources and Corporate Services and Governance, are jointly authorised to:
 - (a) approve schemes and estimates for any works contract estimated to cost more than £100,000;
 - (b) invite tenders for any works contract estimated to cost more than £100,000; and
 - (c) accept tenders, place orders for works, supplies and services up to a value equivalent to the tendering thresholds specified in the European Procurement Directives during the summer recess.
4. The Leader and/or appropriate Cabinet Members will be consulted on delegated decisions taken if possible.
5. The necessary procedures will be followed if key decisions are being made, as set out in the Council's Constitution.
6. The actions taken under these special delegations will be recorded and reported to the next meeting of the Cabinet.

Recommendations

7. Cabinet is recommended to authorise the Strategic Director, Communities and Environment and the Service Director, Council Housing, Design and Technical Services, in consultation with the Strategic Directors, Corporate Resources and Corporate Services and Governance, to jointly:
 - (a) approve schemes and estimates for any works contract estimated to cost more than £100,000;
 - (b) invite tenders for any works contract estimated to cost more than £100,000; and
 - (c) accept tenders, place orders for works, supplies and services up to a value equivalent to the tendering thresholds specified in the European Procurement Directives during the summer recess.

For the following reason:

To enable projects to progress and to avoid delay in delivery of the capital programme and its related expenditure.

Policy Context

1. The proposal is consistent with the overall vision for Gateshead as set out in Vision 2030 and the Thrive Agenda. In particular, creating the conditions for economic growth and improving health and wellbeing. The delivery of the capital programme is a fundamental element in the achievement of the Council's policy objectives.

Background

2. The Council's Financial Regulations 2.5(ii) requires Cabinet approval to scheme and estimated costs for any works contract estimated to cost more than £100,000. Contract Procedure Rule 4.1 requires Cabinet consent before tenders can be invited for any works contract over £100,000 and Part 2 of Schedule 5 (General Delegations to Managers), allows Managers to accept tenders up to the EU threshold.
3. The absence of Cabinet meetings during the summer recess could mean a delay in necessary approvals being granted and could have a detrimental effect on the delivery of the capital programme.

Consultation

4. In preparing this report, consultations have taken place with the Leader and Deputy Leader.

Alternative Options

5. The alternative option of delaying decisions for scheme and estimates and tenders would jeopardise delivery of the capital programme and generation of capital receipts.

Implications of Recommended Option

6. Resources

- a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Corporate Resources confirms that the financial implications of decisions made under delegated powers during the summer recess will be recorded at the time they are made and included in the report to the next Cabinet.
 - b) **Human Resources Implications** – there are no human resources implications arising directly from this report.
 - c) **Property Implications** – there are no property implications arising directly from this report.
7. **Risk Management Implications** - there are no risk management implications arising directly from this report.

8. **Equality and Diversity Implications** - there are no equality and diversity implications arising directly from this report.
9. **Crime and Disorder Implications** - there are no crime and disorder implications arising directly from this report.
10. **Sustainability Implications** – there are no sustainability implications arising directly from this report.
11. **Human Rights Implications** - there are no human rights implications arising directly from this report.
12. **Health Implications** - there are no health implications arising directly from this report.
13. **Area and Ward Implications** - there are no area or ward implications arising directly from this report.
14. **Background Information** – None.