

TEST VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

HEAD OF SERVICE'S DECISION

Committee: Executive
Chairman: Councillor Ian Carr
Head of Service: Planning - Madalene Winter

SUBJECT


Waiving of Contract Standing Orders

Reason for Urgency
(After consultation with the Chief Executive)

- 1 Final approval for the project was only obtained from Council on 23rd April 2003
- 2 The preferred consultant may not be available if the decision waits for the next meeting of the Executive.
- 3 An alternative consultant is unlikely to be able to deliver the required outcomes within the agreed budget provision.

Decision

(After consultation with the Chairman (or in his absence the vice-Chairman), who has not requested that the matter be referred to a special meeting of the Committee).

 Exemption be given from the requirement to obtain quotations and tenders in accordance with Contract Standing Order 111 F b) (ii) for the reasons outlined above, ~~and in the attached report~~, and that a contract be awarded to Ashton Penny for the provision of a Review of the Council's current and potential usage of SADAS and related systems.

Chief Executive's/Director's Signature *[Signature]* Date 16/05/03

Chairman's/~~Vice~~ Chairman's signature *[Signature]* Date 17/05/03
Executive

Chairman's/~~Vice~~ Chairman's Signature ~~*[Signature]*~~ Date 28/05/03
Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Head of Service's Signature *Nadabene Winter* Date 15/05/03

Reported to Committee on *23/7* Date

Distribution

- 1.Chief Executive
- 2.Corporate Director (RT)
- 3.Corporate Director (BS)
- 4.Head of Legal Services
- 5.Head of Administration (Original for report to Committee)

Background Paper;

ITEM

Analysis of long term viability of SADAS and related systems

The purpose of the report is to provide information for the Head of Service Decision to waive contract standing orders

Report of the Head of Planning

1 Background

- * 1.1 The need to examine the support and reliability of our planning application computer system SADAS and other linked systems was highlighted in the report to the Council on the Planning Delivery Grant. At its meeting on 23rd April 2003, the Council approved a figure of £20,000 to engage consultants to undertake this work.
- 1.2 The need for the review of our current and potential use of these systems has been identified in the work undertaken by the ISB. The SADAS system is used by Building Control, Land Charges and Estates as well as by the Planning Service. The future efficiency of these services would be seriously affected by any failure in the computer systems either in terms of on-going support or in future up-upgrades and development of the systems.
- 1.3 The project proposal has been drawn up by Allan Jones, the interim Head of IT, in consultation with the Heads of Service who use the systems and with staff in IT Services.

2 Issues

- * 2.1 The consultant undertaking the review needs to have a thorough understanding of our current needs and problems and of the way in which Test Valley is seeking to develop its IT programme and practices, as well as the expertise to assess the capability and capacity of our current provider and of any alternatives.

3 Debate on Issues

- * 3.1 This is a specialised project which most consultants would not be able to tackle without spending a significant amount of time (and costs) in developing their understanding of our current and future systems and needs. In addition it is imperative that we can be confident of the consultants ability to deliver the outcomes required. Allan Jones is in a unique position to carry out the project without exceeding the estimated costs and is prepared to do so at the end of his contract at TVBC.
- 3.2 However when his contract with TVBC ends on 26th May 2003 he would expect to return to other full time work and may not be available at a later date to take on this project.

3.3 Because of this it is not possible in the time available to make a decision to follow the normal procedures of inviting either written quotations or tenders from at least three bodies.

4 Resource Implications

4.1 The proposal agree with Ashton Penney (Allan Jones' employer) is at a fixed price of £20,000 plus VAT and expenses.

5 Corporate Objectives and Policy\Key Decision

5.1 To deliver an efficient and cost effective services.

6 Consultations

6.1 Heads of Services using SADAS and The Corporate Director have been consulted.

7 Conclusion

7.1 The need to review the SADAS and related computer systems has been identified and agreed by Council. The proposal to engage Allan Jones to carry out the work represents value for money and the opportunity to achieve desired outcomes.