

APPENDIX 1

Summary

Barnet is in the process of continuing delivery of the Sustainability Strategy to enable the borough to become more sustainable and to meet net zero targets of 2030 as an organisation and 2042 as a place. In the next phase, we wish to have continued external specialist consultancy support to help develop projects and finance options for the delivery of the programme.

We are proposing to enter a Call-Off Contract with Ernst and Young via Management Consultancy Framework Three (MCF3) on a 2-year basis with a 1-year optional extension period. The total Call-Off Contract value shall not exceed £300,000 per annum and any call will be subject to sufficient budget being made available.

The Environment & Climate Change Committee¹ noted the existing delegations to officers to develop and implement initiatives to deliver reductions in carbon emissions and confirmed work should continue.

Thematic Committee Decision

- 1. To approve and sign a Call-Off Contract with Ernst and Young via MCF3 on a 2-year basis with a 1-year optional extension period with the authority delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of the Environment & Climate Change Committee.**

1. Why this report is needed

- 1.1 In May 2022, Council noted the declaration of Climate and Bio-diversity Emergency, at this meeting there was a commitment to move further faster than before; therefore the net zero target for the borough was brought forward to 2042 and as a council to 2030.
- 1.2 Following this meeting, a paper was presented at the Environment & Climate Change committee in June 2022, where it was noted *'the Sustainability Strategy Framework outlines the council's ambitious net zero targets and proposes a high-level roadmap to allow the organisation and the borough to meet them; further development of the workstreams will enable us to go further and faster in achieving our commitments. And that the implementation of these commitments and the development of a Sustainability Strategy may require further work, such as bidding for external funding, and spending in line with the objectives of this funding; repurposing existing delegated budgets across the organisation; and advancing corporate resources in line with financial regulation and Framework.'* The committee approved and noted, *'Chief Officer approval will enable the programme to remain agile in its deliver of our commitments'*. This report seeks to use this delegation to moved forward the delivery of our action plan at pace.
- 1.3 A relationship with Ernst and Young has been in place since April 2022 supporting the Sustainability Team. The last phase of work ended on 31/12/2022.

¹ [Committee Report \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk)

- 1.4 We are proposing to enter a Call-Off Contract with Ernst and Young via MCF3 on a 2-year basis with a 1-year optional extension period.
- 1.5 The work will provide continuity on the delivery of an Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Decision Making Tool and the established Net Zero Estates project. The work will also include pilot revenue generation projects: an inseting funding pilot and Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard (MEES) regulations project. This demonstrates continuity of delivery against the sustainability strategy agenda and integration with work Ernst and Young have previously completed.
- 1.6 The Council may require additional support until the expiry date of the contract, the details and price for which shall be agreed. The total Call-Off Contract value shall not exceed £300,000 per annum and will be subject to sufficient budget being made available.

2. Reasons for recommendations

- 2.1 The contract will support the council to deliver priority projects in our sustainability strategy at pace; and support the programme by piloting financing options that will enable us to deliver against our Net Zero targets.
- 2.2 We have an established relationship with Ernst and Young who have familiarity with projects already in train, providing additional value in being able to progress quickly, without having start the work from scratch.
- 2.3 Any alternative supplier would have to repeat work which would cost more (both directly and in officer time). This would also take longer, and the outputs from this work are required to inform and deliver our Net Zero goals at pace.

3. Alternative options considered

- 3.1 This paper notes the work already taken place, ambitious net zero targets, and recognises the need to move faster. The 'do nothing option' is not recommended.
- 3.2 Alternatively, the Council could appoint an alternative supplier, however this is not recommended as it would be a costlier and lengthier process, as outlined above.
- 3.3 The call-off contract will enable us to move towards achieving our ambitious targets.

4. Post decision implementation

- 4.1 After approval, the Council will sign a Call off Contract with Ernst and Young.
- 4.2 An update will be taken to the next meeting Environment & Climate Change Committee.

5. Implications of decision

- 5.1 **Corporate Priorities and Performance**

5.1.1 Following the declaration of a climate emergency, delivering and implementing the Sustainability Strategy and Climate Action Plan is a key corporate priority for the council.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.2.1 Finance & Value for Money: At a meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee (P&R) in July 2022, a budget was approved to support the delivery of the Sustainability Strategy and Climate Action Plan. Funding for the proposals noted within this report will be considered further in the development of detailed action plans, and resourced within the budget envelope approved by P&R.

5.2.2 Any proposed deliverables arising from the work should not have a negative impact to the council's financial sustainability.

5.2.3 In accordance with single tender action Contract Procedure Rules 6.2 authorisation has been sought and granted.

5.2.4 IT: at this time there are no direct implications.

5.2.5 Property: at this time there are no implications.

5.2.6 Sustainability: the report specifically notes the positive impact on all three aspects of Sustainability (Social, Economic and Environmental). A Sustainability Decision Making Wheel is being developed which will help the organisation to assess the impact on sustainability of decisions.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

5.3.1 In line with Article 10, (Decision Making) Table B provides the authorisation and acceptance thresholds for procurement values above £500,000. Accordingly, this is being made in line with the Council's Thematic Committee, which the Environment and Climate Change Committee.

5.3.2 National Legislation

- The Climate Change Act 2008 introduced a legally binding target for the UK to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050 compared to a 1990 baseline. In June 2019, the target was updated to reach net zero by 2050. In April 2021, the UK government committed to reducing emissions by 78% by 2035 compared to 1990 levels. The Environment Act 2021 gained Royal Assent on 9th November 2021 with an aim to develop similar legally binding targets for biodiversity, air quality, water, and waste.

5.4 Insight

5.4.1 The council will take an evidence-driven approach to ensure that we are taking the most impactful action. The development of an ESG Decision-making Tool will enable us to take an insight driven approach to decision making and ensure that these are evidence based.

5.5 Social Value

5.5.1 There are no immediate Social Value implications attached to this report. However, the Social Value policy and toolkit contains sustainability measures so we would therefore expect the contract to actively support the utilisation of those measures in support the delivery our sustainability and carbon reduction aims.

5.6 Risk Management

5.6.1 The Council has an established approach to risk management, which is set out in the Risk Management Framework. Managing risk will be an essential part of programme management and will be considered. Any projects or activity undertaken as part of this contract will have its own risk review undertaken as part of its delivery.

5.7 Equalities and Diversity

5.7.1 Equality and diversity issues are a mandatory consideration in the decision making of the Council. Decision makers should have due regard to the public sector equality duty in making their decisions. The Equality Act 2010 and the Public-Sector Equality Duty require elected Members to satisfy themselves that equality considerations are integrated into day-to-day business and that all proposals emerging from the business planning process have taken into consideration the impact, if any, on any protected group and what mitigating factors can be put in place. The equalities duties are continuing duties they are not duties to secure a particular outcome. The statutory grounds of the public sector equality duty are found at section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 and are as follows:

5.7.2 A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

5.7.3 Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard to the need to:

- Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;

- Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

5.7.4 The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.

5.7.5 Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- Tackle prejudice, and
- Promote understanding.

5.7.6 Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others; but that is not to be taken as permitting conduct that would otherwise be prohibited by or under this Act. The relevant protected characteristics are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Marriage and civil partnership

5.8 **Corporate Parenting**

5.8.1 Not applicable in the context of this report.

5.9 **Consultation and Engagement**

5.9.1 Not applicable in the context of this report.

5.10 **Environmental Impact**

5.10.1 Implementing the recommendations in the report will lead to a positive impact on the Council's carbon and ecology impact.

5.11 Background papers

- 5.11.1 Update on Barnet Sustainability Strategy – Environment Committee, 11 March 2021 - A4 Letterhead (moderngov.co.uk)
- 5.11.2 Sustainability Strategy Framework – Policy & Resources Committee, 9 December 2021 - Committee Report (moderngov.co.uk)
- 5.11.3 Update on Barnet Sustainability Strategy – Environment Committee 9 June 2022 - Committee Report (moderngov.co.uk)
- 5.11.4 Update on Barnet Sustainability Strategy – Environment and Climate Change Committee 6 September 2022 - Agenda for Environment and Climate Change Committee on Tuesday 6th September, 2022, 7.00 pm | Barnet Council (moderngov.co.uk)
- 5.11.5 Update on Barnet Sustainability Strategy – Environment and Climate Change Committee 21 November 2022 - Agenda for Environment and Climate Change Committee on Monday 21st November, 2022, 7.00 pm (moderngov.co.uk)
- 5.11.6 Update on Barnet Sustainability Strategy – Environment and Climate Change Committee 21 November 2022 - Agenda for Environment and Climate Change Committee, Wednesday 25th January 2023 (moderngov.co.uk)

Decision taker's statement

I have the required powers to make the decision documented in this report. I am responsible for the report's content and am satisfied that all relevant advice has been sought in the preparation of this report and that it is compliant with the decision making framework of the organisation which includes Constitution, Scheme of Delegation, Budget and Policy Framework and Legal issues including Equalities obligations. The decision is compliant with the principles of decision making in Article 10 of the constitution.

Chair:

Cllr Alan Schneiderman

Signed

On behalf Environment and Climate Change Committee.

Date

Report Clearance Checklist
(Removed prior to publication and retained by Governance Service)

Note: All reports must be cleared by the appropriate Committee Chair, Chief Officer, Legal, Finance and Governance as a minimum. Report authors should also engage with subject matter experts from other service areas where this is required (e.g. procurement, equalities, risk, etc.). The name and date that the chairman or officer has cleared the report must be included in the table below or the report will not be accepted.

This report is for decisions with a value between £213,477 and less than £500,000 but excluding all key decisions – if in doubt please contact the Governance Team – Governanceservice@barnet.gov.uk

This report must not be implemented until cleared by both the relevant Committee Chair and Chief Officer. Both names should be listed on the cover page in the ‘Report of’ section.

Legal, Finance and Governance require a minimum of 5 working days to provide report clearance. Clearance cannot be guaranteed for reports submitted outside of this time.

Author to complete table below:

Who	Clearance Date	Name
Committee Chair	15/02/23	Cllr Alan Schneiderman
Chief Officer	14/02/23	Craig Miller
HB Public Law		
Finance	09/02/23	Ashley Hughes
Governance	08/02/23	Paul Frost