

**Cabinet Member Decision Notice - Public**

**Part A** – to be provisionally completed prior to the meeting and finalised after the meeting following agreement with the decision maker.

1. **Decision Maker:** Director Economy and Culture in consultation with Head of Legal and Governance
2. **Date of the Decision:** 11 February 2021
3. **Subject (title and description):**

Award of Harrogate Convention Centre (HCC) Redevelopment Design Team Contract. To obtain approval from the Director of Economy and Culture in consultation with Head of Legal and Governance to award the contract for Professional Services up to RIBA stage 6, including design work to RIBA stage 3, for the HCC redevelopment project to the first ranked design team supplier, Bidder A, following a procurement process using YORconsult2 Lot 3 Single Stage Mini competition.

4. **Did the decision maker declare an interest?** No
5. **Lead Officer:** Executive Officer Strategic Property & Major Projects
6. **Was all or any part of the report exempt?** Yes, the appendices to the report were considered to be exempt under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as amended

**If yes, is there an Exempt Decision Notice?** No

7. **The Decision:**  
That Director, Economy and Culture in consultation with Head of Legal and Governance approves:
  - The contract being awarded to the first ranked design team supplier, Bidder A, following the completion and subsequent evaluation of bids submitted via competition.

8. **Reasons for the Decision:**  
By investing in the design work up to RIBA stage 3 for the refurbishment of Harrogate Convention Centre (HCC), the Council will have greater cost certainty to make an investment decision on a project that will support its Economic Growth, Self-sufficiency and Carbon Reduction objectives.

The delivery of this project will deliver a major component of the Harrogate Town Centre Masterplan.

HCC contributes strongly to the prosperity of the town, district and wider region. It provides a unique offer to the conference and exhibition market, each year attracting 150,000 visitors with an estimated economic impact of £35m and supports a significant number of jobs and businesses.

However, HCC currently requires a financial subsidy each year from the council. It is in critical need of investment to enable it to perform to its full potential, be sustainable in the increasingly competitive UK events market and to thereby deliver maximum Economic Impact.

Without investment, HCC will decline. It is estimated that the Do Nothing / Do Minimum option will cost at least £19m in long term maintenance and this will not enable the facility to fulfil its potential.

Full redevelopment of the venue is essential to maximise event and visitor numbers, maximise income in line with the new HCC Business Strategy and further increase the positive economic impact to the district. However, given the significant capital costs and risks associated with this approach, it is considered that redevelopment should be delivered in two key phases. This provides the opportunity to bring forward Phase 1 as a priority whilst exploring the potential to sequentially progress Phase 2 as part of a combined project.

Investment in HCC is key to the district's Covid-19 economic recovery and is an important element of the Council's Economic Recovery Plan. The Convention Centre is a significant driver of economic impact across the district and beyond and its success is a key way of restoring economic recovery, ensuring that Harrogate can capitalise on its unique offer to secure business and attract visitors to support the district's economy.

Further work is now required to progress detailed feasibility and design to RIBA stage 3.

**9. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:**

Not to invest in design development work to RIBA stage 3 – this is recommended for rejection because that approach would not provide the cost certainty needed to allow Harrogate Borough Council to make a significant investment decision.

**10. Is this a Key Decision: Yes**

**If yes, please state Forward Plan reference number:** Key Decision No. 11HCC20

**Part B – Key Decisions Only – to be completed by Democratic Services**

**11. Is the decision subject to call in: Yes**

**12. End of the Call-In Period: 4.30 pm on Friday 19 February 2021**