

 Brent	Cabinet 30 May 2022
	Report from the Director of Finance
Authority to Award Contracts for the Purchase of Gas and Electricity (October 2022 to September 2024)	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Key Decision
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Part Exempt - Appendix A is exempt as it contains information relating to the financial affairs of the Council and as such falls under category of exempt information as set out in Paragraph 3, Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act
No. of Appendices:	One Appendix A (exempt): Laser PIA Contractual Arrangements
Background Papers:	None
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1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report requests authority to award contracts as required by Contract Standing Order 88. This report describes the reasons for the award of those contracts as referred to within paragraphs 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 of this report. The report also summarises the process required to procure and award those contracts.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

That Cabinet:

- 2.1 approves the award of a contract for the supply of electricity to NPower Limited for two years as from 1st October 2022 via a call-off from LASER Framework Y18003, and

- 2.2 approves the award of a contract for the supply of gas to Total Gas and Power for two years from 1st October 2022 via a call-off from the LASER Framework Y18002, and
- 2.3 that alternatively to the recommendations at paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2, approves the award of contracts for gas and electricity to the next ranked Suppliers on Lot 1 of each of the Frameworks referred to at paragraph 5, if NPower Limited or Total Gas and Power cannot, or do not accept the offer of a Council contract. Such award shall be in accordance with the offer and award process described in Section 7 of this report; and
- 2.4 approves the Council's entry into an amended Access Agreement with Kent County Council referred to in paragraphs 7.11 and 7.12 below, to enable its participation and purchase of gas and electricity from the Frameworks referred to at paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 above; and
- 2.5 supports Brent's active engagement with the "Renewable Power 4 London Action Plan" work stream, which aims to procure public sector energy for London Public Sector Bodies that is 100% renewable, through collaboration, with the ultimate aim of having a Power Purchase Agreement in place that Boroughs can procure renewable energy from, starting from autumn 2024 (or spring 2025).

3.0 Detail and brief summary of decision

- 3.1 The current bulk energy contracts for the London Borough of Brent ("the Council") stem from Orders ("Call Off Contracts") placed in 2020 under existing LASER Framework Agreements. LASER are a Public Buying Organisation ("PBO") who have managed gas and electricity supply contracts on behalf of the Council.
- 3.2 The Suppliers then appointed by the Council were Total Gas and Power for gas, and Npower for electricity supply. These LASER Frameworks last for four years and expire on 30th September 2024. The Council however chose a shorter two year energy supply period for the current Call Off Contracts with a supply expiry date of 30th September 2022.
- 3.3 Therefore, the Council needs to make new arrangements for the supply of gas and electricity as from 1st October 2022.
- 3.4 The key objectives for the energy re-procurement project have been to:
- achieve an optimal overall price for the required energy usage and associated services (made up of commodity costs, non-commodity costs, and supplier fees)
 - to maximise the beneficial additional services included in the price that enable good practice energy management i.e. to achieve further energy and financial savings, and
 - to achieve the Council's environmental objectives, including consideration of how to move towards procuring zero carbon energy (to meet Brent's Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy goals including net zero carbon emissions by 2030)

- 3.5 Brent Council commissioned Cornwall Insight to support its review of the ability of LASER to secure value for money for the Council through the energy procurement policy LASER undertook on its behalf, and to undertake a review of the Council's energy procurement strategy to ensure that it remains market-reflective and fit for purpose. This is titled 'Brent Council Energy Procurement Strategy Evaluation Report'. Cornwall Insight are an independent consultancy who provide energy market knowledge and expertise, which we have utilised to provide us with a deep insight to help us prove our energy strategy is viable.
- 3.6 The Council's corporate buildings, street lighting, and housing properties are included in the contract. Many of Brent's schools also opt in to the arrangement.
- 3.7 The factors that have driven the choice of the LASER PIA Frameworks include:
- a) Brent Council have commissioned Cornwall Insight to support our review of the ability of LASER to secure value for money for the Council through the energy procurement policy LASER undertook on our behalf, and the report has concluded that LASER's procurement is fit for purpose, is achieving prices better than market average, and is offering a range of additional services that are proving valuable to the Council.
 - b) LASER is successfully using a purchasing approach designed to reduce the overall market risk faced by LASER and, in turn, the Council.
 - c) LASER's policy utilises a structure which Cornwall Insight would expect for an organisation of LASER's stature, while the trading approach used by LASER is well-practised across the energy sector.
 - d) the Purchase in Advance (PIA) buying strategy offers budget certainty, which is especially important for school sites due to the need to achieve budget certainty in advance of the start of the financial year.
 - e) LASER's existing service provision is aligned with the core elements of the Council's Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy, in terms of zero carbon energy options offered.
 - f) contracting for the period 2022/23 onwards will occur against the backdrop of record high wholesale energy costs and market volatility, and the PIA strategy mitigates against the risk of further energy price rises in the short-medium term.
 - g) the limited time left until October 2022 for a full standalone tender by the Council and the speed offered by the Framework's ordering processes: given public procurement tender timescales, resourcing, the nature of the Council's estate and the need to ensure "clean" data for any tender, Cornwall Insight would not anticipate that this would take less than 12 months.
 - h) PBOs such as LASER have an advantage over private sector Third Party Intermediaries (TPIs) regarding experience of meeting public procurement regulations due to historically being designed for the public sector.

- i) the benefits offered because of the economies of scale; and
- j) the flexibility and benefits of the Management method sub-options ('Fully Managed' and 'Purchase Only') offered by LASER

4.0 Alternative options considered

- 4.1 Officers have reviewed a range of alternative purchasing options to the LASER Public Buying Organisation (PBO) frameworks – Purchase in Advance (PIA) buying strategy for the procurement of energy as listed below.

The options examined were:

- a) LASER Public Buying Organisation (PBO) frameworks – Purchase in Advance (PIA) buying strategy (**recommended**)
 - b) LASER – Purchase within Period (PWP) buying strategy (not recommended)
 - c) LASER – Flexible Set and Reset (FSAR) and Price Certainty (PC) buying strategies (not recommended)
 - d) Change provider from LASER, to another PBO/TPI (not recommended)
- 4.2 For the reasons stated in paragraph 3.7 and Section 5 of this report, the LASER PIA frameworks were regarded as the best procurement route for the Council in relation to the Call Off Contracts referred to at paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 of this Report.

5.0 Reasons for recommending the LASER-direct PIA framework

- 5.1 This section is based on the conclusions and recommendations of the Cornwall Insight report, which broadly support using LASER as a PBO to procure Brent's energy. It is a brief account of the benefits highlighted for the LASER PIA option.
- 5.2 LASER procures 100% of its electricity and gas on behalf of the Council using the PIA Strategy that have been agreed in advance.
- 5.3 Cornwall Insight have carried out an assessment of how LASER executed their trading strategy on behalf of Brent.
- 5.4 Cornwall Insight's analysis indicates that LASER has achieved an outcome for the Council that is market-reflective. A "market-reflective" outcome represents a commercially reasonable outcome given market conditions and LASER's collective skills and capabilities.
- 5.5 Their assessment of outcomes under the PIA Strategy indicates LASER has, over the review period, typically achieved prices for the Council that are better than those which it could have achieved with a mechanistic application of the Strategy, meaning LASER achieved better than market average prices.

Price	Discount (-) or Premium (+) achieved by LASER vs. Calculated (Market average) Price (%)
PIA Gas – 2020/21	-13.2 %
PIA Gas – 2021/22	-21.8 %
PIA Electricity – 2020/21 Baseload	-23.3 %
PIA Electricity – 2021/22 Baseload	-24.5 %
PIA Electricity – 2020/21 Peak	-4.5 %
PIA Electricity – 2021/22 Peak	+10.1 %

- 5.6 They note the extent to which the volumes purchased increased during Summer 2020, a decision attributed to the low prices resulting from the lockdowns due to COVID-19. This shows LASER have used sound judgement in when to buy tranches of energy, to outperform the market average prices.
- 5.7 Their view of LASER's management fees is that they are broadly within the range that they would anticipate for comparable services from a PBO. It is important to note in any case that management fees are typically only 1-2% of the total delivered energy price. Therefore a provider's management fees are of minor price significance, compared to them achieving good wholesale prices through skilled and experienced purchasing of energy and a sound strategy.
- 5.8 In addition to the purchasing of energy, LASER's frameworks offer energy-as-a-service propositions which could be used to support the implementation of the Council's Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy.
- 5.9 Within PBO providers, LASER has been classified in their report as 'Premium service' provider. This means they offer the most additional services of any PBOs, with much closer ties with customers. Services include access to portals, regular meetings with customers and suppliers to review performance, query management, managing payments to suppliers, and analysis of customer sites for savings on the bill charges.
- 5.10 LASER does indeed offer several valuable additional services to Brent officers already, including: bill validation, consolidated billing, query resolution, dedicated account and customer service managers, monthly account status reports, weekly market outlook video updates, annual forecast tools, and procurement advice.
- 5.11 Cornwall Insight's report has provided ample insight into the energy procurement landscape, including giving the names and details of all of the PBOs and four major TPIs offering energy procurement services, and an introduction to the range of additional services that these offer. This information will be valuable for the next procurement phase starting in 2024, and the Energy Manager and Energy Team will use this information to begin a full detailed assessment of the energy supplier options available immediately after completion of this procurement process, in consultation with stakeholders.

6.0 Low carbon energy procurement options

- 6.1 It is a key priority for the council to decarbonise its energy supply as fully as possible by 2030 in order to meet our net zero carbon target. The following represents Cornwall Insight's high-level assessment of the Council's approach to the procurement of low carbon ("green") energy and potential options for this going forward:

Renewable Energy Guarantee of Origin (REGO)

- 6.2 A common approach currently used in the public and private sector is to purchase renewable electricity backed by accredited Renewable Energy Guarantee of Origin (REGO) certificates. However, the use of REGOs as a means by which to demonstrate low carbon procurement is under governmental review amid concerns of "greenwashing", while the practice itself is also considered to yield limited benefit in terms of its ability to support new build renewable generation and the inability to wholly link the power generated to the certificate itself (the principle of "additionality"). As such, they may not represent an enduring means by which to purchase low carbon energy.
- 6.3 REGOs are currently subject to regulatory reform to address the "greenwashing" concerns, and so it is recommended that they are not bought until such time as they are shown to be effective.

Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs)

- 6.4 Alternative options are becoming increasingly attractive, with the Council having already considered PPAs as a means by which to directly source renewable generation. Power Purchase Agreements are direct investments in at-source renewable energy generation, usually solar or wind farms, which would not otherwise be built without that investment. Therefore PPAs are both genuinely zero carbon and satisfy the principle of "additionality".
- 6.5 PPAs are inherently complex and to date, although more common in the USA and in the private sector, are very rare in the UK public sector with only one or two authorities currently using PPA agreements to procure renewable zero carbon energy.
- 6.6 They are available in varying durations from less than 12 months to 10-15 years or in some circumstances up to 40 years, with specific provisions to be agreed with regard to the wholesale price and the relative sharing of risk across the counterparties.
- 6.7 Cornwall Insight note that the existing LASER framework agreements include the ability to establish PPAs should the Council wish to engage through this route.
- 6.8 In addition, Brent is already actively engaged with the "Renewable Power 4 London Action Plan" being led by Islington Council, work stream 'Accessing or buying more affordable renewable energy', which aims to procure public sector energy for London Public Sector Bodies that is 100% renewable, through collaboration. One of the key issues for this work stream is how to navigate the

complexities of multiple-organisation procurement whilst maximising the benefits of public sector collaboration. RP4L has already set out a detailed plan of action over the next two years, and holding multi-Borough meetings every 1-2 months, with the ultimate aim of having a PPA in place that Boroughs can procure renewable energy from, starting from autumn 2024 (or spring 2025).

- 6.9 Brent's approach to low carbon energy procurement is therefore to proceed with active engagement with the "Renewable Power 4 London Action Plan", with the ultimate aim of having a Power Purchase Agreement in place starting from autumn 2024 or spring 2025, whilst also keeping a watching brief on REGO green energy certificates and reconsidering their purchase, if after regulatory reform, they begin genuinely contributing to the principle of 'additionality'.

7.0 Description of the LASER Framework

- 7.1 Each Framework Agreement is divided into two Lots (Lots 1 and 2). It is proposed that the Council only purchase gas and electricity under Lot 1 of each of the relevant Framework Agreements.
- 7.2 Therefore, this report seeks approval for the award of a contract under Lot 1 of the existing LASER electricity Framework Y18003, for flexible procurement and supply of electricity the existing Framework Agreements referred to at paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 of this report for half hourly, non-half hourly metered and unmetered supply electricity with meter operations and additional services. This Lot allows for the purchase of optional additional services in respect of renewable energy, AMR, data aggregation, data collection, demand side response, power purchase agreements, battery storage, electric vehicle facilities and energy services if required.
- 7.3 In respect of gas supply and services, the Council is seeking permission to award a contract under Lot 1 of the LASER gas supply and services framework Y18002 for flexible procurement and supply of gas for daily metered and non-daily metered including product class 1, 2, 3 and 4 with additional services. This Lot allows for the purchase of optional additional services such as green gas, AMR, gas purchase agreements, and energy services, if required.
- 7.4 The Suppliers appointed to Lot 1 of Electricity Framework No Y18003 were NPower, Total GP, and EDF Energy. The Suppliers appointed to Lot 1 of Gas Framework Y18002 were Total GP and Corona Energy.
- 7.5 The existing LASER Frameworks allow the Council to enter into contracts with one of the Suppliers on each Lot 1 in one of two ways. The Council can either:-
- a) place a contract directly with one of the multiple Suppliers without holding a mini-competition ("direct award process") between them.

The direct award procedure requires that the Council first offers a Contract to the Supplier whose tender was judged the most economically advantageous in terms of quality and price criteria and ranked first (amongst all those Bidders who bid for appointment as Supplier to these Framework Agreements) when the new Frameworks were let in 2018.

If that Supplier is unable to accept the Council's direct offer of a Contract, then, the next-ranked Supplier qualifies for direct award.

or,

- b) a Supplier may be chosen after a mini-tender competition between all of the Suppliers to each Lot for the Council's contract ("mini-competition").

7.6 This report proposes the award of contracts using the direct award process.

- a) The direct award route is more expeditious than mini-competition.
- b) As represented in the existing Frameworks, it is procurement-compliant.
- c) The suppliers to whom contracts are offered directly first, such as NPower and Total GP, have already proven themselves as the best bidder in terms of quality and price amongst those chosen as supplier for each Lot. If they are unable to accept the offer, the Council is assured that the contract will be offered to the next best-ranked bidder. So price and quality remain factors that govern which supplier is offered the Council's contracts, even in the absence of competition between the suppliers on each of the Lots that the Council is purchasing from directly.

7.7 If the recommendations in this report are approved, NPower will first be offered a new electricity supply and services contract with the Council and TOTAL GP will first be offered a new gas supply and services contract.

7.8 The next ranked Suppliers on Lot 1 of the new electricity Framework are Total GP, then EDF Energy. The next ranked Supplier on Lot 1 of the new gas Framework is Corona Energy.

7.9 All those offered contracts will receive the Council's service requirements and will agree the price payable for that service in accordance with the prices set within the new Framework Agreements.

7.10 The estimated total value of the Call Off Contracts for which approval is sought is an estimated £14m for electricity and gas, over the two-year supply period referred to above. A breakdown of the total amount of Council spend in 2021/22, and forecast for 2022-24, is shown in paragraph 8.1 below.

7.11 In order to participate in the consortium and framework-buying arrangements referred to in this report; the Council is required to enter into an amended Access Agreement with Kent County Council acting as LASER. The amended Access Agreement will permit the Council to access those gas and electricity supplies and services referred to in this report. It also records those obligations that this Council and Kent County Council will owe each other for the duration of the Call Off Contracts or Order referred to in this report, and the services that Kent County Council, acting as LASER, will provide to this Council in respect of the flexible procurement options referred to in this report.

- 7.12 The Access Agreement is amended to reflect the change in dates. The Variation will detail the extension of the initial Access Agreement term, which commenced on 1st October 2020 and ends on 30th September 2022. The purpose of the variation will be the extension of initial Access Agreement term until 30th September 2024. It will also entail an appendix for the initial Access Agreement, for the Site Schedule with revised end dates of 30th September 2024.

8.0 Financial Implications

- 8.1 The main report recommends a two year new Purchase In Advance (PIA) basket energy supply contract with LASER, for electricity and gas.
- 8.2 Total Brent LASER energy contract spend in 2021/22 was £4.5m and the breakdown is set out in the table below, along with the forecast spends for the next two years and total forecast contract value.

Type	Actual Spend 2021/22 (£)	Forecast spend 2022/23 (£)	Forecast spend 2023/24** (£)	> Forecast total spend 2022-24 (£)
Corporate	1.12m elec + 0.16m gas = 1.28m	2.6m	1.3m	3.9m
Street lighting	0.90m elec	1.8m	0.9m	2.7m
Housing	*0.63m elec + 0.12m gas = 0.75m	1.7m	0.7m	2.4m
Schools	1.03m elec + 0.53m gas = 1.56m	3.6m	1.6m	5.2m
TOTAL	4.5m	9.7m	4.5m	14.2m

*Housing actual spend is 2020/21 data

**2023/24 forecast not available, this based on forecast by Cornwall Insight, however more recent forecasts indicate 2023/24 prices will fall from 2022/23 but still remain above 2021/22 levels

- 8.3 The cost of these contracts will be funded from the relevant department's budgets, or directly in the case of schools.
- 8.4 As the Council is currently under contract for the period to September 2022, any contract for the period 2022/23 is set to come into force at a time of record high wholesale prices, which will be reflected in delivered rates. The main reasons for the increased prices are:
- a global shortage of energy supply due to a stronger than expected economic global recovery from COVID;
 - low gas storage levels in the UK and across Europe;
 - constricted gas supplies flowing into Europe from Russia; and
 - more recently, the Russian invasion of Ukraine affecting supplies, and the longer-term uncertain outlook, including around the length of the war, and the effect of possible fuel embargoes by Europe on Russian supplies
- 8.5 Contracting on an annual basis in line with the PIA Strategy currently implies that an upward step-change will be seen in delivered rates for 2022/23 before

(as currently forecast) a corresponding downward step-change in 2023/24. The period from 2024/25 onwards is forecast to see comparative stability in delivered energy rates against the preceding two years.

- 8.6 It is important to note that the figures above are just an indication of price rises, because Brent has bought none of its energy for 2022/23 yet, and with the market volatility currently so high, prices could change between now and the buying window, which will only open for Brent once the contract procurement process has been completed.
- 8.7 Given the volatility and high prices currently experienced within the energy markets, the 2022/23 medium term financial strategy (MTFS) has allowed growth of £690k to cover the corporate and street lighting energy costs. However, this growth is unlikely to be sufficient to cover the increased prices for 2022/23, therefore the additional cost will need to be funded through the use of reserves.
- 8.8 For 2023/24 and beyond, the budget setting process will need to accommodate the predicted higher costs as a result of the additional external factors of energy costs.
- 8.9 Section 5.0 of the report (above) describes the assurances around value for money.

9.0 Legal Implications

- 9.1 Due approval was given to commence dialogue with Kent County Council regarding procurement from the LASER frameworks under delegated authority by the Director of Finance on 20 April 2020 in accordance with paragraph 9.5.3 of the Scheme of Delegation (Part 3 of the Constitution) and, as required by Contract Standing Order 88 (Authority to Go Out to Tender).
- 9.2 That approval was preceded by the receipt of permission from the Director of HR, Legal and Audit and Investigations for the Council's use of these third party-let frameworks as required under Contract Standing Order, 86(e) (ii) (Contracts not Subject to Full Tendering Requirements).
- 9.3 Because of Contract Standing Order 86 (e), the Council does not need to conduct a tendering exercise in its own name before placing the call off contracts referred to in the Recommendations in this report.
- 9.4 According to Regulation 86, and Regulation 33 of the Public Contract Regulations 2015, the Council is nevertheless required to follow the award procedures set out within a framework agreement for the award of a Call off Contract.
- 9.5 The direct award procedure complies with Regulation 86 in that it reflects the award procedures set out in the new LASER Framework Agreements referred to in this report. It also complies with the requirements of Regulation 33 for direct awards on a multiple supplier Framework. Therefore, any direct award made as proposed in this report will be compliant with procurement law and the Council's internal Standing Orders.

- 9.6 As detailed in paragraph 7.10, the estimated total value of the Call Off Contracts for which approval is sought is an estimated £14m for electricity and gas, over the two-year supply period referred to above. The electricity is the significantly higher value of the two. However, as the value for the supply of gas also exceeds the relevant threshold, the Call Off Contracts for electricity and gas are both classed as a High Value Contracts under the Council's Contract Standing Orders.

Pursuant to Contract Standing Order 86, Cabinet approval is required for the award of any Call Off Contract from the Frameworks.

- 9.7 If Cabinet approves the contract award decisions sought in this report, then the appropriate period must be allowed to elapse for a Call In of the Cabinet decision by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, before any award decision is implemented in accordance with Contract Standing Order 14.

10.0 Equality Implications

- 10.1 The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
- c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it,

pursuant to s149 Equality Act 2010. This is known as the Public Sector Equality Duty.

- 10.2 The Public Sector Equality Duty covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, marriage and civil partnership, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

- 10.3 The purpose of the duty is to enquire into whether a proposed decision disproportionately affects people with a protected characteristic. In other words, the indirect discriminatory effects of a proposed decision. Due regard is the regard that is appropriate in all the circumstances.

- 10.4 There are no specific diversity implications arising from this report and its recommendations at this time.

- 10.5 Equality implications will continue to be considered throughout the supply period.

11.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

- 11.1 Consultation meetings with the Energy Team and other Council Officer stakeholders have been held twice, the first in November 2021 and second in April 2022. The stakeholders have represented each of the stakeholder groups

corporate, street lighting, housing and schools, plus finance, legal, procurement and governance.

- 11.2 The first meeting was to discuss the context of energy buying, and decision parameters for next steps, plus getting feedback from stakeholders how they all wanted to be involved in the process and answering questions on what is a complex area. One of the key recommendations from the first meeting was to commission the independent report into Brent's energy procurement strategy and evaluating the current LASER procurement method and highlight several alternative providers.
- 11.3 The second meeting was co-presented by the Energy Team and the appointed consultant Cornwall Insight, to present the findings of their report and recommend next steps including the preferred procurement method for 2022-24.

12.0 Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)

- 12.1 There are no staffing implications including TUPE and Pensions.
- 12.2 There are no property implications.

13.0 Environmental Sustainability Implications

- 13.1 In Brent Council's Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy, the Council has committed to lead by example in achieving net zero by 2030 in its own buildings and operations. To achieve this, there are three stages: improving energy efficiency, installing renewable energy, and procuring green energy for the remaining demand.
- 13.2 For the first and second stages, we have Heat Decarbonisation Plans already in place, which will guide our programme in firstly reducing energy as far as possible through energy efficiency, and secondly producing our own renewable energy via either solar panels on our roofs where feasible, or through maximising use of our self-generation biofuel Combined Cooling, Heat and Power (CCHP) plant in the Civic Centre.
- 13.3 Achieving the third stage: procuring green energy for the remaining energy, is addressed in Section 6 of this report. Brent's approach to low carbon energy procurement is therefore to proceed with active engagement with the "Renewable Power 4 London Action Plan", with the ultimate aim of having a Power Purchase Agreement in place starting from autumn 2024 or spring 2025, whilst also keeping a watching brief on REGO green energy certificates and reconsidering their purchase, if after regulatory reform, they begin genuinely contributing to the principle of 'additionality'.

14.0 Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012

- 14.1 The Council is under duty pursuant to the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 ("the Social Value Act") to consider how services being procured might improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of its area; how, in conducting the procurement process, the Council might act with a view to

securing that improvement; and whether the Council should undertake consultation. This duty does not strictly apply to the proposed contract as it is not a services contract. Nevertheless, Officers have had regard to considerations contained in the Social Value Act in relation to the procurement and in selecting the LASER frameworks, Officers noted that Kent County Council was able to secure social value innovations when setting up the frameworks.

Report sign off:

Minesh Patel

Director of Finance.