

<b>Meeting Name:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
<b>Date:</b>	4 November 2024
<b>Report title:</b>	Scrutiny Call-in: Gateway 1 Housing – Procurement Support and Supply Chain Management System  (Cabinet, 15 October 2024)
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>	All
<b>Classification:</b>	Open
<b>Reason for lateness (if applicable):</b>	N/a
<b>From:</b>	Head of Scrutiny

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That overview and scrutiny committee consider the scrutiny call-ins of the cabinet decision in respect of the Gateway 1 Housing – Procurement Support and Supply Chain Management System.
2. That having considered the call-ins, the overview and scrutiny committee decide on the appropriate course of action as outlined in paragraph 11 and 12 of the report (potential outcomes available to the call-in meeting).

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. On 15 October 2024 cabinet considered a report 'Gateway 1 Housing – Procurement Support and Supply Chain Management System'. The cabinet agreed:
  1. That the procurement strategy of a direct award from the procurement for housing's social housing emerging disruptors framework to Plentific Ltd. for their supply chain and procurement management solution platform dynamic purchasing system at a total cost of £1,439,700 be approved.
  2. That the purchase for a period of three years, with the option of a one-year extension be approved.
  3. That the process for placing orders for works up to £6.45m per annum (£25.8m over four years) through the platform, once established, which will be monitored and reported as detailed in the report be approved.
  4. That it be noted that the Plentific Ltd. solution platform is intended to be used in lieu of the council's approved list for repair works for the specific areas of spend covered by this gateway report. It is not intended to be

used as a substitute for any works currently delivered by directly employed staff.

5. That this report as a gateway 1 approval for any individual works order that exceeds £100,000 be approved.
6. That the gateway 2 contract award decisions be delegated to the strategic director for housing, in consultation with the strategic director of resources.

## **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

4. A request for a 'call-in' can be made in relation to an executive decision which has been made but not yet implemented by the following:
  - a) the cabinet
  - b) an individual member of the cabinet
  - c) a committee of the cabinet
  - d) an executive decision taken by an individual member
  - e) a key decision made by an officer with delegated authority.
5. This enables the overview and scrutiny committee to consider whether the decision is appropriate.
6. It is for the overview and scrutiny committee to decide what evidence to consider and take into account when considering the call-in. The committee should however be mindful of the grounds for call-in and the specific decision(s) the call-in relates to when considering whether the decision is appropriate.
7. The committee should also be mindful of the provisions contained in the Council constitution which enable interested parties to make representations to a decision maker ahead of a decision and the onus on the decision maker to have regard to representations received when taking a decision. The committee should therefore as far as practicable not introduce new issues or rehearse points that have previously been made to the decision maker.

## **Call-in requests**

8. Requests for call-ins have been received from two groups of councillors. On 23 October 2024, Councillor Victor Chamberlain requested a call-in of the decision. The call-in was supported by Councillors Irina von Wiese, Rachel Bentley, Jane Salmon and David Watson. Separately, also on 23 October 2024, Councillor Sam Foster requested a call-in of the decision. The call-in was supported by Councillors Suzanne Abachor, Laura Johnson, Reginald Popoola and Sabina Emmanuel.

Call-in context – both call-in requests cover similar grounds in respect of concerns around value for money, fees to the council, unknown costs, back office staff resources, consultation with stakeholders, and financial risk. Full detail in respect of the call-in requests are contained as Appendix 1 and 2 of the report.

## Comments of the Head of Scrutiny

9. In requesting the call-in of a decision, the requesters of the call-in are required to indicate and give reasons for why they believe the principles of decision making set out in Article 1.3 of the constitution has failed to be applied.
10. In reviewing the call-in requests, the grounds for call-in were considered to be valid for the reasons set out in the call-in request forms. The call-in will allow the overview and scrutiny committee to seek clarification on issues around consultation, and the opportunity to explore the risks highlighted in the requests.

## Potential outcomes available to the call-in meeting

11. If, having considered the decision and all relevant advice, the committee is still concerned about it then it may either:
  - a) refer it back to the decision making person or body for reconsideration, setting out in writing the nature of its concerns, or
  - b) refer the matter to council assembly if the decision is deemed to be outside the policy and budget framework.
  - c) not refer the matter back to the decision making person or body but decide to undertake a subsequent review of a policy or service issue, which shall not affect the implementation of the decision, or
  - d) not refer the matter back to the decision making person or body.
12. In an outcome of c) and d) above, the decision shall take effect on the date of the scrutiny meeting. Notice of the decision will be issued to all councillors and published on the council's website.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Cabinet report – (attached as an Appendix)		

## APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Scrutiny call-in request form – Councillor Victor Chamberlain
Appendix 2	Scrutiny call-in request form – Councillor Sam Foster
Appendix 3	Cabinet report, Gateway 1 Housing – Procurement Support and Supply Chain Management System (open report)

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Everton Roberts, Head of Scrutiny	
<b>Report Author</b>	Everton Roberts	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	25 October 2024	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments Included</b>
Assistant Chief Executive, Governance and Assurance	No	No
Strategic Director, Finance	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Scrutiny Team</b>	25 October 2024	