

DECISION TAKER: Councillor Neil Cutler, Cabinet Member for Finance & Performance

REPORT TITLE: EXTENSION OF INSURANCE CONTRACT

4 DECEMBER 2023

Contact Officer: Liz Keys Tel No: 01962 848226 Email lkeys@winchester.gov.uk

WARD(S): ALL

DECISION:

1. That an Exception to Contract Procedure Rules to enter into a further 12-month extension of the Long-Term Agreement (LTA) for Insurance Services and associated policies (contracts) from 1 April 2024, be approved.
2. That Authority be delegated to the Corporate Head of Finance (s151 Officer) in consultation with the Service Lead – Legal Services (Interim) to seek insurance premiums for the period 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025 and enter into the policies (contracts).
3. That Authority be delegated to the Corporate Head of Finance to review and progress options recommended by the Hampshire Insurance Forum (HIF) for insurance policies from April 2025 onwards.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance for an extension to the council's current insurance policies (contracts) for a further period of 12 months from 1 April 2024. By extending the term it is in the best interests of the council as detailed within this report.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

1. The council could choose not to agree to an extension of the LTA and conduct a tender process in isolation. This would not secure the council best value as we would not benefit from the economies of scale released through the collaborative arrangement. The state of the market will soften in future,

although there is no set timing when the hard market ends, this will potentially result in better premiums and renewal terms if an approach to the market is made next year rather than now.

2. In addition, insurance broker Arthur J Gallagher have advised that there is currently a large increase in the number of public insurance tenders due to Covid delays and the market is flooded. Demand is expected to fall over the next few months and an extension and later tender to the market from HIF could attract better terms and/or a higher number of tenders returned.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

DISPENSATION GRANTED BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE:

None

APPROVED BY: Neil Cutler

DATE: 04.12.2023

**COUNCILLOR NEIL CUTLER – DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE**