

**REPORT TO NORTHERN ROADS COLLABORATION JOINT COMMITTEE – 18
MAY 2018**

COLLABORATIVE OPTIONS FOR DESIGN SERVICES

1 Recommendations

The Joint Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 Note the progress to date on exploring collaborative options for design services; and**
- 1.2 Endorse the use of a Memorandum of Understanding between the member authorities for collaboration on design/supervisory services.**

2 Background/Discussion

- 2.1 Currently, if one authority requires additional design resource for a project it would obtain this from consultants outside the Local Authority community. Recent consultation within the Northern Collaboration area has shown that, depending on the budget availability, there may be temporary spare capacity in some Authorities. This could be utilised by other Councils requiring a temporary increase in design resource.
- 2.2 Instead of creating a specific contract between two Councils the use of a Memorandum of Understanding is recommended as the preferred option going forward. Each member authority would have to option to sign up to the agreement which would allow any two members authorities of the Northern Roads Collaboration Joint Committee to quickly agree on a collaborative effort for design/supervisory services. Remuneration for the provision of the design/supervisory services would need to be agreed separately.
- 2.3 The terms of the Memorandum of Understanding will be considered and reviewed by the member authorities who will have the option as to whether they wish to participate. The Joint Committee is asked to endorse the use of the Memorandum of Understanding as the preferred option for collaboration on design services.
- 2.4 The Joint Committee's Legal Monitoring Officer within Aberdeenshire Council and Financial Monitoring Officer within the Highland Council have been consulted in the preparation of this report and had no comments to make. They are satisfied that the report complies relevant legislation.

3 Implications and Risk

- 3.1 An equality impact assessment is not required because its purpose is to set out the strategic direction for collaboration and there will be no differential impact, as a result of the report, on people with protected characteristics. However, every action which results as a consequence of this report which has the potential to have a differential impact on different

groups will need an Equality Impact Assessment undertaken in due course.

- 3.2 There are no staffing and financial implications in terms of this report. Implications may arise should agreements progress between member authorities.
- 3.3 Risks such as liability are covered in the Memorandum of Understanding. Each member authority will have the opportunity to consider and take their own advice prior to agreeing to sign up to the Memorandum.

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