

## **Use of the Council's urgency processes involving a waiver of the Call-In process.**

Council is asked to note the decision taken and the reasons for urgency.

### **1. Decision: Confirmation of the Extension of the Ernst and Young Contract for the Supply of services to support the delivery and transformation of a Council Wide Procurement and Commissioning Hub**

#### **1.1 Reason for Urgency:**

The Council had an option to extend the existing contract with Ernst and Young for a further 12 weeks. This was highlighted in the 15 November 2016 Cabinet paper, the tender documentation and the decision report that completed the initial contract award in January 2016.

The reasons for urgency in terms of implementation of the decision were as follows:

The Council had made good progress in preparation of the proposed tender for a long term co-management partner for Procurement, Commissioning and Market Management. It was at the time envisaged this tender would be issued the week following, following consideration by the Council Management Board. In order to provide clarity and transparency to the market on the tender opportunity, the Council needed to be in a position where it could confirm that the existing contract had already been extended and its revised end date – this information was important to the bidders in terms of their own bidding planning. Hence the need for the final decision by the 31 March 2016.

By completing the extension at that time the Council was able to provide this clarity – and were in a position to extend the existing Ernst and Young contract at the same time as issuing the long term tender. Taking the decision by the 31 March 2016 meant that the Council could formally confirm the end date of the Ernst and Young contract within the tender sending a stronger message to the market around the desire for an open and competitive process.

It was not possible for the decision to be taken beforehand in order to allow sufficient time for call in, because the Council wished to ensure that that performance of the existing contract over the Easter Weekend was able to form part of the Council's assessment of current delivery.

The use of the Council's Waiver of Call in procedure was approved by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4 April 2016.