

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Countryside and Regulatory Services
Date:	18 September 2023
Title:	Energy Supply Contracts
Report From:	Director of Universal Services

Contact name: Keith Heard

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1. The decision:

1.1. That approval is given to procure, spend and to enter into any contractual arrangements, for the provision of electricity and gas from the LASER Energy Framework Agreement for the period of April 2025 to March 2029 up to a value of £155 million over four years, of which £11m per annum will be spent on the Hampshire County Council Corporate Estate, to be funded from Directorate Revenue budgets, and the remainder to be spent and funded by external partners including schools.

2. Reason for the decision:

2.1. The current energy supply agreements expire at the end of March 2025. The current strategy is to progressively purchase volume of gas and electricity up to two years in advance in order to minimise the risk of major market movements in price, manage risk to the County Council, and give predictability of costs to Directorates and external partners. Anticipated volumes to winter 2024 have been procured under the current framework arrangement, but in order for Summer and Winter 2025 volumes to be progressively purchased, agreement to a new arrangement is needed by September 2023 following which, access agreements and call off contracts will be signed.

2.2 Whilst the progressive purchasing of volume will commence directly after the signing of the access agreements and call off contracts in September 2023, all of the spend is for the supply period from April 2025 to March 2029.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1. Procuring directly with Energy providers outside a framework agreement has been rejected because the value and risk associated with this approach would not be comparable with the benefits of a Framework.

3.2 Other frameworks have been considered. However, none of the other frameworks offer greater flexibility for the County Council to influence the

forward purchasing risk strategy, or offer the level of management support, governance, supplier relationship, management and reporting as provided by LASER.

3.2 LASER have re-tendered the framework for 06 January 2023 - 30 September 2028, allowing call off contracts for up to September 2029, and the best value providers are the incumbent suppliers. Thus further competition is not required as the framework allows for direct call off of the most economically advantageous suppliers.

4. Conflicts of interest:

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker:

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted:

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

18 September 2023

**Executive Member for Countryside and Regulatory
Services
Councillor Russell Oppenheimer**