



Record of Officer's Decision

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 and the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Date of Decision:	10/07/2026
Decision Maker (Officer):	Damian Williams, Corporate Director, Operations and Delivery
Authority for Delegated Decision (Cabinet/Committee Decision or Scheme of Delegation – provide reference):	Tendring District Council Constitution – Part 3 (Responsibility for Functions / Scheme of Delegation), Schedule 3 (Executive Functions delegated to Officers), paragraph 4.3(1) – Corporate Directors have delegated authority to discharge executive functions within their respective service areas, subject to appropriate consultation (paragraph 4.3(4)(ii)).
Identify which Portfolio Holder(s)/Committee Chairman consulted?	Portfolio Holder for Housing & Planning – consulted and concurrence obtained.
Ward Member(s) consulted?	N/A
Is it a Key Decision?	No
Is it subject to call-in?	No
Decision Made:	To continue to engage Local Government East (LGE) (on a draw down basis) to provide additional support, challenge and specialist project management to the Housing Service to: • Lead delivery of the Housing Improvement Plan; • Coordinate Preparing for Inspection activity; • Maintain the Consumer Standards evidence and risk register; and • Support inspection-readiness and, if required, inspection and post-inspection activity. • Provide support for the Housing Improvement Board

Reason for Decision (if a report was produced to support the Decision, refer to or attach it):	The Regulator of Social Housing (RSH) can undertake inspection during the current programme window. The Council has undertaken a Mock Inspection and evidenced improvement priorities. Additional specialist project management capacity is required to embed learning, drive delivery of the Improvement Plan and ensure inspection-readiness. Formalising the decision provides a clear governance and audit trail and enables timely mobilisation.
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	Local Government East occupies a long-established position as a regional local-government body, enabling councils to work together in the delivery of shared public-interest objectives. Engagements of this type fall within recognised arrangements that allow public bodies to collaborate directly where the work supports common public purposes, is governed solely by public-interest considerations, and involves no private-sector participation. This provides a lawful and appropriate route for commissioning support without undertaking a separate competitive procurement exercise. The national procurement framework continues to recognise such public-to-public cooperation as an accepted mechanism for accessing specialist capacity where this offers value for money and supports effective service delivery. Local Government East operates on a not-for-profit, cost-recovery basis, and its Talent Bank provides access to experienced professionals who work extensively with councils across the region.
Details of any Alternative Options Considered and rejected (together with reasons):	Option 1, to do nothing, and try to absorb the additional work into existing teams. As mentioned in the concurrence letter, due to the need to restructure to provide additional staffing capacity, this would not be a viable option as it creates a situation where demand outstrips capacity. That could lead to a situation where we undermine the work that the team has currently undertaken. To order to prevent this occurring, it is proposed to retain the services of Local Government East, whose

	support would focus on the five areas shown above. Therefore, this option was rejected. Option 2, to go to market via a procurement exercise to seek this level of support. Given the uncertainty of the inspection timescale and time associated with undertaking a procurement exercise and the specialist nature of the support and challenge needed, this option was rejected.																						
Details of any declarations of interest (by Portfolio Holder/Committee Chairman who was consulted by the officer, which related to the decision) If relevant, a note of the dispensation granted by the Monitoring Officer:	N/A																						
Reason Decision, or supporting Report, is not published: <i>Tick one or more of the specific exemptions,</i> <u>and</u> <i>Give more information in the final box with regards to why the exemption applies and outweighs the public interest test (which is in favour of disclosure).</i>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>√</td><td>Not applicable – Decision [and report] to be published</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">If Report is not to be published – tick one of the following boxes:</td></tr> <tr> <td>☐</td><td>The report supporting the Decision contains confidential information</td></tr> <tr> <td>☐</td><td>The Report supporting the Decision falls within an exemption pursuant to Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 Information:</td></tr> <tr> <td>☐</td><td>• Relates to an individual</td></tr> <tr> <td>☐</td><td>• Likely to reveal the identity of an individual</td></tr> <tr> <td>☐</td><td>• Relating to financial or business affairs of a person or organisation</td></tr> <tr> <td>☐</td><td>• Relates to a claim for legal professional privilege in legal proceedings</td></tr> <tr> <td>☐</td><td>• Reveals that the Council proposes to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or to make an order or direction under any enactment</td></tr> <tr> <td>☐</td><td>• Relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">And is exempt if and so long, as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the</td></tr> </table>	√	Not applicable – Decision [and report] to be published	If Report is not to be published – tick one of the following boxes:		☐	The report supporting the Decision contains confidential information	☐	The Report supporting the Decision falls within an exemption pursuant to Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 Information:	☐	• Relates to an individual	☐	• Likely to reveal the identity of an individual	☐	• Relating to financial or business affairs of a person or organisation	☐	• Relates to a claim for legal professional privilege in legal proceedings	☐	• Reveals that the Council proposes to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or to make an order or direction under any enactment	☐	• Relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime	And is exempt if and so long, as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the	
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	exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information Reasons: [insert]
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Officers

Signed: 

Title: Corporate Director, Operations and Delivery

Signed:

Title:

In consultation with:

Signed:

Portfolio Holder For Housing & Planning

Signed:

Section 151 Officer (if required)

Signed:

Monitoring Officer (if required)

Dated: