

CABINET

24 APRIL 2012

Title: Urgent Action - Procurement of Electricity and Gas Supplies	
Report of the Chief Executive	
Open Report	For Information
Wards Affected: None	Key Decision: No
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Accountable Divisional Director: Tasnim Shawkat, Divisional Director of Legal and Democratic Services	
Accountable Director: Stella Manzie, Chief Executive	
Summary: Attached at Appendix A is a report by the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources in respect of the Council's arrangements for the management and purchase of electricity and gas supplies. As the attached report explains, the service is currently provided through Kent County Council's Utilities Division, LASER. The current contract does not expire until 30 September 2012 but in order for this Council to be named as a participant in a new LASER contract it was necessary to sign up before 31 March 2012. It was not possible to take this matter to the last Cabinet meeting and as it could not wait for a decision at this Cabinet meeting due to the deadline, the Chief Executive considered it to be in the best interests of the Council to deal with the matter under the Urgent Action provisions within the Council's Constitution. The Leader of the Council and the Lead Member of the Public Accounts and Audit Select Committee were consulted prior to the Chief Executive agreeing the proposals on 29 March 2012.	
Recommendation(s) The Cabinet is asked to note the following action taken by the Chief Executive under the urgency procedures contained within paragraph 17 of Article 1, Part B of the Council's Constitution: (i) The appointment of LASER (Kent County Council's Utilities division) as the Council's professional Electricity and Gas procurement provider / broker; (ii) To enter into a four year agreement with LASER for the provision of the management and procurement services for Electricity and Gas to become effective on 1 October 2012; (iii) To adopt the Purchase Within Period (PWP) procurement route to market, which	

would provide the Council with value for money in a fluctuating market;

- (iv) That a bill validation audit be conducted in relation to the previous utilities service to ensure the Council had paid the correct amounts; and
- (v) That an application for dispensation from the Section 20 consultation requirements be made to the Leasehold Valuation Tribunal.

Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:

- Letter and enclosures from the Chief Executive OF 29 March 2012 entitled “Urgent Action under paragraph 17, Article 1, Part B of the Constitution - Procurement of Electricity and Gas Supplies”.

List of appendices:

- **Appendix A** - Report re “Procurement of Electricity and Gas Supplies”