



**PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

**MEETING: GROWTH, INFRASTRUCTURE & RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**MEETING DATE: 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

No.	Petition, deputation or question	Name of Speaker	On Behalf Of
1	Question	Mr David Baker	Rutland Quarry Forum 40 Great Lane Greetham Rutland

**DETAILS**

**Given the performance of NNC during the previous contract period, how has RCC determined that NNC are now competent to provide, recruit and maintain professionally qualified officers for ensuring correct Mineral Planning Development and Policy advice to allow RCC to effectively discharge their legal obligations? This is particularly so as NNC had extreme difficulty in recruiting professionally qualified personnel to undertake policy, monitoring and enforcement duties between 2018 and December 2021, and it is very unclear what has changed within the past number of weeks so they can now fulfil this requirement.**

**RESPONSE**

The response to the Request for Quotations received from North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) has been assessed against the award criteria, and the contract award has been based on this evaluation taking into account responses to further clarifications.

The award criteria include an assessment of staff competencies. The response from NNC set out that the service would be provided by a core team of very experienced and qualified minerals planning staff consisting of the Head of the Unit with over 20 years' experience, a Development Control Manager with over 35 years' experience, Minerals and Waste Local Plan Project Manager with over 15 years' experience, a Principal Planner and a Senior Planner both with in excess of 10 years' experience.

Through their response to clarification on the vacant post of Development Control Officer, NNC have confirmed that the employment of a part time monitoring officer (under a temporary contract) is being pursued. In addition, they have confirmed that if the current post remains vacant monitoring work for Rutland will be prioritised with existing Officers undertaking this.

**Councillor Ian Razzell  
Portfolio Holder for Planning, Highways and Transport**

No.	Petition, deputation or question	Name of Speaker	On Behalf Of
2	Question	Mr Ken Edward	Chair Greetham Parish Council Ivy Farmhouse Great Lane Greetham Rutland
<p><b>DETAILS</b></p> <p><b>Is it proper that RCC should be advised by a contractor who seems unfamiliar with modern day legislation and thereby cause a Parish Council to incur significant legal costs in challenging such poor advice or should RCC be seeking to employ properly qualified and competent planning advisors to ensure RCC complies with its statutory obligations and provides the best possible protection to its residents and environment, whilst enabling developments to be permitted?</b></p> <p><b><u>Supplementary Question</u></b> <b>What makes RCC believe that the situation has changed?</b></p>			
<p><b>RESPONSE</b></p> <p>The award of the contract has followed the Council's contract procedure rules and the evaluation of the one response to the RFQ received, taking account of responses for clarification on this. The experience of the team providing the service to Rutland has been highlighted in the response to the previous question.</p> <p><b><u>Supplementary Response</u></b> If the contract failed, then measures and financial penalties had been built into the contract if performance indicators were not met. The Portfolio Holder had every confidence with the Strategic Director and her team to successfully manage, monitor the contract and address any issues should they arise.</p> <p><b>Councillor Ian Razzell</b> <b>Portfolio Holder for Planning, Highways and Transport</b></p>			