

Decision Maker:	Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer
Decision Title:	Legal services to support Local Government Re-organisation
Decision date:	18 June 2026
Source of delegation:	<p>General delegation under the Council's Constitution: Part 7.2, Scheme of Delegation to Officer section 6.4(c):</p> <p>"Consult with and instruct counsel, solicitors and other experts for legal proceedings, public inquiries, and other matters involving the Council, and the negotiation and settlement of legal disputes on behalf of the Council, the Cabinet, committees of the Council or officers and arrangements for their representation in any court, public inquiry or other forum where they consider formal representation to be proper, including the incurring of such fees in respect thereof as may be appropriate;"</p>
What decision was made?:	To award a contract to Browne Jacobson for the provision of legal services to support the delivery of LGR. The estimated value of the contract is up to £850K.
Purpose:	The decision ensures that suitable legal resource is available to advise and support the Council in meeting the requirements of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). This provides additional capacity within the legal support
Reasons:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To obtain expert legal advice and guidance that ensures the Council complies with statutory and regulatory obligations during LGR. • To mitigate legal, governance and corporate risks and to safeguard the Council's interests throughout the reorganisation process. • To advise on and facilitate effective decision-making and the implementation of reorganisation measures.
Other options considered:	The Council could continue with no contract in place for ongoing legal support and associated services and rely on a large number of direct awards under various frameworks to meet ongoing



	<p>demand for legal services.</p> <p>This decision has been made based on the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. meet internal LGR timescale pressuresii. ensure the provision of efficient, orderly and timely supportiii. secure legal advice and guidance that ensures the Council's compliance with statutory and regulatory obligations
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