
Ealing Council

Ealing Independents
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Ealing Council
Freedom of Information
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Tel: (020) 8825 5000
Email: foirequests@ealing.gov.uk

Your ref:	Our ref:	extension:	Date:
	21/0383	0208 825 8367	13th April 2021

Dear Ealing Independents,

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REGULATIONS 2004 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your Environmental Information Regulations request received by the Council on 15th March 2021.

Your request:

Can you please provide full details as to the tendering process for the services provided by commonplace to Ealing Council?

This includes

<https://ealingltn.commonplace.is/>

Who signed off the contract for the service and which other companies expressed interest in providing this type of community forum.

Why did Ealing Council select Commonplace and did any other provider of similar services get an opportunity to provide its services?

What is the legal name of the company you have a contract with for commonplace and please supply a copy of that contract.

How much money does Commonplace get for providing its service and how long is the length of the contract for?

Did Cllr Peter Mason declare an interest in Commonplace with yourselves as he is Head of Public for Commonplace?

Your request has been assessed and the following information is provided in response:

The Council decided to procure an online engagement platform to enable consultation with Ealing residents to comply with central government timescales and grant conditions on implementing) Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs). The aim of procuring a the digital engagement platform is to assist the Council in engaging with more people, making consultation easier for people and reaching communities who may not typically have been involved in consultation for previous projects.

The agreement with Commonplace has a value of £15,000 and relates specifically to the LTN project. It will expire at the conclusion of the consultation exercise, which is currently estimated to be in the Summer of 2021.

This was a single supplier procurement which is permitted under rule 9.1 of the Contract Procedure Rules, which state: "The service director need not obtain competitive quotations for contracts of less than £25,000 in value, but must be able to demonstrate that the Council is receiving value for money and must maintain an audit trail of the procurement. Where appropriate, relevant consultation must be carried out".

An Officer Decision notice was published in order to ensure transparency, and this was signed off by the Chief Executive, Paul Najsarek. It is attached.

There is a license agreement rather than a "contract" which is attached.
The name of the license agreement is Commonplace Digital Ltd.

Cllr Mason has correctly declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Commonplace, within his published declaration of interests.

Neither the digital engagement project nor the LTN project fell within the cabinet portfolio that Cllr Mason's held at the time.

He had no involvement with decisions on procuring this package.

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If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review within the next 40 working days by writing to the Information Governance Team at: foirequests@ealing.gov.uk.

Or by post to:
Freedom of Information
3rd Floor, North East
Perceval House
14-16 Uxbridge Road
London W5 2HL

Details of complaints process can be found at:

http://www.ealing.gov.uk/info/200640/freedom_of_information/1550/making_a_complaint_or_appeal

If, having exhausted our review procedure, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you will have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire, SK9 5AF

www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Kam Ubhi

Information Governance Officer