

Delegation of Discretionary Housing Related Floating Support Services to Cambridgeshire County Council

Councillor Peter Hiller, Cabinet Member for Growth, Planning, Housing and Economic Development

January 2017

Deadline date: N/A

Cabinet portfolio holder:	Councillor Peter Hiller, Cabinet Member for Growth, Planning, Housing and Economic Development
Responsible Director:	Wendi Ogle-Welbourn, Executive Director for People and Communities, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Councils
Is this a Key Decision?	NO
Is this decision eligible for call-in?	NO
Does this Public report have any annex that contains exempt information?	NO
Is this a project and if so has it been registered on Verto?	NO

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet Member is recommended to delegate the discretionary function of providing Housing Related Floating Support services to Cambridgeshire County Council. The two services to be delegated are:

- Floating Support Service to individuals with mental health problems who are chronically excluded; and
- Floating Support Service to prolific and persistent offenders and those at risk of becoming so.

1. SUMMARY OF MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 This report seeks the Cabinet Member for Growth, Planning, Housing and Economic Developments' approval to delegate the discretionary function of providing Housing Related Floating Support within the Peterborough area to Cambridgeshire County Council.
- 1.2 Cambridgeshire County Council are currently in the process of procuring a Multidisciplinary Floating Support Service which will replace their current contract for floating support which comes to an end on the 30 June 2018. This follows a detailed review of floating support

across Cambridgeshire in 2015. This contract will have to be extended for a further 2 months to comply with the proposed procurement timetable following the anticipated approval to go out to tender by Cambridgeshire County Council Adults Committee scheduled for 8 March 2018. This decision is required for the delegation agreement which will form part of the committee report submitted.

- 1.3 The two Peterborough Floating Support services are currently funded through annual grant agreements which expire on the 31 March 2017. It is envisaged that approval will be sought via a separate CMDN for a five month extension to those grant agreements from 1 April 2018 to 31 August 2018 to allow for the new contract to commence on the 1 September 2018. The intention is that the new contract will be for three years from the 1 September 2018 with an optional one year extension.

2. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

- 2.1 This report is for the Cabinet Member for Growth, Planning, Housing, and Economic Development to consider exercising delegated authority under paragraphs 3.4.3 and 3.4.4 of Part 3 of the constitution in accordance with the terms of their portfolio at paragraph (e).

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If Yes, date for relevant Cabinet Meeting	N/A
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4. DETAILS OF DECISION REQUIRED

- 4.1 On the 21 September 2017 the Joint Commissioning Board noted that the the Housing Related Floating Support Service provides excellent value for money and that the Cambridgeshire contracts will come to an end on 30 June 2018. It was agreed that commissioners explore the opportunity to seek efficiency savings and address additional capacity in commissioning by tendering jointly across Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council. It is anticipated that providers would achieve economies of scale by delivering across a wider geographical area.
- 4.2 There are currently three Cambridgeshire contracts, two for a multi-disciplinary floating support service and one for a mental health support service linked with housing needs. The multidisciplinary floating support services delivered by Centra Care and Support and Cambridge Housing Society Group support 388 vulnerable households at any one time, many are families with children, some are young people and others single people with a variety of support needs. The review in 2015 demonstrated the excellent value for money the service delivered providing real practical housing related support to clients, preventing them from falling into crisis and into the Council's more costly Statutory services. Stakeholder feedback at the time highlighted how valued these services are.
- 4.3 The Cambridgeshire mental health visiting service was remodelled in 2016 to provide a stronger focus on mental health rather than housing issues, although the criteria for acceptance into the service is that a person's housing must be at risk. Although it is a countywide service, numbers supported are low (35-40 households) and there is significant confusion for clients about what this service delivers as opposed to the floating support service. Funding for the service was reduced in 2015 although the impact has been to increase demand on generic floating support services from this client group. Providers of both services remain uncertain how to coordinate and manage referrals between the two services. It was recommended that the mental health visiting support is included as an element of the floating support service when this is re-tendered. Having specialist mental

health workers within a broader service would enable skill sharing and management support for support workers enabling more holistic service structures and delivery models.

- 4.4 In Peterborough there is no formal procurement of the housing related support services, with Grant funding awarded on an annual basis to the existing providers. This provides little financial stability for service providers, no strategic direction for the Council and no opportunity to consider whether savings can be achieved through a formal tendering process. There are eight services delivering housing related support for homeless people in Peterborough at a total cost of £1.127m. Six are accommodation based supported housing including the women's Refuge and two services are delivered as floating support services, the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough MIND service for 22 clients with Mental Health needs/chronically excluded, and the NACRO STORM service for 18 offenders with associated complex needs i.e. substance misuse.
- 4.5 Peterborough City Council's part in terms of value in this procurement is minimal. The combined annual grant agreements for the MIND and NACRO floating support services is £56,534 compared to the current value of £896,389 for the three Cambridgeshire services. Peterborough City Council will therefore not be party to any contract for these services post tender and will therefore, with the approval of this decision notice, be delegating the discretionary function to Cambridgeshire County Council. A delegation agreement shall document the arrangement, both in terms of financial commitment by Peterborough City Council to Cambridgeshire County Council and obligations of both parties once the procurement concludes.
- 4.6 The Government issued a Funding Supported Housing: Policy Statement and Consultation document on 31 October 2017 following the Prime Minister's announcement dropping the restriction of supported housing costs to Local Housing Allowance levels. A full Supported Housing Review has been recommended by the Joint Commissioning Board once the Government's plans are clear. Officers are currently studying the guidance and consultation and will be reviewing the scope of the proposed review by Adrian Chapman, Service Director Communities and Safety over the coming weeks.
- 4.7 The floating support services are not affected by this policy decision and can therefore be tendered in order to put in place new contracts from 1 September 2018.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 As part of the Cambridgeshire Review consultation took place with district councils and service providers and the results of the review and recommendations were circulated to all existing providers. Direct consultation has also taken place with the two providers of Floating Support within Peterborough and the same review documentation has also been released. A Floating Support Provider Event was also been organised for the 12 January 2018 which provided an opportunity for both Councils to confirm the proposed direction of travel for Housing Related Support funding.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- 6.1 Delegation of the discretionary provision of housing related floating support to Cambridgeshire County Council under a Delegation Agreement to allow Peterborough City Council Floating Support services to be included in the jointly commissioned Multidisciplinary Floating Support Service from 1 September 2018.

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS & ANY RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 7.1 The recommendations in this report will ensure that the continuity of Housing Related

Floating Support to some of the most vulnerable in society is achieved whilst taking the opportunity to seek efficiency savings and address additional capacity in commissioning by tendering jointly across Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council.

- 7.2 The value for money and outcomes delivered by this type of floating support are excellent. It is the model of support that both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have been working towards, looking to move away from accommodation based supported housing. There may be opportunities to consider adding to this model in future following the Supported Housing Review
- 7.3 The Homelessness Act 2002 sets out the Council's powers to meet the aims of the act and its duties towards homeless people.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 Cut funding completely and stop the Housing Related Floating Support.
- 8.2 Rejected due to the adverse impact on the provision of this support and homeless prevention.
- 8.2 Issue new annual grant agreements to MIND and NACRO from 1 April 2018. Rejected - the Council wishes to move away from grant agreements which provide little financial stability for service providers, no strategic direction for the Council and no opportunity to consider whether savings can be achieved through a formal tendering process.
- 8.3 Peterborough City Council to tender a contract for Housing Related Floating Support. Rejected - Adopting a joint commissioning approach will save time and effort for both commissioners and Procurement colleagues. A joint Project Group has been established to ensure all partners achieve their respective service requirements and outcomes throughout the tendering process.

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 9.1 The total PCC cost based on the continuation of the existing arrangement for Q1 2018-19 and the contribution to CCC Commissioned service after that period will not exceed the current cost. The full year budget for these services is £56,534.

Legal

- 9.2 The Homelessness Act 2002 sets out the Council's powers to meet the aims of the act and its duties towards homeless people, and the Council shall delegate the discretionary provision of housing related floating support to Cambridgeshire County Council under a Delegation Agreement

The Council may delegate the provision of housing related floating support in reliance on the powers and the exclusive rights given to local authorities to undertake administrative arrangements of this nature in sections 101 and 113 of the Local Government Act 1972, and sections 19 and 20 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the regulations made under these Acts; together with the general power within section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the supporting provisions within section 111 Local Government Act 1972.

Equalities

- 9.3 There are no equalities implications arising from this decision.

10. DECLARATIONS / CONFLICTS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS GRANTED

10.1 None.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985) and The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

The Homelessness Act 2002

