

TO APPROVE AWARDING OF CONTRACTS FOR VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES IN PETERBOROUGH AND CAMBRIDGESHIRE
Councillor Steve Allen Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities
AUGUST 2021
Deadline date: N/A

Cabinet portfolio holder: Responsible Director:	Councillor Steve Allen, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities. Wendi Ogle-Welbourn, Executive Director for People and Communities
Is this a Key Decision?	YES Forward Plan Reference Number: KEY/2AUG21/03
Is this decision eligible for call-in?	YES
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?	N/A

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet Member is recommended to:

1. Approve the awarding of the Voluntary and Community Sector Support and Development Services contract for Lot 2 (Peterborough) to Peterborough Council for Voluntary Services valued at £200,000 for the period 1st December 2021 to 30th November 2026.
2. Authorise an exemption from the Contract Rules to permit a direct award of contract to Support Cambridgeshire relating to Lot 1 services for the period of 1st December 2021 to 30th November 2026 valued at £640,000, for the reasons set out in the report.

1. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

- 1.1 This report is for the Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities to consider exercising delegated authority under paragraph 3.4.3 and 3.4.8 (b) of Part 3 of the constitution in accordance with paragraph (b) of their portfolio.

- 1.2 This report seeks approval from the Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities to approve awarding of two contracts for Voluntary and Community Support and Development Services in Cambridgeshire and in Peterborough.
- 1.3 Cambridgeshire County Council has delegated its procurement and awarding functions for this contract through an Inter-Authority Partnership Agreement to Peterborough City Council. Peterborough City Council in this case is the awarding authority for these contracts.
- 1.4 Awarding of these contracts would cover the period from 1st December 2021 to 30th November 2026. These contracts are for five years.

2. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If Yes, date for relevant Cabinet Meeting	N/A
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3. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 These services will be part of the Think Community initiative. The Think Communities approach acknowledges the vital role communities play in helping to deliver local services, developing community resilience, and ensuring our citizens are at the heart of our decision making.
 - 3.1.1 The Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) plays a key role in this shared way of working between Cambridgeshire and Peterborough local authorities and communities. This service will help voluntary organisation to remain sustainable and effective. It will provide the ‘infrastructure’ support to the sector and work closely with both Local Authorities.
- 3.2 The tender for these services went live on the 5th of January 2021. At the same time, the Prime Minister announced the start of national lockdown following a rapid rise in Covid 19 infections and hospital admissions. A 2-month exemption waiver was agreed and gave bidders additional time to develop their tender submissions as dealing with January’s Covid restrictions was limiting bidder’s capacity to complete their tender bids.
- 3.3 Two written bids were received, independently evaluated, and moderated by Officers from both authorities:
 - 3.3.1 Lot 1 was not awarded under the procurement process as there were no bids that meet the required threshold. The threshold was set at 70% and bidders were required to score based on a ‘good response’ on all questions to meet this threshold. Following a review, alternative options were considered to ensure services were maintained. *Support Cambridgeshire*, a consortium of Council for Voluntary Services (CVS), are the incumbent provider in Cambridgeshire and have a strong track record of accomplishments, I.e., delivering services to Cambridgeshire’s voluntary sector, working with many Cambridgeshire communities, and involving Council Officers in their work. A direct award will allow continuity of the services to ensure the detail,

quality and Think Community values are clear, delivered and maintained throughout the life of this contract.

3.3.2 The total value of this contract, £640,000, is a key decision. As Cambridgeshire County Council has delegated its' award function to Peterborough City Council, this key decision now lies with the Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Communities.

3.3.2 Lot 2 to be award to *Peterborough Council for Voluntary Services (PCVS)*. The total value of this contract is £200,000.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 Significant engagement with stakeholders, voluntary and community organisations, current and potential providers and Council service leads undertaken prior to March 2020, plus consideration of the Public Service Board Grand Challenges (giving people a good start; ensuring that people have good work; creating a place where people want to live; and ensuring that people are healthy throughout their lives), have all contributed to the development of intended outcomes and the service specification for this service.

5. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

5.1 The Think Communities areas of focus is for a unified approach to priority areas. Areas where a sustainable and well run voluntary and community organisation with strong enabling support in place can make an impact with our residents and in the community. For example, as part of COVID-19 outbreak control, local support for carers, buddying for older people, increasing awareness of available technology to maintain independent living, creating volunteer opportunities for young people not in education, employment or training, supporting residents in food and fuel poverty, and helping us to better understand both the unique needs of our communities but also the potential for local delivery of key services through place-based commissioning.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

6.1 These contracts will be a key enabler in our delivery of the Think Communities unified approach. These contracts will support frontline voluntary and community organisations and sends a strong signal to the voluntary and community sector about their value and contribution to our communities, as well as informing, influencing and inspiring future practice and policy. These services will ensure the vital role local councils play in supporting, developing, and enabling our communities is maximised.

7. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 To do nothing – this has been rejected as the Think Community initiative is for communities and the voluntary sector to play an important role in helping to deliver local services, develop community resilience and ensuring citizens are at the heart of our decision making.

8. IMPLICATIONS

8.1 **Legal Implications**

Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) has delegated its commissioning responsibility and delivery of this function for this contract to Peterborough City Council (PCC). CCC will transfer funding to PCC accordingly. PCC is therefore acting as lead commissioner and will enter contractual arrangements on the council's behalf. The Inter-authority Partnership Agreement sets out the roles and responsibilities for both councils, including (but not limited to) liabilities, financial arrangements, information governance and performance management. The Parties have entered into this Inter-authority Partnership Agreement in reliance on their powers and the exclusive rights given to local authorities to undertake administrative arrangements of this nature in section 101 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.

A procurement was undertaken for Lot 2 services in accordance with the Council's Contract Rules.

In relation to Lot 1, the total value falls below the threshold for Schedule 3 services under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and a direct contract award will be made for the reasons set out in the report.

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8.2 Financial Implications

Approving the recommendation will ensure the annual value of the contracts are:

<u>Authority</u>	<u>Per Annum</u>	<u>Total Value (5 years)</u>
Lot 1 Cambridgeshire	£128,000	£640,000
Lot 2 Peterborough	£40,000	£200,000

8.3 Equalities implications

These services are designed to support our communities of all ages and backgrounds. This provision will help communities to support each other.

8.4 Carbon Impact Implications

Following completion of the Carbon Impact Assessment, there have been no specific implications identified.

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

- 11.1 [10. Appendix 1 - Developing a Think Communities Approach and Delivering the Integrated Communities S.pdf \(peterborough.gov.uk\)](#)