

DELEGATION OF FUNCTION TO CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL: RECOMMISSION OF FLOATING SUPPORT SERVICES ACROSS PETERBOROUGH AND CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND A NEW DELEGATION AND PARTNERING AGREEMENT WITH CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL FOR THE JOINTLY COMMISSIONED FLOATING SUPPORT SERVICE
COUNCILLOR FITZGERALD, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SERVICES AND PUBLIC HEALTH
August 2023
Deadline date: 31.08.2023

Cabinet portfolio holder: Responsible Director:	Cllr Fitzgerald, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Public Health Stephen Taylor, Service Director – Adults and Communities
Is this a Key Decision?	No
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
<p>The Cabinet Member is recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve the continued delegation of authority to Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) to act as lead local authority in commissioning the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Floating Support Service across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire and for delivery of the function for this service to CCC, which shall include the associated transfer of funding to CCC for a five year period (includes two one year extension periods). This delegation shall commence on the date the decision becomes effective. 2. The Council to enter into a delegation and partnering agreement with CCC for the duration of the delegated function.

1. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

1.1 This report is for Cllr Fitzgerald to consider exercising delegated authority under paragraph 3.4.3 of Part 3 of the constitution in accordance with the terms of their portfolio.

2. TIMESCALES

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

- 3.1 The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Countywide Floating Support Service is a preventative service which works with individuals to help prevent the loss of their existing accommodation or provide support to access alternative accommodation. This includes helping them to resolve the immediate issues which are putting their accommodation at risk, and helping them to access any additional support, skills or networks that would help prevent any future risk of homelessness. To date Peterborough City Council (PCC) has delegated the discretionary function of providing the Floating Support services to Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC), who has led on the commissioning of this service and PCC has transferred funding to CCC for the delegation of this funding accordingly. A Delegation and Partnering Agreement has set out the responsibilities of PCC and CCC throughout this period of delegation.
- 3.2 The service delivers short term tenancy support to working age adults (single people and families) in their own homes across the geographical areas of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The service aims to provide short term targeted support with a target duration of 6 months.
- 3.3 The Peterborough element of the service prioritises referrals that come from the council's housing team and is aimed at preventing households from becoming homeless.
- 3.4 CCC has led a new commission for this service, hence this CMDN requests authority for a new period of delegation between PCC and CCC for a maximum period of five years. The total funding per annum for PCC is £57,665.00, which equates to £172,995 for the initial 3-year contract period, and the estimated annual value for each one year period of extension is £57,665.00 x 2 (£115,330)
- 3.5 Between April 2022 and March 2023 the service has delivered the following key outcomes to support PCC's statutory housing duty;

Housing Outcomes:	April - Jun 2022	July – Sept 2022	Oct - Dec 2022	Jan - March 2023
Number of clients for whom eviction or repossession action was prevented	14	12	8	3
Number of clients supported to set up a new home / tenancy	11	6	4	4
Number of clients who were assisted to move to more suitable accommodation	13	8	4	4
Number of clients who were evicted within quarter	0	0	0	0

- 3.6 The current Delegation and Partnering Agreement in place between PCC and CCC has worked well with Cambridgeshire monitoring and managing the contract on behalf of both local authorities, and therefore this CMDN seeks to continue the same arrangement for the new contract which has been commissioned by CCC as the lead authority.

4. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

4.1 *Consider how the recommendation links to the Council's Corporate Priorities:*

1. *The Economy & Inclusive Growth*

- *Environment and Carbon Impact Assessment.*

The impact of the decision will not have any negative impact on the Peterborough or Cambridgeshire environment. The new service will not require use of any Council buildings. Furthermore, the new service model will encourage the use of virtual support approached, therefore reducing the carbon impact of the service as a whole.

- *Homes and Workplaces*

The proposal works towards PCC's corporate priority of preventing homelessness across the city by helping to prevent households from becoming homeless.

2. *Our Places & Communities*

- *Health and Wellbeing*

Helping to prevent homelessness for PCC's population will benefit the health and wellbeing of the families/individuals at risk.

3. *Prevention, Independence & Resilience*

- *Educations and Skills for All*
- *Adults*
- *Children*

4. *Sustainable Future City Council*

- *How we Work*
- *How we Serve*
- *How we Enable*

Further information on the Council's Priorities can be found here - [Link to Corporate Strategy and Priorities Webpage](#)

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Feedback on the service and its effectiveness was sought prior to re-tendering the service, which has informed the development of the service specification. Consultation has also been undertaken with key partners, Finance, Procurement and Legal.

5. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 5.1 Delegation of the discretionary provision of floating support to CCC under a Delegation and Partnering Agreement to allow PCC Floating Support services to be included in the jointly commissioned Multidisciplinary Floating Support Service from 01.03.2023.

The Delegation and Partnering Agreement shall set out clear roles and responsibilities for both councils, including (but not limited to) liabilities, financial arrangements, information governance and performance management.

6. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 The recommendations in this report will ensure that the continuity of 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 PCC and CCC.

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 worked towards since 2018 and has worked well for both local authorities.

The recommendation will allow the council to continue to benefit from access to the Floating Support Service but without having to duplicate efforts in relation to elements such as monitoring and contract performance.

The Homelessness Act 2002 sets out the council's powers to meet the aims of the act and its duties towards homeless people.

7. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 Cut funding completely and stop the Floating Support. This was rejected due to the key outcomes required that support PCC's statutory housing duty.

PCC to tender a single Floating Support contract and not collaborate across the two local authority areas. This was rejected. Adopting a joint commissioning approach created efficiencies for commissioners and procurement colleagues. The commissioning project ensured partners would achieve their respective service requirements and outcomes throughout the tendering process. Joint commissioning allows the opportunity to consider whether savings can be achieved through a formal tendering process.

8. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 8.1 The funding for this service is within core budgets and has not increased as result of the newly commissioned arrangement, therefore there full year budget for PCC's service element is £57,665.00 per annum.

Legal Implications

- 8.2 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 floating support to Cambridgeshire County Council under a Delegation and Partnering Agreement.

Legal implications shall be considered and addressed within the Delegation and Partnering Agreement underpinning the transfer of commissioning authority to CCC. PCC shall delegate delivery of the function for Floating Support Services to CCC and shall transfer funding to CCC accordingly. CCC shall therefore act as lead commissioner and enter into contractual arrangements on PCC's behalf.

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 Implications

- 8.3 The service will be available to anyone at risk of homelessness who meets the referral criteria.

Carbon Impact Assessment

- 8.5 Impact of the decision is neutral as the new service will not require use of any Council building, and the new service model will encourage use of virtual support approaches, therefore reducing the carbon impact of the service as a whole.

9. DECLARATIONS / CONFLICTS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS GRANTED

- 9.1 None

10. 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.

- 10.1 None

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 None