

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 6
6th August 2024	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Adrian Chapman, Executive Director of Place and Economy	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Alison Jones, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities	
Contact Officer(s):	Matt Oliver, Head of Stronger Communities	Tel: 07484 900432

Contract Award – Housing Related Support

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Head of Stronger Communities	Deadline date: 6 August 2024
<p>It is recommended that Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Delegate the decision-making function in relation to the outcome of the procurement and the contract award of Housing Related Support to the Executive Director Place and Economy. The contract(s) awarded shall be for the contract period 1 November 2024 to 31 March 2027 and optional extension periods (2 x one year) and total contract value shall not exceed £1,868,992. 	

1. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the services that are to be delivered under the procured Housing Related Support contracts and to seek authority from the Executive of the Council to delegate the decision-making function to the Executive Director for Place and Economy to award contract(s) to successful bidder(s) following conclusion of the procurement to enable contracts to commence on 1 November 2024 and mobilise without delay.

2. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 Historically, Housing Related Support grant funding, awarded on an annual basis, has supported the provision of hostel accommodation to homeless households by contributing towards the cost of support staff helping those that are vulnerable or who may not be tenancy ready as part of the supported accommodation pathway.

2.2 The arrangement has been subject to a number of reviews over the last 6 years, the outcome of which has been both a reduction of budget and also the recommendation for a move away from grant funding to a more focused and targeted procured model, resulting in legally enforceable services agreements giving rise to new rights and duties between the parties, ensuring the Council's requirements are met.

2.3 By moving to longer term procured contracts, we aim to give providers more stability for planning and re-modelling services and to introduce effective performance monitoring, whilst developing joint working amongst commissioned providers to alleviate and reduce repeat homelessness amongst single person households.

2.4 The Council is therefore proposing to move away from annually awarded grant funding to a longer term procured solution for Housing Related Support Services from 1st November 2024.

2.5 Summary of Specification and Lots

The specification for the Housing Related Support contract/s sets out the requirement to commission housing related support services for vulnerable adults which can provide targeted, flexible and effective support, and is adaptable to a person's needs and can be delivered across a range of settings with the three Lots set out below in table 1.

2.6 Table 1:

<p>Lot 1</p> <p>19 units of accommodation and associated support for residents aged 17+, including an ability to accept referrals from those who have a dog.</p> <p>The units should ideally comprise of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 crash beds – accessible by referral from PCC Housing Needs staff only,• 17 units of accommodation and support suitable for singles with a range of needs. <p>Complex cases including those under MAPPA may be referred. Access to the crash bed may be required outside of standard office hours. 1 unit of accommodation and support should be suitable for a couple with low/medium or high needs.</p>
<p>Lot 2</p> <p>32 units of accommodation and associated support for those aged 17+, including an ability to accept referrals from those who have a dog.</p> <p>The units should ideally comprise of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10 units of self-contained accommodation and support for singles with low/medium needs,• 7 units of self-contained accommodation and support for singles with medium/high needs,• 1 crash bed – accessible by referral from PCC Housing Needs staff only for those with low/medium or high needs,• 10 units of self-contained accommodation and support for singles with low/medium needs. This will be the final step accommodation prior to moving on to independent accommodation,• 2 units of self-contained accommodation and support for couples including those with a pregnant member with low/medium needs. This will be the final step accommodation prior to moving on to independent accommodation,• At least 1 unit of accommodation which provides access to those in a wheelchair. <p>Complex cases including those under MAPPA may be referred.</p>
<p>Lot 3</p> <p>89 Units of accommodation and associated support for ages 17+ with support offered 10am-10pm where possible. The units should ideally comprise of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 61 units of self-contained accommodation and support for singles with low/medium needs,• 28 units of accommodation and support for singles with medium/high needs.

2.7 All contracts will be effective from 1 November 2024 until 31 March 2027 with a possibility to extend on a 1 year plus 1 year basis at the Council's discretion

2.8

Monitoring and Outcomes

A monitoring framework will be developed and will be 'outcomes' focussed; the outcomes to be measured will be agreed jointly between the Provider and the Commissioners.

2.9

Providers will be expected to actively record and monitor outcomes at a service and individual level and when required provide details in line with the Supported Accommodation Partnership Protocol in Peterborough. This may include demonstrating how the service is supporting clients to meet their identified needs and longer-term goals, as well as how it is contributing to broader outcomes such as fewer clients experiencing repeat homelessness or increases in the numbers who are accessing training, education or employment opportunities.

2.9.1

Contract Award and Transition period

To ensure there is the maximum amount of time possible to transition to the newly procured solution and to mobilise the new Housing Related Support model, minimising impact to residents, it is recommended to Cabinet that the final decision to award contracts to successful bidder(s) in regard to this procurement be delegated to the Executive Director of Place and Economy. This will ensure there is no delay at the stage of awarding the contracts, therefore facilitating a greater period of mobilisation, and allowing the flexibility required to carry out the support work between notification of contract award and start date of the new contract(s).

Timescales for Procurement

15/07/2024	Deadline for Return of Bids
23/07/2024	Evaluation of Bids
12/08/2024	Completion of Authority Approval and Award Decision (by Executive Director Place and Economy)
12/08/2024	Notification of Award Decision (issue award letters to all bidders and commence standstill period)
22/08/2024	Appointment of Successful Bidders
23/08/2024 to 31/10/2024	Mobilisation and transition from existing HRS model to newly procured HRS model.
01/11/2024	Contract Start

3.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

The Economy & Inclusive Growth – Maximise economic growth and prosperity in an inclusive way.

Homes and Workplaces
Jobs and Money

Carbon Impact Assessment: This project represents a shift from a grant arrangement to a procured service. Although there is a change in the specification, relating to a reduction in the number of supported accommodation units, no negative impact on emissions is expected.

Our Places & Communities – Create healthy and safe environments.

Places and Safety
Lives and Work
Health and Wellbeing

Prevention, Independence & Resilience - Help Support resident early on in their lives and prevent them from slipping into crisis.

Adults
Children

4. CONSULTATION

Consultation has been carried out with all existing grant recipients of Housing Related Support and the service specification has been shaped by the views of those with lived experience of homelessness and who have been previous residents of supported accommodation.

The Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing has been consulted.

5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial Implications

The contract award between 1st November 2024 – 31st March 2027 is £1,022,656 with the option for extension for two additional years at £423,168 per year bringing the total contract award to up to £1,868,992.

The recommendation is for the delegation of decision making for the 3-year initial contract award to be delegated to the Executive Director of Place and Economy.

5.2 Legal Implications

The procurement of Housing Relation Support Services is being undertaken in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

New agreements shall commence on 1 November 2024, subject to expiry of the ten-day standstill period without challenge.

Legal have reviewed the procurement documentation, drafted the Services Agreement and obtained employment law advice in relation to TUPE (The Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006).

5.3 Equalities Implications

Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for this procurement as part of the changes from grant award to procurement; it should be noted that an overall reduction in funding will see less units of accommodation which would receive support through this model. The housing needs service are in discussion with providers to ensure as smooth a transition to a new model as possible, identifying existing residents which may end up homeless.

6. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

6.1 None.

7. APPENDICES

7.1 None

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