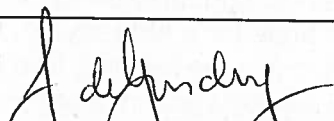




Haringey Council

Report for:	Cabinet	Item Number:	14
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Title:	Waiver of CSO 8.02 - Tottenham Thinking Space
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Report Authorised by:	Dr. Jeanelle de Gruchy	
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Lead Officer:	Andrew Meek
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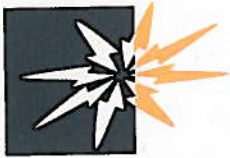
Ward(s) affected: Tottenham	Report for Key/Non Key Decisions:
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1 Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 This paper seeks approval to waive Contract Standing Order 8.02 (requirement to obtain quotations) as allowed under CSO 10.01. The project in question is Tottenham Thinking Space.
- 1.2 The grounds for the waiver are provided for under CSO 10.01.2 (d): "it is in the Council's overall interest."

2 Cabinet Member introduction

- 2.1 Tottenham Thinking Space is an innovative project designed to promote resilience and wellbeing among residents in some of the poorest parts of the borough.
- 2.2 The approach of providing a facilitated space for people to discuss the issues they face in their lives and encouraging them to consider what they can do together to improve their community has great potential to address social isolation.
- 2.3 The interim evaluation report shows encouraging signs that the project is having a positive effect for the residents who have engaged with it. It is



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encouraging too that, from the initial group, the project has now expanded to reach out to more people through the development of a Father and Sons group, and a tea/coffee morning group for mothers, instigated by residents themselves.

- 2.4 This is a project trying new approaches to difficult issues, and learning takes time. The Council commissioned this project through the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust, and in doing so is bringing new expertise into the borough. In waiving contract standing orders to enable this project to continue for a further year, the Council will be committing to ensure that we maximise the learning from this pilot project, which will be important for the social and economic regeneration of Tottenham.

3 Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that:

- Cabinet agree to waive Contract Standing Order 8.02 (requirement to obtain quotations) as allowed under CSO 10.01.2 (d): "it is in the Council's overall interest."
- The Tottenham Thinking Space (TTS) Pilot is extended for a further 12 months of service provision (to September 2015), with the contract for the pilot to be awarded to Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust.

4 Alternative options considered

4.1 Competitively tendering a second year of the pilot from other providers is not recommended for the following reasons:

- This project's success is based on building long-term trust between the provider and the community in a facilitated way that requires specialist skills and expertise. Even with such a highly skilled staff, TTS found it hard, in the first six months, to establish this ongoing trust; this could be jeopardised by alternative service provision.
- It is unlikely another provider would have sufficient knowledge and expertise of the community therapy concept to be able to take over the project without impacting negatively on service quality.

5 Background information

5.1 Project Outline

- 5.1.1 Tottenham Thinking Space is a pilot project run by Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust delivering an innovative approach to enhancing community wellbeing and building resilience. The project started in October 2013; it was funded for one year, and currently runs to September 2014. The



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project is funded from the Public Health grant and the annual cost is £85,000. This extension will increase the overall contract value to £170,000.

5.1.2 At the core of the project are weekly meetings open to all. These open meetings are facilitated by two senior clinical staff with experience of working with diverse and disadvantaged communities. The group meetings allow Tottenham residents to explore together the problems they are facing, and develop their own solutions. The venue is Tottenham Green Leisure Centre. These meetings commenced on October 1st 2013. The participants pick a theme by sharing stories and experiences, and then choosing one that has particular resonance for members of the group; this theme is then explored in depth. Group members will seek to share similar experiences, and promote understanding of ways they coped with the situation.

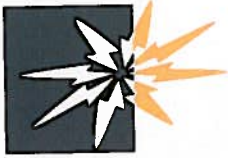
5.1.3 The process is designed to promote hope and community spirit, as well as specific ideas for action. Specific examples include

- Launching tea and coffee morning for isolated mothers, with self-help childcare provided to enable discussion groups to take place
- A new Fathers and Sons group initiated, to address inter-generational issues and the lack of positive male role models
- Residents joining the Friends of The Green group as a result of a discussion about the need for improving local amenities and open spaces.

5.1.3 Between sessions a Community Development Worker promotes the meetings and works with participants on their ideas for action.

5.2 Aims and Objective of the Project

- To provide a space where Tottenham residents can share and reflect on their difficulties and opportunities for improved wellbeing and together consider addressing problems such that:
 - the community develops the capacity to collaborate and create their own solutions to their problems
 - the community develops solutions that will be responsive to the varying needs of different individuals, families and communities within Tottenham
 - the community develops improved ways to talk about difficult issues, managing conflicting points of view
 - participants improve their ability to manage their own lives and to advocate for themselves and others
 - individuals develop self-understanding, relationships and skills that will help them to reduce self-defeating and destructive behaviours.
- To develop a robust evidence base and evaluation method for the project within the available budget.
- To demonstrate the sustainability of the project, both in terms of the longevity of the group, and that the Community Development Worker



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develops the capacity to lead and facilitate with minimal supervision from practitioners.

5.3 Interim evaluation

5.3.1 Independent evaluation of Tottenham Thinking Space is being conducted by a team from the Centre for Social Justice and Change, University of East London. The interim report (see annex) concludes that Tottenham Thinking Space is:

- addressing local needs.
- has been well received.
- is implemented to a high standard.
- is showing early signs of achieving outcomes.

5.3.2 Participants report significant positive benefits and therapeutic benefit. One resident is quoted as follows in the Evaluation Report: *"It took me a while to figure out what was different. The social dimension is there, but...It's that, and more than that. It's developing the capacity to really listen and actually speak and developing some self-knowledge...you are widening each other's perspectives, learning about the importance of really listening. Loneliness and isolation is a big issue in this community."*

5.3.3 The evaluation team conclude:

Thus, we have found strong indications that TTS is a viable initiative. And, based on our research findings, we believe that the potential of TTS to achieve sustained community outcomes can be realised once local residents are trained as facilitators and are supported to practice their skills.

5.3.4 Further time for piloting the initiative is required to:

- Build the evidence base and demonstrate that participation can be increased in a sustained way.
- Work to embed the initiative into the fabric of communities.
- Work on integrating the project and its principles into mainstream practice through engaging with the NHS locally
- Provide confidence that the intervention is sustainable and can provide value for money.

5.4 Proposal

5.4.1 It is proposed to continue the Tottenham Thinking Space pilot project to September 2015 with learning objectives that will be evaluated. If the approach proves successful, and a business case is demonstrated for continuing the project on a longer-term basis, a competitive process will be undertaken.

6 Comments of the Chief Finance Officer and financial implications



- 6.1 The full year cost of this service is £85k. Funding is available as part of the Public Health Mental Health promotion budget. Although the service has not carried out a full tender exercise there has been an interim evaluation carried out that shows that the service is delivering results and providing value for money.

7 Assistant Director of Corporate Governance Comments and legal implications

- 7.1 The Assistant Director of Corporate Governance notes the contents of the report.
- 7.2 The services to which the report relates are not considered priority services under the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 (as amended) and therefore there is no requirement to carry out a European tendering exercise.
- 7.3 A waiver of Contract Standing Order 8.02 (requirement to obtain quotations) is recommended on the basis that it is in the Council's overall interest (CSO 10.01.2 (d)). The waiver is requested so that the existing contract may be extended for a further year.
- 7.4 This is a second waiver in respect of this contract. Therefore the decision needs approval by Cabinet in accordance with CSO 10.01.5. Should Cabinet see fit to approve the waiver, an extension of contract for one year is recommended. Cabinet has power to approve the extension under CSO 10.02.2.
- 7.5 The Assistant Director of Corporate Governance confirms that there are no legal reasons preventing Members from approving the recommendations in this report.

8 Equalities and Community Cohesion Comments

- 8.1 Policy and Equalities Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report and have commented as follows:
- 8.2 The Council has a public sector equality duty, which amongst other things, requires the Council to have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity in all its functions, including procurement and commissioning.
- 8.3 Under its equal opportunities policy, the Council is committed to using procurement and commissioning as strategic tools to further its equalities aims, which in this regard are:
- i. to open up its supply chains so as to provide opportunities for small and minority-led businesses to compete for Council contracts;



- ii. to ensure that winning bids deliver the contracts in a way that take account of the Council's public sector equality duty.
- 8.4 Ordinarily, a waiver of Contract Standing Order 8.02 would have the effect of limiting the opportunity for interested parties to bid for council business and therefore would not be in keeping with the spirit of the Council's equal opportunities policy commitment in regard to procurement and commissioning.
- 8.5 However, as the report says in paragraph 6.1, a review was undertaken of evidence prior to commissioning the pilot and no other qualified providers were identified who could be approached to quote for this work. This reflected the pilot nature of the project, and the fact that comparable projects have not been undertaken in the UK. It would seem therefore that opportunity would not necessarily be denied to other would-be bidders since evidently no other providers were identified due to the unique nature of the project. We note the commitment also in paragraph 6.1 to subject the contract to a competitive bidding process if the project proves successful and a business case is demonstrated for continuing the project on a longer-term basis.
- 8.6 Most health and wellbeing indicators show that compared to the west of the borough, the east, which includes Tottenham is particularly disadvantaged. The project is based at Tottenham and provides a space where Tottenham residents can share and reflect on opportunities for improved wellbeing. It is therefore a contributor to the delivery of the Council's corporate priority 6 – reduce health inequality and improve wellbeing – and helps the Council's performance of its public sector equality duty.

9 Head of Procurement Comments

- 9.1 This paper is asking Members to approve a waiver of Contract Standing Orders to allow the award of a contract extension, without competition, to Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust.
- 9.2 This request is supported on the basis that the pilot is being used to develop a specification with which to tender any future requirements.
- 9.3 It should be noted that currently Health Care services are treated as Part B services under European Procurement Directives and thus not required to follow the full regime of competition, as applies to Part A services. However this will shortly change due to new Legislation that sweeps anyway Part B exemptions and hence any Public Health contracts valued above prevailing EC thresholds will need to be competitively tendered.
- 9.4 If market conditions are such that alternative providers do not currently exist, then the service needs to be working with Central Procurement on developing the market ahead of pending changes to legislation and to enable more meaningful competitive tendering.



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10 Policy Implication

- 10.1 Priority 6 of the Corporate Plan is to “reduce health inequalities and improve wellbeing for all”. The Corporate Plan has an underpinning principle of “Empowering Communities – enabling people to do more for themselves.” This project seeks to demonstrate that bringing people together to have positive conversations about their area, the future, and the challenges facing them in itself has a therapeutic effect, both catalysing change in the community but also improving the well-being of the individuals concerned. By delivering this project in the heart of Tottenham, it directly supports the social regeneration agenda.

11 Use of Appendices

Appendix I: Interim Report: Tottenham Thinking Space

12 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

