

MINUTES OF MEETING URGENT DECISIONS HELD ON MONDAY 17 JULY 2023, 10AM

PRESENT:

Councillors: Sarah Williams

ALSO ATTENDING: Scott Kay (Head of Residential Building Safety) and Felicity Foley (Committees Manager)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. VARIATION OF CURRENT ELECTRICAL INSPECTION REPORT PROGRAMME

The Cabinet Member for Housing Services, Private Renters and Planning considered the report which sought approval for the variation of two existing contract values, for the current provision of Electrical Inspection Reports programme to the Council, by two contractors, for the remaining contract term, to April 2024.

RESOLVED

1. To approve a variation of the two existing contracts with Contractor N and Contractor A, for the provision of Electrical Inspection Services to the Council by increasing the maximum contract values by an additional £1,474,825.00 for Contractor N and £1,413,050.00 for Contractor A (£2,887,875.00 in total) taking the total maximum value for both contracts, to £8,663,625 over the maximum contracts period of 18 months (of which 10 months currently remain).

Reasons for decision

In order to deliver the Electrical Inspection programmes, which includes completing urgent and high-risk actions and upgrading of smoke and heat alarms within properties, Haringey Council requires the support of specialist electrical contractors.

The existing arrangements for this work have been in place since October 2022 and were procured as a direct award under the South East Consortium's (SEC) Electrical Renewal's Framework. Working with our Strategic Procurement business partners and the SEC, we were able to identify that Contractors N and A, were able to take on and support our service requirements.

The contractors are and have since been successfully delivering the programmes of inspections and associated works, critical to the safety of residents. This service is currently relied upon whilst we recruit to existing vacancies within our in-house electrical team, who will, in the longer term deliver the core elements of this work. However, due to current priorities around damp and mould, voids and focus on improving the repairs service as well as market pressures and a shortage of suitably competent persons this is taking longer than originally anticipated and we will need to implement a further contract prior to fully in-sourcing the service again.

Even when the team is fully resourced, there will always be a need to rely upon additional contracting services to support the in-house team through peaks in workload and gaps in resources. The procurement of a longer-term support arrangement is the subject of a separate and new procurement project will be progressed, to take over this provision once this extension is exhausted.

As we continue delivering electrical safety programmes, the variation of these contracts offers continuity and the necessary resources to deliver on this key commitment to the Regulator and essential life-safety programmes.

The variation supports the ongoing delivery of the electrical safety inspection and works programmes to comply with the Electrical Safety Regulations and the Fire Safety Act.

Alternative options considered.

Do nothing. This would mean that the current contract would not be sufficient to complete the programme. It would also mean that we cannot meet our commitment to the Regulator to complete the EICR programme by the December 2023. Furthermore, it would leave the residents subject to living in buildings where there could be electrical safety issues that go unrecorded and unremedied if we do not undertake electrical inspections and improvement works. In addition, the Council would not be compliant with the Electrical Regulations.

Undertake all the work in-house. This option is not viable due to the current lack of specialist skills available in the market for Haringey to recruit. However, this is the intention in the longer-term.

Procure a new contract. This is in progress but will not be in place in time to deliver the current requirements.

CHAIR: Councillor Sarah Williams

Signed by Chair

Date