

MINUTES OF CABINET MEMBER SIGNING MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2023, 1:30PM - 1:38PM.

PRESENT: Councillor Sarah Williams, Cabinet Member for Housing Services, Private Renters and Planning

In attendance: Alison Charles, Commissioning Officer and Nazyer Choudhury, Principal Committee Co-Ordinator

1. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Chair referred to the notice of filming at meetings and this information was noted.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none

3. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. DEPUTATIONS / PETITIONS / PRESENTATIONS / QUESTIONS

There were none.

6. AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR HARINGEY STREET OUTREACH SERVICE

This report detailed the outcome of an open tender process and sought approval to award the Housing Related Support (HRS) contract for the Housing Street Outreach Service Team (HSORT) for rough sleepers in accordance with Contract Standing Orders (CSO) 9.07.1 (a) and 16.02.

The current contract expired on 31 March 2024 and a procurement process had been undertaken to ensure that a new contract was in place to meet the Council's requirements.

The Cabinet Member RESOLVED

1. That, in pursuant to Contract Standing Order (CSO) 16.02 and 9.07.1a) and d) approval for the award of contract for the Provision of the Housing Related Support, Housing Street Outreach Service Team (HSORT) for rough sleepers to the successful bidder identified in Appendix 1 - Part B of the report be granted.

2. That the proposed contract run for a period of three (3) years commencing 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2027 at an annual cost of £233,700 (totalling £701,100 over 3 years), with an option to extend for a further period or periods of up to four (4) years. For the avoidance of doubt the maximum contract length would be seven (7) years, if extended. The aggregated total cost of the contract would be £1,635,900 including the proposed extension period.

Reasons for decision

There was an identified need within Haringey for services to support people who were rough sleeping around the wide-ranging needs and circumstances that contribute to and cause homelessness. A dedicated Housing Support Outreach Team helped meet that need, providing a flexible and person-centred service which will support clients. There was currently an increase in the numbers rough sleeping in Haringey.

The service offered was holistic with an assessment of need and circumstances conducted as a starting point with the aim being to support an individual away from street homelessness. Other outcomes included improvements in health and wellbeing, effective signposting to support services including immigration advice and support, substance and alcohol dependency and mental health.

This service was funded from the Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) administered by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC). This contract would enable the demand for the service to be met which in turn will enable the Council to meet its strategic commitments to residents around rough sleeping and single homelessness.

The service would also work closely with the GLA's Rapid Response Team (RRT), Haringey Council Housing Needs, commissioned and non-commissioned supported housing pathways, the Community Safety Team, the boroughs Homeless Health Inclusion Team (HHIT) and other partners to secure accommodation which reduced and prevented rough sleeping in Haringey. Therefore, the decision ensured that the Council's money was spent appropriately on what was needed most and vital to the Council and its residents.

The decision to award a contract to the successful bidder was also based on the conclusion of a competitive procurement process and is made according to the outcome of the Most Economically Advantageous Tender.

The recommended bidder had a knowledge of the community. The tender clearly stated their commitment and expertise to reduce and support homelessness in Haringey. The recommended bidder submitted a strong tender that clearly demonstrated expertise and commitment to providing the appropriate and relevant care and support to local residents. Furthermore, they demonstrated that they were invested in social value - provide training and employment opportunities for local people.

Alternative options considered

Do nothing – The Council could elect not to recommission the Housing Street Outreach Service Team. However, this would leave Haringey without the appropriate outreach service to support people rough sleeping. This would be likely to cause an increase in the number of people rough sleeping and would have a significant detrimental impact on people's wellbeing, as well as the Council and its partners. The option to do nothing was considered and rejected.

Extend existing contracts – Extension periods available within the existing contracts have been exhausted. 5.3

Deliver the services inhouse – Extensive consideration was given to the possibility of in-house delivery for this service. However, the investment required to manage this service internally would be more than the budget envelope. The service was a specialist provision and if provided in house would be lacking the capacity and expertise. Also, the funding for this service is provided by DLUHC and the existing provider was agreed as a delivery partner. Any change to this arrangement would have to be approved by DLUHC.

7. AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR WOMEN'S COMPLEX NEEDS 24 HOUR SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION

This report detailed the outcome of an open tender process and sought approval to award the Housing Related Support (HRS) contract for Women's Complex Needs 24 Supported Accommodation Contract in accordance with Contract Standing Orders (CSO) 9.07.1 (a) and 16.02.

The current contract would expire on 31 March 2024 and a procurement process had been undertaken to ensure that a new contract was in place to meet the Council's requirements.

Subject to approval, the contract would be awarded for a period of three (3) years commencing 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2027 at an annual cost of £253,000 (totalling £759,000 over 3 years), with an option to extend for a further period or periods of up to four (4) years. For the avoidance of doubt, the maximum contract length would be seven (7) years, if extended. The aggregated total cost of the contract will be £1,771,000 including the proposed extension period.

The Cabinet Member RESOLVED

1. That the Cabinet Member for Housing Services, Private Renters, and Planning, pursuant to Contract Standing Order (CSO) 16.02 and 9.07.1a) and d) grant approval for the award of contract for the Provision of Women's Complex Needs 24 hour supported accommodation service for women to the bidder identified in Appendix 1 – Part B of the report.
2. That the contract be awarded for a period of 3 years from 1 April 2024 at a cost of £759,000 with provision to extend for further period or periods for up to 4 years with a total value of £1,771,000.

Reasons for decision

The Women's Complex Needs service was currently being delivered and the contract would end on 31 March 2024. The service was part of a recent tender exercise as part of the recommissioning of the Single Homeless Pathway. The recommended bidder demonstrated their expertise and experience in providing the services required, and to meeting the service outcomes as specified. They were able to demonstrate a strong track record of delivering services for women with multiple and complex needs.

There was clearly evidenced demand for services that support women around the wide-ranging needs and circumstances that contribute to, and cause, homelessness. Dedicated and gender informed supported housing services provide a flexible and person-centred approach to women experiencing multiple disadvantages by helping maintain and establish

sustainable housing, overcome health, and gender inequalities, and recover from other experiences that contributed to their homelessness.

The Domestic Abuse Act (2021) places new duties on local authorities to provide 'safe accommodation' and support to victims of domestic abuse. The service would aid the Council to fulfil these duties as well as the commitment to deliver early intervention to women in crisis who are experiencing multiple and complex needs, preventing homelessness and escalation in need.

The service would also contribute to delivery of the Council's Delivery Plan (2023- 2024) objectives and will play an integral role in the delivery of Haringey's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategies, by supporting single adults with support needs to secure positive housing, health, and community outcomes.

Alternative options considered

Do nothing: There was only a statutory requirement to provide housing for single homeless people where they were identified as vulnerable and in priority need under Section 189 of the Housing Act (1996 amended 2002). However, Haringey like all London boroughs recognised the human, social and economic costs associated with homelessness and the need to ensure that people were adequately supported to recover from it and prevent future instances. Therefore, it was not deemed in the best interests of homeless women or the Council to cease the current contracts for the provision of supported housing services.

Extend existing contracts: The extension periods available within the existing contract had been exhausted, and no further extensions were possible.

Deliver the services in house: Extensive consideration was given to the possibility of in-house delivery for this service. However, on reviewing the options available, insourcing was deemed to be unsuitable due to the time constraints. The successful bidder had an extensive track record in delivering these services and have established relationship with the Landlord required to deliver the housing management for these properties.

8. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

There were no new items of urgent business.

9. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Items 10 and 11 were subject to a motion to exclude the press and public be from the meeting as they contain exempt information as defined in Section 100a of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by Section 12A of the Local Government Act 1985); para 3, namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

10. EXEMPT - AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR HARINGEY STREET OUTREACH SERVICE

The Cabinet Member considered the exempt information.

11. EXEMPT - AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR WOMEN'S COMPLEX NEEDS 24 HOUR SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION

The Cabinet Member considered the exempt information.

CABINET MEMBER: Councillor Sarah Williams

Signed by Cabinet Member

Date30 November 2023.....