

Report for: Delegated Decision

Item number: N/A

Title: Extension of the Home Sweet Home (HSH) Contract to Metropolitan Housing Trust Limited

Report

authorised by : Alan Benson, Head of Housing Strategy & Commissioning

Lead Officer: Zahra Maye, Homelessness Strategy & Commissioning Officer

Ward(s) affected: All

Report for Key

Non Key Decision: Non Key Decision

1. Describe the issue under consideration

This report seeks Directors approval for the extension of Housing Related Support (HRS), Home Sweet Home (HSH) contract to Metropolitan Housing Trust Limited for a period of 12 month from 1 August 2018 to 31 July 2019 on the same terms and conditions as the current contract at a value of £158,080 as allowed under CSO 10.02.1a.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 For the Director of Housing and Growth to extend the Metropolitan Home Sweet Home Contract as allowed under 10.02a for a period of one year from 1 August 2018 to 31 July 2019 at a value of £158,080.
- 2.2 The Director is asked to note that a strategic review of Floating Support contracts and a re-tendering exercise will be undertaken during the extension period, to ensure seamless provision at the end of the life of the current contract.

3. Reasons for decision

- 3.1 It is in the Council's overall interest to agree an extension to Metropolitan for the delivery of the current *Home Sweet Home* service. The current contract which expires on 31 July 2018 has the option to extend for one year.
- 3.2 The Housing Related Floating support contracts expire 31 July 2019; it is in the councils interest to extend the HSH contract in line with floating support contracts so that a subsequent tender process can be undertaken.
- 3.3 The service meets the Council's strategic objectives of delivering short term housing related support, early intervention, tenancy sustainment services; preventing escalation of need and demand on health and social care provisions.

Alternative options considered

- 4.1 Procurement through an open tender process will commence in the Winter of 2018, this will enable strategic commissioning exercises with partners and service users to be undertaken and will result in efficiencies and service improvements.
- 4.2 There is a demonstrable need for this service provision which supports older people to continue to live independently in their own homes. It is not considered in service users best interest, and would not deliver efficiencies to tender the service before a strategic review is undertaken.

5. Background information

- 5.1 The Housing Related Support (HRS) programme funds support services for vulnerable people in Haringey. There are currently over 60 contracts delivering support to a wide range of client groups including: older people; people with mental health problems; learning and physical disabilities; young people; women fleeing domestic violence; people with substance misuse issues; those at risk of re-offending and those at risk of homelessness.
- 5.2 The Metropolitan HSH service is contracted to provide 65 service users aged over 60 who are home owners and private tenants with an average of 4 hours of support per week for up to 6 months.
- 5.3 The service provides specialist advice on tenancy support, money management, and advice on housing options, preventing evictions,

benefits and incomes maximisation, council tax, employment and training as well as supporting clients to reduce isolation, improve their health and wellbeing and attend hospital appointments and activities in the community thus reducing escalation of need and demand on health and social care provisions.

- 5.4 Performance has been evaluated as good throughout the contract period; performance returns are completed and submitted on time and targets are met.
- 5.5 The current contract for the Home Sweet Home service commenced on 1st August 2014 and was awarded by Cabinet Member for a period of 2 years plus a year's extension, following a pilot project.
- 5.6 The 2014 – 16 contract had an annual contract value of £166,400; overall value of £332,800. The extension of the contract by one year with 80 units has a total contract value of £266,240 which is comprised of £166,400 for the original 50 units and £99,840 for an additional 30 units.
- 5.7 Metropolitan failed to provide the contracted additional 30 units in 2016/17 and as a result agreed to a clawback of £73,216.
- 5.8 Following contract negotiations with Metropolitan, 5% efficiency savings were made from 1 August 2017 and the number of units increased from 50 to 65 at an annual value of £158,080.

6. Contribution to strategic outcomes

- 6.1 This service supports Council Priority 5, Creating homes and communities where people choose to live and are able to thrive, and Priority 2, Prevent homelessness and support residents to lead fulfilling lives.

7. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)

8. Finance

- 8.1. This report recommends the contract extension for Metropolitan Home Sweet Home Service with a maximum value of £158,080. The award is for a period of 12 months from 1 August 2018 to 31 July 2019.

- 8.2 The current contract for the Home Sweet Home service commenced on 1st August 2014 and was awarded by Cabinet Member for a period of 2 years plus a year's extension.
- 8.3 The current contract which expires on 31 July 2018 has the option to extend for one year; its total value including extension is £316,160. A strategic review of Floating Support contracts and a re-tendering exercise will be undertaken during the extension period.
- 8.4 This contract will be funded from Housing Related Support budget within the 2018/19 Housing General Fund budget.

9. Procurement

- 9.1 The contract extension is in line with the requirements of both CSO 10.02a and the Procurement code of Practice
- 9.2 The contract extension is sought to ensure all housing related support contracts expire at the same time so that a subsequent tender process can be undertaken based on the a new strategy following service review which is in the process of being undertaken
- 9.3 Moreover, service has negotiated a 5% efficiency reduction in contract price in order to secure the best value available, as well as a further cost reduction enabled by expunging the number of underused units from the contract
- 9.4 Service has advised that the supplier is providing a good service which meets performance targets, and will continue to monitor the contract during the proposed extension period

10. Legal

- 10.1 Not applicable.

11. Equality

- 11.1 The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not
 - Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.

- 11.2 The three parts of the duty applies to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty.
 - 11.3 The report recommends a contract extension for the Home Sweet Home service, which delivers housing-related floating support to 65 service users aged 60 or over.
 - 11.4 The service users have protected characteristics under the Equality Act (2010). Withdrawal of the service would have a negative impact on a protected group, and so a decision to extend the contract for the service enables the Council to meet its Public Sector Equality Duty.
 - 11.5 Equalities principles were incorporated into the original procurement process. Metropolitan Housing Trust's equalities policies and procedures have been evaluated and deemed of sufficient quality.
 - 11.6 A consultation was undertaken with service users prior to the procurement and the results were analysed to identify any equalities issues. No equalities issues were noted.
 - 11.7 An Equalities Impact Assessment, based on service user data, was carried out on the Housing Related Support Commissioning Plan.
 - 11.8 Equalities monitoring is included as a requirement of the contract, which also states that the service must be accessible to the diverse communities of the borough and that any differential levels of access must be addressed.
12. **Use of Appendices**
 13. **None**