

**Haringey Council**  
**Written Statement/Record of a decision made by an officer under**  
**delegated authority**

Decision Maker	Assistant Director for Housing
Subject of the decision	Approval to pay the fee for the first year's membership of the Setting the Standard (STS) project which will provide additional monitoring and inspection services for nightly paid studio placements.
Date of decision	16 June 2020
Decision	That the Assistant Director for Housing: 1. Pursuant to Contract Standing Order 9.07.1.(c), approves the appointment of the Setting the Standard programme to provide oversight, co-ordination and inspections of nightly paid studio Temporary Accommodation. This will be to enforce a common standard for such accommodation. 2. Agrees to waive Contract Standing Order 8.03 (requirement to obtain at least 3 competitive quotations) pursuant to Standing Order 10.01.2.(d)(ii) and; 3. Approves a payment of £19,702 for this work (exclusive of VAT).
Reasons for the decision	Authorisation is sought from the AD Housing to approve the payment of £19,702 to allow the programme to progress.
Details of any alternative options considered	Continue to set and monitor standards independently on a local basis: This option was rejected because there is currently, limited ability to inspect out of borough properties. Setting a common standard among London boroughs will help ensure that rogue landlords are unable to move between competing boroughs.
Conflicts of interest – Executive decisions	Not applicable.
Conflicts of interest – Non exec decisions	Not applicable.
Title of any docs considered	Not applicable.
Reasons for exemption	Not applicable.
Communicating your decision:	The decision will be communicated internally to the relevant Council officers as necessary – and will be published on the decisions page of Haringey's website.
Signature of Decision Maker	
Name of Decision Maker	Alan Benson - Assistant Director for Housing

Report for: Alan Benson, Assistant Director for Housing

Title: Payment of the annual fee for the Setting the Standard programme for the accommodation of the homeless

Report Authorised by: Simon Eversley, Interim Housing Strategy and Commissioning Manager

Lead Officer: Martin Gulliver, Housing Strategy and Commissioning Officer  
Tel. 020-8489 2380. Email: [martin.gulliver@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:martin.gulliver@haringey.gov.uk)

Ward(s) affected: All

Report for Key/  
Non-Key Decision: Non-Key Decision

## 1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 This report seeks approval to pay the fee for the first year's membership of the Setting the Standard (STS) project which will provide additional monitoring and inspection services for nightly paid studio placements.

## 2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Assistant Director for Housing:-

- 2.1 Pursuant to Contract Standing Order 9.07.1.(c), approves the appointment of the Setting the Standard programme to provide oversight, co-ordination and inspections of nightly paid studio Temporary Accommodation. This will be to enforce a common standard for such accommodation.
- 2.2 Agrees to waive Contract Standing Order 8.03 (requirement to obtain at least 3 competitive quotations) pursuant to Standing Order 10.01.2.(d)(ii) and;
- 2.3 Approves a payment of £19,702 for this work (exclusive of VAT) as set out in Appendix 2. This will be funded by the Flexible Homelessness Support Grant (FHSG).

## 3. Reasons for decision

- 3.1 Recommendation 2.3 is required to allow the programme to progress.

## 4. Alternative options considered

Continue to set and monitor standards independently on a local basis

- 4.1 This option was rejected because there is currently, limited ability to inspect out of borough properties. Setting a common standard among London boroughs

will help ensure that rogue landlords are unable to move between competing boroughs.

## 5. Background

5.1 The high level aim of the project is to ensure that properties used by the participating London boroughs as Temporary Accommodation (TA) for vulnerable people meet an agreed minimum standard.

5.2 The overall aims of Setting the Standard (STS) project are to: -

- Ensure the suitability of properties for vulnerable people placed in higher-risk TA.
- Enable boroughs to place households in nightly paid TA with confidence, particularly when placing them across borough boundaries within London.
- Ensure efficiencies in inspections and enforcement action by avoiding multiple inspections by representatives from different boroughs; and
- Deliver a common minimum inspection standard.

5.3 The STS is an expansion of a previous multi-borough scheme in the West London Partnership and now includes 31 of the 33 local authorities in London. The scheme currently focuses on studios as well as Bed & Breakfast accommodation (which the Council does not use).

5.4 The common standards within the programme have been agreed through multi-borough negotiations and standard monitoring is being introduced to ensure these are being adhered to consistently.

5.5. The monitoring and inspections will be undertaken by a centralised team that is currently being recruited to. This will be in addition to the existing capacity within participating boroughs and will improve the standard of TA across London.

## 6. Contribution to strategic outcomes

6.1 This proposal will assist in meeting outcome 2 of the Borough Plan: 'We will work together to prevent people from becoming homeless and to reduce existing homelessness'. Objective b states as follows: *'Where temporary accommodation can't be avoided, improve the experience of homeless families and minimise costs by reducing the Council's reliance on providers of nightly paid emergency accommodation'*.

## 7. Statutory Officers comments

### Finance

7.1 Not required as per section 23.2 of Haringey's Procurement Code of Practice.

## Legal

7.2 Not required as per section 23.2 of Haringey's Procurement Code of Practice.

## Procurement

7.3 Not required as per section 23.2 of Haringey's Procurement Code of Practice.

## Equalities

7.4 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.

7.5 The three parts of the duty apply to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status apply to the first part of the duty.

7.6 This report requests payment of fees for the first-year membership of the STS scheme. The objective of the scheme is to ensure properties for vulnerable people placed in higher-risk Temporary Accommodation (TA) are suitable. Those more likely to be living in TA include people from BAME communities and women. Membership of the scheme is therefore likely to have a positive impact on these protected groups.

## **8. Use of Appendices**

8.1 Appendix 1: STS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) - April 2020.

8.2 Appendix 2: MOU outline service specification.

8.3 Appendix 3 STS total cost breakdown, April 2020-April 2021.

## **9. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

9.1 This report is not for publication as it contains information classified as exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 in that it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding the information).