

Report for: Cabinet Member Signing – Urgent Decision

Title: Contract extension for temporary accommodation for vulnerable homeless adults (Covid-19) as allowed under Contract Standing Order 10.02.1(b), exceptional circumstances at London Hotel Group Ltd T/A Ibis Styles Hotel.

Report authorised by: Charlotte Pomery, Assistant Director for Commissioning

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Ward(s) affected: All

Report for Key/ Non Key Decision: Key Decision

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 This report seeks approval to extend the contract for the provision of accommodation and services with the following organisation, as allowed under CSO 10.02.1(b):

London Hotel Group Ltd T/A Ibis Styles Hotel, 543 Lea Bridge Road, E10 7EB - 63 units of accommodation for up to six months, from 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

- 2.1 We know that people experiencing homelessness have some of the poorest outcomes of all our residents. They are more likely to be unemployed, have unmet physical and mental health needs, and are at risk of a preventable early death. As a borough, we are committed to ending street homelessness and ensuring that vulnerable people have access to high quality supported accommodation that helps them rebuild their lives after homelessness.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That the Cabinet Member for Housing and Estate Renewal approve the extension of the contract for emergency Covid-19 accommodation for vulnerable rough sleepers with London Hotel Group Ltd T/A Ibis Styles Hotel.
- 3.2 The cost of the extension period from April to September 2021 being £525,404.

4. Reasons for decision

- 4.1 As part of the response to the Covid-19 global pandemic, Haringey Council is committed to providing temporary accommodation and subsistence to single homeless adults who are rough sleeping or at imminent risk of rough sleeping. This commitment acknowledges the particular vulnerabilities and inequalities they face and will ensure they are able to adhere to government guidelines around self-isolation, where they would not ordinarily have the accommodation or financial means to do so.
- 4.2 The Covid-19 Emergency Accommodation Board have been governing this work, which has already rapidly mobilised a range of accommodation and subsistence options for vulnerable homeless people. This report outlines a procurement decision which has the pre-approval of that Board.

5. Alternative options considered

5.1 Conduct a full RFQ process

The need for additional temporary accommodation and subsistence is urgent and unprecedented. It was deemed unfeasible to conduct a lengthy procurement process when the need was urgent and immediate and it is now understood after four months of hotel acquisition arrangements that this hotel is unique in its location and offer therefore a procurement process wouldn't be a valuable use of time.

5.2 Do nothing

The Council could elect not to use its discretionary powers to source accommodation for vulnerable homeless people during the Covid-19 situation. However, to do so would be to ignore its commitments to adult safeguarding, public health and rough sleeping as well as wider responsibilities to public safety.

6. Background information

- 6.1 The coronavirus disease outbreak was confirmed to have spread to the UK in February 2020. Since then Haringey Council has provided accommodation and support to more than 600 people.
- 6.2 In June 2020, the Council developed an Emergency Accommodation Exit Strategy. Following this, in July 2020, the Council developed a Rough Sleeping Discretion Policy. Both these documents confirm our ongoing commitment to the 'In for Good' principle, which means we will continue to provide emergency accommodation and provide HRS support to vulnerable homeless people until we have made a reasonable offer of accommodation for everyone we have placed in accommodation during the Covid-19 lockdown.

- 6.3 As of today, 3 vulnerable people, both well known to Haringey's rough sleeping services, have passed away due to Covid-19 complications.
- 6.4 The advice from the government and NHSE is for vulnerable people to stay at home to stop the novel coronavirus spreading. The provision of temporary accommodation and subsistence will assist people in following this guidance in exceptional circumstances.
- 6.5 The initial contract period was for 5 months from November 2020. However, the pandemic has gone on for considerably longer than first anticipated. This contract extension is required to avoid disruption to the delivery of the service to vulnerable adults and to keep them safe in light of the pandemic and London being under Tier 4 restrictions.

7. Contribution to strategic outcomes

- 7.1 The service directly links to **Priority 2 – Enable all adults to live healthy, long and fulfilling lives:**
- All residents will be as healthy as possible for as long as possible.
 - Health related quality of life will improve over time (including mental health and wellbeing)

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

8.1 Finance

- 8.1.1 There are £0.5m of confirmed grant for 2021/22 so far from the MHCLG to support emergency accommodation and support. This will be the first call for funding for this.
- 8.1.2 Provision of £200,000 is also available in the 2021/22 Housing Related Support (HRS) budgets for accommodation costs over the value of specific grants available.
- 8.1.3 Any further eligible grant funding received will be applied to meet any further such approved costs before recourse to the HRS budgets.

8.2 Procurement

- 8.2.1** The provision to which this report relates is in the main accommodation, despite some 'care' elements. As such the Public Procurement Regulations 2015, has little relevance. There are, therefore, no procurement ramifications.

8.2.2 However, the Covid-19 pandemic is more than likely to adversely affect the homelessness community and in so doing, increase the likelihood of spread amongst the community at large. The provision of accommodation and support in these exceptional circumstances will assist in the Council in protecting the local populace and contain virus spread. This request is therefore, supported

8.3 Legal

8.3.1 The Head of Legal and Governance notes the contents of the report.

8.3.2 The contract in the report falls outside the remit of public procurement as it is a property transaction and as such public procurement regulations does not apply to the contract in the report.

8.3.3 Pursuant to the Council's Contract Standing Order (CSO) 10.02.1(b), Cabinet may approve the extension of a contract if the value of the variation is £500,000 or more and as such Cabinet has power to approve the extension of the Contracts in the report.

8.3.4 Pursuant to the provisions of CSO 16.02, the Leader may allocate the making of a decision reserved for Cabinet to the Cabinet member having the relevant portfolio responsibilities and as such the Cabinet Member for Housing and Estate Renewal has power to make the decision in the report so long as the decision making has been allocated to them by the Leader.

8.3.4 The Head of Legal and Governance sees no legal reasons preventing the approval of the recommendations in the report.

9. Equality

9.1 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.

9.2 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 apply to the first part of the duty.

9.3 The proposed decision is to approve the extension of contract for emergency Covid-19 accommodation for vulnerable rough sleepers, to London Hotel Group Ltd T/A Ibis Styles Hotel. The objective of this decision is to mitigate the

impact of Covid-19 on Haringey residents through provision of temporary accommodation and subsistence to single homeless adults who are rough sleeping or at imminent risk of rough sleeping.

- 9.4 The decision will affect individuals and households who have been identified as vulnerable through Council-held datasets as rough sleeping or at imminent risk of rough sleeping. We know that since the lockdown homelessness has increased, and Haringey residents on lower incomes, young people, BAME communities, and lone parents are likely to have faced challenges associated with housing on a disproportionate scale and will likely be among those overrepresented as affected by this decision. Notably, Haringey's homeless population are exceptionally vulnerable to Covid-19. The proposed decision, therefore, represents a measure to meet the needs of people with protected characteristics and therefore mitigate any new inequalities arising as a result of the impact of Covid-19. This decision will help the Council to meet its equalities duties and address known inequalities affecting individuals with protected characteristics, particularly relating to age, race, and disability. Accordingly, the decision represents progress to eliminate discrimination and advance equality of opportunity.
- 9.5 No negative consequences are identified for those who identify with one or more protected characteristics and it is concluded that the extension of this contract will have a positive impact by ensuring vulnerable residents are safe in light of the pandemic and London being under Tier 4 restrictions.

10. Use of Appendices

Not applicable.

11. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Not applicable.