

Report for: Cabinet Member Signing – June 2025

Item number: Item 7

Title: Extension of the Haringey Moving Forward Contract

Report authorised by: Zahra Maye – Head of Housing Related Support

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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 with Ark Resettlement Services (ARKRS) for the provision of Haringey Moving Forward Services; specialist housing related support to prison leavers, as allowed under Contract Standing Order (CSO) 18.03.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

- 2.1. Not Applicable

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. For Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning to approve retrospectively, in accordance with Contract Standing Order 18.03, the variation of the contract for the provision of Haringey Moving Forward delivered by ARK Resettlement Services and extend for a further period of 8.5 months, effective from 16th June to 28th February 2026 at the cost of £112,369. The aggregated total value of the contract will be £611,377 including the proposed extension.
- 3.2. For the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning to note that the London Probation Service has been match-funding 50% of the service cost and will continue their contribution for the duration of the extension period proposed in paragraph 3.1 above. As a result, the actual cost of the service specific to Haringey over the life of the contract will be £305,688.50.

4. Reasons for decision

- 4.1. Research shows that prison leavers without settled accommodation are nearly 50% more likely to reoffend. This makes housing a critical factor in successful reintegration into society. Ark Resettlement Services, in partnership with the London Probation Service, delivers the Haringey Moving Forward service which provides supported accommodation for ex-offenders.
- 4.2. As a provider Ark Resettlement Services possess the expertise to rapidly meet the multiple and complex needs of this client group having previously delivered positive outcomes whilst working jointly with the London Probation Service and Haringey' Housing Department.
- 4.3. Haringey, like many London boroughs, faces high housing demand and affordability challenges. Ex-offenders often struggle to compete in the private rental market due to:
 - Lack of income or employment.
 - Stigma from landlords.
 - Complex support needs (e.g., mental health, substance misuse).
- 4.4. The service supports ex- offenders to integrate back into the community and supports rehabilitation thereby reducing the risk of re-offending. There is a demonstrable need for Haringey Moving Forward service which supports low - medium risk offenders to live independently in the community, reduce re-offending and access education training and employment. The service contributes towards both public protection and the social inclusion of offenders, whilst supporting the Council's priority to make Haringey a place where people feel safe, want to live, work and visit.
- 4.5. 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 criminal justice, health and social care provisions. A contributory factor to rough sleeping upon prison discharge is the shortage of suitable supported accommodation for people to rapidly move off the street and into secure housing. Whilst also contributing towards both public protection and the social inclusion of offenders and supporting the Council's priority to make Haringey a place where people feel safe, want to live, work and visit.
- 4.6. The Council has a duty to provide temporary accommodation to residents. The additional funding provided by the London Probation Service, forms part of the new Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery programme funding for rough sleeping services and support for ex-offenders. Funding is also to ensure ex-offenders leaving prison rapidly, get the support and accommodation they need to live independently.
- 4.7. If the service was to be discontinued or decommissioned, service users would likely end up re-offending or may end up rough sleeping and homeless. The council will also lose this most needed funding to support

these vulnerable residents. Which would put a strain on the Council's main resources. For example:

- Housing Services - demand for housing will increase as ex-offenders often face difficulties in securing housing due to stigma and financial instability.
- Social Care Services – many ex-offenders have mental health and substance abuse issues that need ongoing support, which in turn puts pressure on social care services.

4.10 Given the uncertainty of long-term funding, a short-term extension is necessary to maintain service continuity. An 8.5-month extension provides a balanced approach, allowing time for securing longer-term funding arrangements while ensuring ongoing support for service users.

4.11 By extending the contract for 8.5 months, the Council can continue to provide essential support to ex-offenders, contributing to their successful reintegration into society and reducing the overall costs associated with homelessness and reoffending. This approach aligns with the Council's commitment to supporting vulnerable residents and promoting community safety and well-being. Therefore, an extension of the existing contract is the most advantageous option. At the end of the extension period the Council will initiate a competitive procurement process to select a provider for a new contract.

5. Alternative options considered

5.1. **Do nothing:** - This option was considered and not found to be viable due to the following reasons:

- There is only a statutory requirement to provide housing for single homeless people where they are identified as vulnerable and in priority need under Section 189 of the Housing Act (1996 amended 2002). However, Haringey like all London boroughs recognises the human, social and economic costs associated with homelessness and the need to ensure that people are adequately supported to recover from it and prevent future instances.
- If the service was to be discontinued or decommissioned, service users may end up rough sleeping and homeless which would put a strain on the Council's resources as outlined in point 4.7.
- Communities that invest in re-entry housing for ex-offenders often benefit from reduced crime rates, increased employment, and stronger social cohesion. Without such services, these benefits are lost.

5.2. **Tender process** - Although a tender process was considered, the current year-on-year match funding arrangement with the Probation Services restricts the Council's planning and recommissioning strategies. We are in discussions with the London Probation Service to secure a two-year

funding agreement. Extending the contract is prudent to ensure continuity of the existing service and minimise disruption or displacement of service users while exploring other market options.

6. Background information

- 6.1. 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.
- 6.2. The number of referrals to the Single Homeless Pathway for those with multiple and complex needs has increased year on year. The increase in complexities and challenges faced by homeless people in Haringey has resulted in a spike in demand for supported accommodation.
- 6.3. Housing Related Support jointly commissions the service on behalf of the London Probation Service and assumes overall contract management responsibility.
- 6.4. The contract originally commenced on the 1st February 2021 to 2nd January 2022 with the extension of 1 year option utilised; a total contract value of £224,739. The contract was extended and varied in March 2023 for a period of 2 years and 30 days at a cost of £248,400, the contract was further extended in April 2025 for 2.5 months at a value of £25,869. The overall value over the life of the contract is £499,008 for those periods.

- 6.5. Table below provides the breakdown of contract price:

Contract Period	Values without VAT	Values with VAT (where applicable)
Initial Contract period – 1 st February 2021 to 2 nd January 2022	£112,369.50	Contract started prior to publication PNN 10/21
Extension allowed within the terms of the contract, 12 months – 3 rd January 2022 to 3 rd January 2023	£112,369.50	£134,843.40
Variation to the terms of the contract to extend for a period of 2 years & 30 days - 4 th January 2023 to 31 st March 2025	£248,400.00	£298,080.00
Variation to the terms of the contract to extend for a period of 2.5 months – 1 st April 2025 to 15 th June 2025	£25,869.00	£31,042.80

Contract Period	Values without VAT	Values with VAT (where applicable)
Proposed variation to extend the contract for 8.5 months – From 16 th June 2025 to 28 th February 2026	112,369.00	134,842.80
Total	£611,377.00	£711,178.50

- 6.6. The service has been set up to operate in a flexible manner, adjusting the number of support hours per service user depending on the intensity of support required by each individual. The service supports up to 26 service users for a period of 12 to 18 months.
- 6.7. Ark Resettlement Services provides specialist support to those with criminal justice involvement by supporting clients to comply with criminal justice orders and licences, accessing and sustaining substance treatment, both statutory and voluntary as well as supporting clients to secure and maintain tenancies, access benefits and education, training, employment as well as referring clients to specialist mental health services; reducing escalation of need and demand on criminal justice services and health and social care provisions.
- 6.8. Contract monitoring of this service confirms overall the contract has been performing well. The service has a total number of 26 bed spaces and supports on average 24 individuals per quarter. Outcomes achieved:
- 96 % of service users successfully complied with their license requirement 42% of individuals achieved successful move on outcomes and tenancy sustainment in 2023/2024,
 - the project achieved a 55.6% success rate for achieving stable housing during 2023-2024,
 - Other outcomes successfully achieved were employment, mental health and well-being and social and relationship building.
- We will continue to regularly monitor the contract quarterly to ensure that outcomes are consistently being achieved.
- 6.9. The current contract expires on 15th June 2025. However, the Service Provider have confirmed they will be willing to continue delivering services as per the expired contractual arrangement.

7. Contribution to strategic outcomes

- 7.1. This contract supports the contributes significantly to the Council's strategic outcomes under the Corporate Delivery Plan 2024 – 2026, in particular:

- Homes for the Future: outcome 5: *Preventing and reducing homelessness and rough sleeping.*
The service significantly contributes to the delivery of this outcome by providing support which enables individuals to manage their housing and manage finances, to support their housing. The service also provides advice and tenancy sustainment, supporting clients to respond to issues which may threaten the stability of their housing situation.
- Adults, health and welfare: outcome 1: *A healthy and active population.*
The service contributes to delivery of this outcome by supporting clients to stay healthy including by supporting access to healthcare, engagement in physical activity and access to good nutrition.
- Adults, health and welfare: outcome 3: *Residents connected with the right support at the right time in their neighbourhoods.*
The service contributes to delivery of this outcome by focusing on developing peer support and user-led social initiatives, with clients supported to build positive relationships and engage with their communities.
- Adults, health and welfare: outcome 5: *Vulnerable adults are supported and thriving.*
The service contributes to delivery of this outcome by providing support which enables individuals to manage their housing and relationship with their landlord, driving improvements in the quality of their housing.

7.2. The service will contribute to the strategic objectives of Adults Social Care and their partners to offer preventative interventions at individual and community levels; meeting demand for on supported housing, preventing escalation of need and offering viable alternatives to residential care.

7.3. The service will contribute to the delivery of the Council's Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023 - 2027 by helping to prevent and relieve homelessness, reduce the use of temporary accommodation and provide rapid exit from street homelessness for those in need.

7.4. The service also contributes to the Council's statutory responsibilities under a range of legislation including the Homelessness Reduction Act (2018), the Care Act (2014) and the Equality Act (2010), by providing housing-related support to vulnerable people in order to ensure they are able to live independent, fulfilling and active lives in the community for as long as possible.

8. Carbon and Climate Change

8.1. Haringey Climate Change Action Plan March 2021 outlines the council's route for net zero carbon in Haringey. All HRS services and provision

contribute to the Community Actions Objective Com1 – To increase education and awareness raising across the borough to residents and businesses.

- Raising awareness of the impacts of climate change, and steps to mitigate, can encourage residents and businesses to engage with the issue and to enable behavioural change.

8.2. Housing Related Support team commission a wide variety of services which support vulnerable Haringey residents who have experience homelessness or are at risk of homelessness.

8.3. As a team we are committed to embedding educational awareness into the fabric of commissioning from the tender process to contract monitoring. We seek to deliver carbon literacy awareness training to our providers and stakeholder relating to carbon footprint within their own organisations i.e.:

- Ensuring providers have a carbon change policy.
- Including drafting a provider's self-assessment.

8.4. We also seek to consult with our stakeholders in relation to benchmarking best practice. This in-turn will be fed into our annual audit procedure where HRS Commissioning would be able to monitor and evaluate year on year whether organisations are reducing their carbon footprint.

8.5. HRS would also seek to co-produce our own carbon plan with service users by consulting with them on how climate change is affecting them i.e. Summer SWEP, Climate anxiety etc.

8.6. Finally, we seek to embed climate change into our service specification ensuring that providers we have, commit to addressing climate change on a wider strategic level with the Commissioning Team.

9. Statutory Officers comments (Director of Finance (procurement), Head of Legal and Governance, Equalities)

9.1. Finance

9.1.1 This report seeks the extension of the Ark Resettlement Services (ARKRS) for the provision of Haringey Moving Forward service for a period of 8.5 months, from 16th June 2025 to 28th February 2026 at a contract value of £112,369.

9.1.2 The London Probation Service will match fund this extension for a total value of £56,184. The remaining value will be funded from the Housing Related Support (HRS) General Fund Budget.

9.1.3 As this cost has been factored within the allocated budget there is little financial risk to the council.

9.2. Strategic Procurement

- 9.2.1. Strategic Procurement notes the contents of this report and have been consulted in the preparation of this report.
- 9.2.2. The report relates to services which are subject to the Light Touch Regime under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR 2015). As such they are required to be advertised and comply with the procedures laid out in the PCR's.
- 9.2.3. A change in a contract post award usually requires a new tender process unless it falls within the permitted allowances under section 72 of the PCR 2015. The requested contract variation and extension is in accordance with PCR 2015, section 72.1 (b) which permits additional services without the need for a retender, if a change of contractor cannot be made for economic or technical reasons and provided that the increase in price does not exceed 50% of the value of the original contract.
- 9.2.4. This contract is jointly funded by the London Probation Service (LPS) and operates on a year-by-year basis. While LPS has confirmed funding for the 2025/26 financial year, future funding remains uncertain. Initiating a procurement process without financial certainty could lead to unnecessary expenditure of Council resources and significant service disruption. Therefore, varying the contract to allow an extension is considered the most suitable option on this occasion. Moreover, the value of the contract for additional services does not exceed 50% of the value of the original contract.
- 9.2.5. The Strategic Procurement Team notes that the original contract was awarded through a waiver process for an initial one-year term, with an option for a 12-month extension. However, successive extensions beyond the originally intended period have been repeatedly applied. This approach effectively results in repeated contract awards to the same provider without competition, limiting market engagement and potentially failing to uphold the Council's legal duty to ensure best value. Furthermore, extending a contract in this manner (especially when original contract was awarded without competitive process and extensions were not stipulated in the initial award), constitutes poor procurement practice and may increase the risk of legal challenge.
- 9.2.6. The request for contract variation is permitted under Contract Standing Orders (CSO) 18.03, the reasons for which are detailed in paragraphs 4 above.
- 9.2.7. Considering the above, Strategic Procurement supports the recommendation in paragraph 3.1 above.

9.3 Legal

- 9.3.1 The Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) has been consulted on the preparation of this report.

- 9.3.2 The original contract was awarded when the prevailing procurement legislation was the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. The services were Schedule 3 services and were subject to the 'light touch' regime.
- 9.3.3 Legal Services notes that the contract has been awarded and subsequently extended on a number of occasions without being subject to competition. Legal Services accords with the procurement comments in respect of opening up this service to competition going forward in accordance with good procurement practice and the Council's Contract Standing Orders.
- 9.3.4 The Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning has power to approve the extension under CSO 0.08 (decision which may be taken by Cabinet may also be taken by the Leader or a Cabinet Member).
- 9.3.5 The Director of Legal and Governance confirms that there are no legal reasons preventing the Cabinet Member from approving the recommendations in this report.

9.4 Equality

- 9.4.1 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.
- 9.4.2 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.
- 9.4.3 Although it is not enforced in legislation as a protected characteristic, Haringey Council treats socioeconomic status as a local protected characteristic.
- 9.4.4 The decision is to award a variation and extension for the Haringey Moving Forward Services, for the provision of specialist housing related support to prison leavers delivered by ARK Resettlement Service.
- 9.4.5 Those most likely to be affected by the decision are service users of the accommodation and support services. Service level data from the existing service show that service users reflect the demographic of homelessness in Haringey. According to the Homelessness Strategy EQIA, women, young people, ethnic minority communities such as black African, black Caribbean, Asian other and black other, those who identify as LGBTQ+ and individuals with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to homelessness.

- 9.4.6 The service will provide ex-offenders released from prison aged over 18 with accommodation and support for up to 18 months.
- 9.4.7 The service will provide ex-offenders a smoother transition out of the Criminal justice system by providing specialist, flexible and responsive support that addresses:
- substance misuse needs, including those who are pre-contemplative.
 - low to medium mental health and learning difficulties.
 - chaotic lifestyles, including those displaying anti-social behaviour.
- 9.4.8 This service provides support to ensure that individuals can find and maintain suitable housing that meets their needs, as well as to manage other aspects of living a fulfilled and happy life.