

MINUTES OF CABINET MEMBER SIGNING MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 8 JULY 2025, 11:15AM – 11:30AM

PRESENT: Councillor Sarah Williams, Cabinet Member for Housing & Planning
(Deputy Leader)

In attendance: Martin Gulliver, Housing Strategy & Policy Officer, Zahra Maye, Head
of Housing Related Support 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. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

4. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no declarations of interest.

5. DEPUTATIONS / PETITIONS / QUESTIONS

There were none.

6. APPROVAL OF REDWING & TURNSTONE LOCAL LETTINGS PLAN

Haringey had an ageing population. The Council wanted to expand the offer to older residents beyond the current offer of sheltered housing or care homes. The Council's engagement with older residents had revealed there was a strong demand for accessible, safe, and secure home which can be occupied for many years.

The Wingspan Scheme was a high-quality development of 272 new council homes located in Tottenham Hale. All these homes would be let at Council rents.

The Council believes that the 46 one-bedroom and 73 two-bedroom homes located in Redwing Court & Turnstone Court are particularly suitable for older residents looking for accessible, safe, and secure homes. The Council was therefore seeking to put in place a Local Lettings Plan ('Lettings Plan') that will ensure these 119 homes were let to people aged fifty-five or over.

In 2024/25 the Council let 739 homes meaning these homes were expected to be around 15% of lets. However, it was anticipated that many of these lets would go to existing social tenants who would release and so reducing the impact.

The Cabinet Member RESOLVED

1. To note the Equality Impact assessment and the Consultation Report.
2. To approve the Redwing & Turnstone Local Lettings Plan.

Reasons for decision

The Lettings Plan was designed following research and engagement with older tenants on the housing offer to older residents.

The Lettings Plan would enable older residents to settle in long-term suitable homes with level access and accessible. It would also be an attractive offer to existing tenants who may release large family homes.

Alternative options considered

To not set out a Lettings Plan:

This option was rejected because the existing lettings arrangements (Neighbourhood Moves Scheme and then the wider Housing Allocations Policy) would have limited impact on the number of downsizing tenants seeking to move. It would also be a missed opportunity to develop a genuinely new offer for older people.

7. EXTENSION OF THE HARINGEY MOVING FORWARD CONTRACT

The report sought 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.

The Cabinet Member RESOLVED

1. 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.

2. 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.

Reasons for decision

Research showed that prison leavers without settled accommodation were nearly 50% more likely to reoffend. This made 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.

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.

Haringey, like many London boroughs, faced high housing demand and affordability challenges. Ex-offenders often struggled 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).

The service supported ex- offenders to integrate back into the community and supports rehabilitation thereby reducing the risk of re-offending. There was a demonstrable need for Haringey Moving Forward service which supported low - medium risk offenders to live independently in the community, reduce re-offending and access education training and employment.

The service contributed 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. The service met 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 was 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.

The Council had a duty to provide temporary accommodation to residents. The additional funding provided by the London Probation Service, formed part of the new Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery programme funding for rough sleeping services and support for ex-offenders. Funding was also to ensure ex-offenders

leaving prison rapidly, got the support and accommodation they needed to live independently.

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 would 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 would increase as ex- offenders often face difficulties in securing housing due to stigma and financial instability.
- Social Care Services – many ex-offenders had mental health and substance abuse issues that needed ongoing support, which in turn put pressure on social care services.

Given the uncertainty of long-term funding, a short-term extension was 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.

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 aligned with the Council's commitment to supporting vulnerable residents and promoting community safety and well-being. Therefore, an extension of the existing contract was the most advantageous option. At the end of the extension period the Council would initiate a competitive procurement process to select a provider for a new contract.

Alternative options considered

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

- 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.
- 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 of the report.
- 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 were lost.

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. The Council was in discussions with the London Probation Service to secure a two-year funding agreement. Extending the contract was prudent to ensure continuity of the existing service and minimise disruption or displacement of service users while exploring other market options.

8. AWARD OF CONTRACTS FOR THE PROVISION OF HOUSING RELATED SUPPORT -YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED HOUSING PATHWAY

The Services within Young People's Supported Pathway aim to provide a pathway to independence for young people at risk of homelessness and care leavers, helping them build the skills necessary for independent living.

The Council had undertaken competitive procurement process for the recommissioning of Housing Related Support – Young People's Supported Pathway. The services were tendered into four separate lots: Lot 1 (Generic visiting support); Lot 2 (Unaccompanied Asylum- Seeking Children); Lot 3 (Young Women's Service) and Lot 4 (Housing First for Care leavers)

The report detailed the outcome of the procurement process and sought approval to award contracts to the successful tenderers for Lot 1, 2 and 4. Details including names of suppliers and costs submitted by each tenderer were outlined under Appendix 1 – Part B (exempt information) of the report.

Subject to approval, the contracts shall be awarded for a period of four (4) years, commencing from 1st September 2025 with an option to extend for a further period, or periods, of up to a total of three (3) years in accordance with the terms of the contract.

The cost of the contracts for the initial term of 4 years is £ 865,714, and the total aggregated value over the full duration of 7 years is £ 1,515,000 (figures exclusive of VAT).

The split between probation and general fund was half-half. This was very good value for money.

The Cabinet Member RESOLVED

1. To approve, in accordance with Contract Standing Orders, the award of contracts for the provision of Housing Related Support Services, Young People's Supported Housing Pathway to the successful tenderers as outlined in

Appendix 1 - Part B (exempt information) of this report, for a period of 4 years commencing from 1st September 2025 with an option to extend for a further period/ periods of up to 3 years. The cost of contracts across the three Lots for the initial period of 4 years is £844,924 (exclusive of VAT) and the total aggregated total value for the full duration of 7 years is £1,478,617, if fully extended (exclusive of VAT) 3.2.

2. To note that no suitable bids received for Lot 3 (Young Women's Service) and a separate procurement process may be carried out to recommission this service subject to availability of funding.

Reasons for decision

Changes to the Homelessness Reduction Act (2018) and the Children and Social Work Act (2017) which extended local authorities' duties to care leavers up to their 25th birthday subsequently placed greater pressure on the Council in respect of an increased duty toward accommodating Young People within the borough.

Existing contract expiry and no extension available: The existing contracts under Housing Related Support - Young People's Supported Housing expire on 31st August 2025 and there was no further provision to extend the contract.

Procurement process carried out: The Council had carried out a competitive procurement process and identified successful tenderers to be awarded contracts as outlined Appendix 1 Part B exempt information. Failure to award new contracts would lead to service disruption, putting vulnerable young people at risk of homelessness.

The tender process had ensured that the Council secures high-quality, cost- effective services that meet statutory obligations under the Housing Act 1996, Children Act 1989, and Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.

Awarding these contracts will contribute to the Council's Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy and Corporate Delivery Plan objectives by preventing youth homelessness and promoting social inclusion and independence.

Need for the service: Given the rising levels of homelessness among young people and the multiple disadvantages they face, there is a critical need to maintain specialist Young People provision in Haringey. Young people are disproportionately affected by family rejection, mental health challenges, discrimination, and an increased risk of exploitation and abuse. Without dedicated accommodation and support, they face significantly poorer outcomes, including long-term homelessness, unemployment, and severe mental health crises.

Alternative options considered

Do nothing – The option to do nothing was considered and rejected as was found not to be viable due to following reasons:

□ Discontinuing these services would lead to a Young Person losing their supported housing tenancy. In this event, in order to meet their statutory obligations, Young Adults Service would be required to provide placements to care leavers who are accommodated with the Unaccompanied Asylum- Seeking Children and Housing First services. This was not cost effective as would cost the council an additional £50,928 per young person on average per annum.

□ The Young Peoples Pathway of provision supports vulnerable Haringey residents some who require a high level of intensive support to sustain their tenancies. While delivering this service is not a statutory requirement for the Housing Related Support team, it relieves pressure on other departments in fulfilling their statutory duties.

Deliver the services in-house - Following an assessment of feasibility, it is recommended that an outsourced model would be most advantageous for the council. This is due to reasons outline below:

a) The Council could meet the requirement for 46 units within the required timescales. Renovation of Council buildings was explored but found unsuitable due to their potential use for other specialisms (e.g., Learning Disabilities, Older People). Additionally, renovation completion would not align with the tender process timeline. Future planning may explore this route for sourcing accommodation for the Young People's pathway.

b) If this pathway provision were to be delivered by the council, the costs attributed to staffing, building lease agreements and housing management responsibilities for an additional 46 units of accommodation is more than the available Young People Pathway budget envelope.

9. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Item 10 was 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); paragraph 3, namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) and information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

10. EXEMPT - AWARD OF CONTRACTS FOR THE PROVISION OF HOUSING RELATED SUPPORT -YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED HOUSING PATHWAY

The Cabinet Member considered the exempt information.

CABINET MEMBER: Councillor Sarah Williams

Signed by Cabinet Member

Date9 July 2025.....