

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 3 September 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities

PORTFOLIO: Physical Environment

SUBJECT: Procurement of a Housing Support Service for Homeless Single Persons at Halton Lodge YMCA

WARD(S): Grange

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 In compliance with Procurement Standing Order 2.1 the Board's agreement is sought for the invitation of tenders to provide a housing support service at Halton Lodge YMCA.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Executive Board

- 1) approves the commencement of a procurement exercise for housing support services at Halton Lodge YMCA as described in the report; and**
- 2) receives a further report on the outcome of the tenders.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Halton Lodge YMCA provides 66 units of accommodation for the single homeless. The building is owned by YMCA England but managed by Halton YMCA. The Council has contracted with Halton YMCA to provide housing support services since the Supporting People programme started in 2003, although the service existed some years prior to this supported by other funding streams.

3.2 The service was reconfigured last year, as set out in a report to Board on 12th March 2015, whereby the building is now divided into two halves, one half providing intensive support to those in crisis with significant support needs, and the other catering for those with lesser support needs.

3.3 In the same report the Board was informed of a developing relationship between the local Halton YMCA and Fylde YMCA. This has continued to progress and Fylde YMCA now has 2 members on the Halton YMCA Board.

- 3.4 In March Board agreed the direct award of a 1 year contract to Halton YMCA for 2015/16, to allow time for the service changes to be implemented before retendering the service. This contract expires on the 31st March 2016 and consequently approval is being sought to commence a procurement exercise to establish a new service contract.
- 3.5 It is intended to invite tenders using an open tender procedure, evaluating them on the basis of the 'Most Economically Advantageous Tender' with a 40% price and 60% quality bias. The contract period will be for five years.
- 3.6 Based on current service costs the estimated cost of commissioning the service for 5 years will be in the order of £1,375,000. There is financial provision within the Community Directorate's budget to meet this level of expenditure.
- 3.7 Subject to this request being approved the results of the tenders will be reported back to Board for acceptance.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The continued provision of accommodation and support at Halton Lodge YMCA will enable the Council to discharge its statutory duty to assist eligible homeless single persons, and is in line with the authority's Homelessness Strategy.
- 4.2 The proposed method of procurement complies with the Council's Procurement Policy and Standing Orders, and with UK and EU procurement rules, and will be undertaken with the full support of the Procurement Centre.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 As stated in 3.6 there is existing budget provision to continue funding the service at current expenditure levels.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

Homeless young people are the main client group for this service, and provision of the service in modern safe premises will provide a vital safety net for those unfortunate enough to find themselves homeless.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

The service will provide practical support to help individuals to prepare for living independently, and support them to engage with

education, training and employment services to improve their future prospects.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Experiencing homelessness has an adverse effect on an individual's health and wellbeing. The service will work with individuals to encourage them to adopt a healthy lifestyle, develop their skills to cope with independent living, and to increase their employability, all of which will increase their sense of wellbeing.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None identified.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Risk will be a particular consideration in the tender evaluation process, looking at the financial status of tenderers, their previous experience and their business continuity plans. It will also be an integral part of ongoing monitoring by the Quality Assurance Team.

7.2 In the event that tendered costs exceed budget provision it may be necessary to identify compensatory savings elsewhere.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 All tenderers will be required to demonstrate that they will embrace and comply with the Equality Act, and services will be monitored to ensure this is the case.

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Report to Executive Board 12/3/15	Runcorn Town Hall	Commissioning Manager