

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 19 September 2019

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, People

PORTFOLIO: Physical Environment

SUBJECT: Procurement of Single Homeless Accommodation Services

WARD(S) All

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 In compliance with Procurement Standing Order 2.1, Executive Board approval is sought for the invitation of tenders to provide single homelessness short term supported accommodation services.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Executive Board approves the commencement of a procurement exercise for single homelessness short-term supported accommodation.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 There are two single homelessness supported accommodation services in Halton, Brennan Lodge in Widnes and Halton Lodge in Runcorn.

Brennan Lodge provides 39 units of accommodation, including 36 self-contained units and 3 direct access units which share communal kitchen facilities.

Halton Lodge provides 66 units of accommodation across two distinct services. Cheshire Wing provides 31 units for people in crisis, with referrals accepted from the Council's Housing Solutions Team and Ford Wing provides 35 units of intermediate move-on accommodation for people with lesser support needs. Referral routes into Ford Wing include self-referrals and all agencies.

3.2 Creative Support currently provides support at both Brennan Lodge and Halton Lodge.

3.3 A procurement process was undertaken in 2015 for Halton Lodge, with the contract being awarded from 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2018, with the option to extend for a further 2 years. The final extension has now been awarded and the contract is due to end on 31st March 2020.

- 3.4 The procurement process for Brennan Lodge took place in 2016, with the contract awarded from 9th January 2017 to 8th January 2019 and option to extend for a further 2 years on a one year plus one year basis. The contract has been extended to 8th January 2020 and there is still the option to extend for a further year.
- 3.5 Although there is the option to further extend the Brennan Lodge contract for 12 months, it is proposed to extend to 31st March 2020 to align the contracts and go out to tender for one contract to include both services.
- 3.6 The services are currently in the process of being reviewed by the Council's Quality Assurance Team. Although the review is not yet complete, initial discussions have highlighted both services are managed by one service manager and that staff are able to work across both services to cover absences and provide consistency and flexibility.
- 3.7 In line with Procurement Standing Orders, approval is sought to undertake a tender exercise for a single homelessness short-term supported accommodation service. The contract will commence in April 2020 and it is proposed to offer a 3 year contract with the option to extend for a further two years on a year by year basis to stimulate market interest and encourage competitive submissions.
- 3.8 The tender will be evaluated on a Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) basis, with a proposed weighting of 70% quality and 30% price.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The service supports Halton's Homelessness Strategy.

5.0 OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The table below shows the current contract values:

Service	Contract Value
Brennan Lodge	£319,042
Halton Lodge	£268,359
Total	£587,401

The proposed budget for the service is £550,000 which will realise efficiencies of 5% against current budget.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

The service will accommodate and provide support to vulnerable young people experiencing homelessness

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

The service will empower people to access work, training and education opportunities.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The service will support people to access and engage with appropriate health services to improve their physical and mental health and well-being.

6.4 A Safer Halton

The service will provide support to minimise the risk of harm across all client groups, including offenders, people with substance misuse problems and perpetrators of anti-social behaviour.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Financial risk is minimised as tenders will be invited within existing budgets.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 Support providers will be required to demonstrate compliance with the Equality Act as part of the tender process.

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

None.