

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 21 November 2013

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities

PORTFOLIO: Physical Environment

SUBJECT: Re-tendering of Adult Domestic Abuse Services

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The report seeks approval to extend incrementally by up to four months the existing contract with Halton and District Women's Aid Association (HADWAA) for the provision of domestic abuse services. The existing contract is due to terminate on the 31st March 2014.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That acting in accordance with Procurement Standing Order 1.8.4(a), Executive Board agrees to waive Procurement Standing Orders Part 4.1 to enable an extension of up to four months, on a month by month basis, to the HADWAA contract for domestic abuse services.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 At its meeting on the 5th September 2013 the Board received a report on homelessness services and, in respect of the domestic abuse service currently being delivered by HADWAA, agreed to retendering with a view to having a new contract in place by April 2014.

3.2 It was also reported that Riverside/ECHG had agreed a refurbishment scheme for the Refuge building, which was to be implemented during the second half of 2013/14. These plans have now been firmed up and at the time of drafting this report, works were due to commence on the 11th November with completion during April 2014. This programme may overrun by a few weeks depending on the complexity of the decanting arrangements.

3.3 It had always been the intention to align the start of the new contract to the completion of the refurbishment works, because if a different Provider were to win the contract, it would be undesirable to have a service handover in the midst of a comprehensive refurbishment project.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no policy implications arising from this report.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Given the slippage of the planned works into the early part of 2014/15 it is proposed that the existing HADWAA contract be extended on a month by month basis, up to a maximum of 4 months, with the intention of commencing the new contract as soon as possible after the refurbishment works are complete. This will require the Board to agree to waive Procurement Standing Orders so that the contract extension can be awarded without competition. The value of the extension would be £19,292 per month. There is currently the budget to fund this extension.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

None identified.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None identified.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

None identified.

6.4 A Safer Halton

None identified.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None identified.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 7.1 Service handovers can be difficult and complex at the best of times. Undertaking a service handover in the midst of a building project would increase the potential risk for things not to go well, disrupting continuity of service for the clients. Whilst it would be possible to seek to mitigate this risk, on balance the most sensible approach is to avoid the problem given there is no detriment to the Council in delaying a new contract.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 8.1 None identified.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Homeless Accommodation Update Executive Board Report 05/09/13	Municipal Building	Strategic Director Communities