

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board Sub Committee

**DATE:** 4 June 2009

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Health & Community

**SUBJECT:** Notification of waiver of Standing Orders by Executive Board on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2009 to extend existing contracts for provision of Minor Adaptations and Stair Lifts

**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To notify the Executive Board Sub Committee of the decision by the Executive Board. To extend two contracts in the light of the exceptional circumstances.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:**

**The Executive Board Sub Committee note:**

**i) the decision of the Executive Board;**

## **3.0 BACKGROUND**

3.1 On 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2009 the Executive Board agreed to extend the following contracts for a period of one year during which time the tendering process for new contracts will be undertaken :

- Contract for the provision of minor adaptations.
- Contract for the provision of stair lifts.

3.2 This decision was taken due to the exceptional circumstances; namely time being available, announcement of grant and capacity within the service.

### **3.3 Contract for the Provision of Minor Adaptations**

3.3.1 A contract for the provision of minor adaptations has existed between Halton Borough Council and JC Construction Limited since April 2006. The awarding of the contract followed a full tendering process and a contract awarded for £52,000 per annum. The contract was due to expire on 31 March 2009.

3.3.2 Since the contract has been in place a responsive service has been provided for disabled people requiring minor adaptations, negating

the need to obtain prices for individual jobs and improving service performance for the provision of minor adaptations within 7 days.

- 3.3.3 The service has provided an average of 1,500 minor adaptations per year at an average unit cost of £35. These include mainly handrails and stair rails but floor fixed toilet frames have also been provided. Some people only require a single minor adaptation but in other cases several pieces of work have been carried out.
- 3.3.4 Feedback from people using the service has been extremely positive with comments about the speed of provision, the courtesy of the provider, satisfaction with the work carried out and the improvement this has made to independence.
- 3.3.5 Over the last 3 years, JC Construction have been providing additional services to be more effective and additional works awarded to the value of £20,000. As part of the tendering process the new specification for the provision of minor adaptations will be expanded to provide a more comprehensive services and will include external adaptations such as half steps and external rails.
- 3.3.6 It is proposed that the new contract will last for a period of 3 years and will offer an option to extend beyond that for a further 2 years, subject to specified outcomes being delivered and specified targets being met.
- 3.3.7 The cost of the contract for 2009/10 and subsequent years will be met from existing available budgetary provision.

#### **3.4 Contract for the Provision of Stair Lifts for Disabled People**

- 3.4.1 A contract for the provision of stair lifts has existed between Halton Borough Council and Lift Able Limited since 1 April 2008. The awarding of the contract followed a full tendering process. The contract was due to expire on 31 March 2009. This contract is on a non-exclusive basis. If required, for flexibility purposes, the Council can go to other suppliers Lift Able are not able to provide a lift.
- 3.4.2 Since the contract has been in place a responsive, timely service has been provided for disabled people requiring stair lifts. Stair lifts have been removed from the Disabled Facilities Grant process as a result and this has simplified and reduced the time scales involved in the process for installing stair lifts. This has improved the service for users including those with palliative care needs.
- 3.4.3 The service has provided 73 stair lifts to date in 2008/09. These have ranged in price from £1,500 to £4,000 depending on complexity. In palliative care cases it has been possible to install stair lifts within 10 days and more complex lifts have taken between 6-8 weeks to install. These figures compare with several months for

stair lifts provided through the Disabled Facilities Grant process.

- 3.4.4 Feedback from people using the service has been positive with comments about the speed of provision and the helpfulness of the Lift Able representative. Initial problems in the early stages of the contract have been resolved and regular monitoring arrangements are in place.
- 3.4.5 The new specification for the provision of stair lifts will provide the opportunity to consider taking advantage of the framework agreement for the provision of stair lifts that has been negotiated by the Northern Housing Consortium with a number of providers. This would offer greater flexibility and choice.
- 3.4.6 It is proposed that the new contract will last for a period of 3 years and will offer an option to extend beyond that for a further 2 years, subject to specified outcomes being delivered and specified targets being met.
- 3.4.7 The cost of the contract for 2009/10 and subsequent years will be met from existing available budgetary provision.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Handyperson Service will provide an opportunity to explore the extent to which the development of this service and the contract for the provision of minor adaptations can be combined to improve economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Contract for provision of minor adaptations – The estimated cost of the 12 month extension of the contract for the existing service is £72,000.
- 5.2 Contract for provision of stair lifts – The estimated cost of the 12 month extension of the contract for the existing service is £92,000.

#### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

##### 6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

Minor adaptations and stair lifts will continue to be provided for children under these contracts.

##### 6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

None identified.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Provision of minor adaptations and stair lifts will improve the independence of vulnerable people, enabling them to continue to bathe, improve access within the home, use other facilities safely and reduce the risk of falls.

6.4 A Safer Halton

Provision of minor adaptations and stair lifts will reduce the risk of falls both within and immediately outside the properties of vulnerable people.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None identified.

**7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 As more people with increasingly complex needs are enabled to continue to live at home independently there is a risk that the level of service required will expand beyond existing capacity. Monitoring demand will assist in planning for and managing this eventuality.

**8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 These services will be provided to all service user groups.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Urgent authorisation of extension of Contracts for the provision of Minor Adaptations and Stair Lifts.	Municipal Building, Widnes	Dwayne Johnson Strategic Director Health & Community