

REPORT TO: Executive Board Sub Committee
DATE: 22 September 2011
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Communities
SUBJECT: Re-tendering of housing support contracts.
WARDS: All

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform the Board that tenders are to be invited for the provision of a number of housing support services under the Supporting People programme. This is a report for information purposes, to comply with Procurement Standing Order Part 2.1 due to the estimated value of the tenders being in excess of £1m.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board note that a procurement process is to be undertaken for the services set out in this report.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Supporting People contracts for housing support services set out in the Appendix are due to terminate on the 31st March 2012 and therefore a procurement exercise needs to be undertaken to secure future service provision.

3.2 It is intended to seek contracts for a 1 year term, with the option to extend annually by up to 2 further years. The reason for this is that a strategic review of these services is to be undertaken and short term contracts will provide the flexibility to re-configure services more readily should this be required. 3 years would take the contracts up to the end of the Governments Spending Review period, again giving flexibility to re-configure services in the event of further budgetary pressures.

3.3 These services have previously been tendered separately but on this occasion it is intended that just three tenders be issued, two being subdivided into lots, with contractors able to bid for multiple lots. All accommodation based services will be included in one tender with the exception of the accommodation based service at the Domestic Violence Refuge. This will be tendered separately, including the related services referred to in the table in the Appendix. The third tender will comprise the remaining floating support services.

- 3.4 Financial provision for these contracts is contained within the Community Directorates Supporting People budget. The value of these contracts is estimated as follows:

Tender	Current annual value	Estimated value over 3 years
1	£1.24m	£3.53m
2	£0.52m	£1.51m
3	£0.27m	£0.77m

- 3.5 Tender submissions will be evaluated on both price and quality using a 70% price and 30% quality ratio. The outcome of the tenders will be reported to the Board in the normal way.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The method of procurement complies with the Council's procurement policy, being carried out in conjunction with the Procurement Centre and using the 'Chest' procurement portal.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 These are identified in section 3.

- 5.2 With the exception of the Sanctuary Service and the Independent Domestic Violence Advocate Service (Tender 3), all services are funded from the existing Supporting People budget. The Sanctuary Service is currently funded at £26,985 Supporting People and at £27,534 Working Neighbourhood Fund (WNF). The Independent Domestic Violence Advocate Service is funded at £25,966 WNF. Alternative funding to the WNF is currently being sought and contingencies have been identified.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

Homeless young people (under 25) are the main client group for these services, and continued provision of these services will provide a vital safety net for those unfortunate enough to find themselves homeless.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

One element of the services is to provide life skills training and practical support to help individuals to prepare for living independently, so improving their future prospects.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Experiencing homelessness has an adverse effect on individuals' health. One element of the service is to encourage individuals to

adopt a healthy lifestyle.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

N/A.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

N/A.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Risk will be a particular consideration in the tender evaluation process, given the potential for contractors to bid for multiple lots.

7.2 To mitigate risks against future budgetary pressures, all contracts will be for one year with the option to extend by up to two further years.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 All contractors will be required to demonstrate that they 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

None under the meaning of the Act.

APPENDIX

Grouping of New Tenders	Service Description
Tender 1	Halton YMCA – accommodation based support for up to 66 clients.
	Belvedere – accommodation based support for up to 23 clients.
	Orchard House – accommodation based support for up to 6 clients.
	Halton Goals – accommodation based support for up to 26 clients.
Tender 2	2 X generic floating housing support services.
	Floating support service for mental health clients.
	Floating support service for BME clients.
	Floating support service for those at risk of homelessness due to anti social behaviour.
Tender 3	Domestic Violence – this service comprises 4 elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodation based housing support • Floating support service • Sanctuary service • Independent domestic violence advocate service