

REPORT TO: Executive Board Sub Committee

DATE: 13th October 2011

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities

SUBJECT: Extension to Housing Agency Agreement with Halton Housing Trust.

WARD(S): Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The report seeks approval to agree an 18 months extension to the existing Housing Agency Agreement made as part of the Housing Stock Transfer Agreement in December 2005.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board agree to an 18 months extension of the Housing Agency Agreement between the Council and Halton Housing Trust for the reasons set out in the report.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 As part of the Housing Stock Transfer to Halton Housing Trust (HHT) in December 2005, an agreement was made whereby for a period of 5 years HHT would deliver certain housing services on the Council's behalf, the arrangement being capable of extension with the written agreement of both parties.

3.2 The functions contracted out included management of the Council's housing register and associated nominations to Housing Associations, the homelessness assessment service, provision of emergency accommodation for the homeless, and the management of Grangeway Court. From the 6th October 2008 HHT ceased to be responsible for homelessness related services, now just managing the Housing Register and nominations

3.3 The agreement expired on the 4th December 2010 and it had been hoped that it would not prove necessary to renew it due to different contractual arrangements being developed for the introduction of the new Choice Based Lettings scheme. However these new arrangements have taken longer to finalise than anticipated, and are still some months off, due to delays in agreeing the final technical specification for the sub regional scheme. The new scheme is now estimated to be introduced in April 2012.

- 3.4 The Council has already agreed that when the Choice Based Lettings scheme is introduced, HHT will be the delivery partner (EXB 98, 4th March 2010) which to all intents and purposes will replicate the existing arrangements but with a new lettings scheme. The Board is therefore requested to agree the extension of the current contractual arrangements for a period of 18 months i.e. up to 4th June 2012, which will allow sufficient time for the introduction of Choice Based Lettings and new contractual arrangements.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None

5.0 OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no other implications for the Council arising out of this report unless the Board decided not to grant an extension to the contract, since the Council would then have to make alternative short term arrangements to deliver the contracted out services until agreement was finalised on the new arrangements for the delivery of the Choice Based Lettings scheme.

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 None

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
Executive Board Report "Sub Regional Choice Based Lettings" 04/03/10	Municipal Building Widnes	Strategic Director Communities