

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 18 January 2018

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, People

PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing

SUBJECT: Direct Award of a Support Contract for Barkla Fields and Naughton Fields Extra Care Schemes

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the granting of a Direct Award of a contract for the delivery of support services at Barkla Fields and Naughton Fields Extra Care Schemes to Halton Housing Trust from 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2023.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 1) the Board, in compliance with Standing Order 1.14.3 and 1.14.4: Executive Board approval and acting under 1.14.3 (d); where compliance with Standing Orders would result in the Council having to forego a clear financial or commercial benefit, agrees to waive Procurement Standing Orders 3.0 to 3.1 (contracts below EU procurement thresholds); and**
- 2) to ensure the stability and continuity of the service, support the recommendation to grant a Direct Award to Halton Housing Trust for the delivery of support services at Barkla Fields and Naughton Fields Extra Care Schemes from 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2023**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Background Information

Extra care services have been delivered in Halton at Naughton Fields since 2013. Prior to the contract being awarded to Halton Housing Trust (HHT) in April 2016, the Council provided the housing support element, HHT provided the housing management function and care provided by domiciliary agencies.

This resulted in a fragmented service being delivered with people being supported by 3 different provider organisations and a lack of clarity over areas of responsibility.

- 3.2 As HHT had also secured funding for another extra care scheme in Widnes, it

was felt a support service which linked into HHT's Amethyst Living service (which at the time provided a floating support service to people in HHT sheltered schemes and wider community accommodation) and housing management provision would give a more efficient, integrated service.

HHT was awarded the Extra Care Contract in April 2016 for a 12 month period, during which their second extra care scheme at Barkla Fields opened.

The HHT schemes provide 97 units of extra care accommodation, with 47 units at Naughton Fields and 50 units at Barkla Fields. Both extra care services also have facilities including communal lounges, and café/restaurant facilities.

- 3.3 In 2017 when the Council decommissioned sheltered services, the contract for the provision of extra care services at Barkla Fields and Naughton Fields was extended to March 2018, as it recognised the additional support available in extra care settings can prevent admissions into more expensive residential and nursing care services.

The Executive Board report referenced remodelling of the extra care schemes and a review being undertaken by the Council during that year.

Following the decommissioning of the Amethyst Living Service, HHT reviewed the service as they were unable to secure funding through intensive housing management for this voluntary service, and therefore the full service remodelling was not able to be completed.

The Extra Care service does however still benefit from HHT's Amethyst Living Service, which continues to provide a floating support service to customers within HHT sheltered schemes. Although this service is not funded by the Council, it can provide flexibility, additional support and added value for the Extra Care schemes during periods of leave, sickness, training etc by ensuring continuity of service provision without incurring additional costs.

Currently, HHT staff have a dual role of providing housing management and support which is considered to improve the quality of service provision.

- 3.4 A full monitoring visit has not been undertaken by the Council. Monitoring is undertaken according to a service's assessed risk, and as the service is considered to be low risk a visit was not scheduled for 2017/18.

The service has however been visited by the service Commissioner during this time, and there were no concerns or complaints raised about the service being provided by HHT.

- 3.5 The current contract is for the provision of housing related support, but it is proposed to commission a generic support service rather than housing related support to give more flexibility and allow the inclusion of support tasks that may previously have been considered outside the scope of this service.

The support service is not a statutory service, but underpins the Extra Care

provision which enables vulnerable older people to access other social care and personal care services which helps to maintain people within their own homes and prevent care home admissions.

- 3.6 Advice was sought about procurement options available for the extra care services when the current contract expires in March 2018.

A direct award to HHT is the preferred option for the following reasons:

- An integrated service providing both housing and support at Barkla Fields and Naughton Fields improves the quality of service provision
- If the same service delivery model were to be re-procured the new support provider would require consent from HHT to deliver support within the scheme which may not be granted due to historical issues
- Returning to separate housing and support providers is likely to destabilise the service
- A procurement exercise is unlikely to achieve efficiencies.

4.0 **BUSINESS CASE FOR THE EXTENSION OF CONTRACTS**

4.1 **Value for Money**

Procurement options have been considered, and a Direct award is the preferred option for the following reasons:

- A benchmarking exercise was undertaken in 2015 with neighbouring authorities across all sheltered schemes, and the service is considered to represent value for money.
- The contract value was negotiated prior to contract award in 2016 and some costs were reduced as they were absorbed within the overall cost of the service
- A procurement exercise is unlikely to realise efficiencies, and the probability is that costs would increase
- Although the service is considered to be value for money, further efficiencies may be achieved through competitive dialogue with HHT.

4.2 **Transparency**

In so far as is possible without tendering, transparency is being maintained by dealing with the report as a Part 1 item.

4.3 **Propriety**

The contract referred to in this report will be compliant with Halton Borough Council's procurement standing orders. Compliance with anti-corruption practices will be adhered to and the contract terminated if there is any occurrence of corruption by the organisation or its staff.

4.4 **Accountability**

The Director of Adult Social Services has responsibility for this contract.

The contract will be performance managed and service standards monitored by the People's Directorate's Commissioning and Quality Assurance Teams.

HHT will be required to follow financial processes and submit regular performance information. HHT will also be required to undertake an annual customer survey to include:

- Health and wellbeing outcomes achieved
- Satisfaction with the support and accommodation

5.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The implementation of the Care Act in April 2015 requires support providers to focus on the achievement of outcomes, better quality and value for money, and improved integration within an evolving system of integrated health and social care services.

6.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The annual contract value for Barkla Fields and Naughton Fields Extra Care schemes is £72,000, which equates to £14.24 per unit per week. This charge is considered to be value for money when benchmarked against similar services.

The service is a chargeable service, with an indicative annual income of £9,600. Currently 15 people across both schemes are liable to pay with approximately £800 income received each month,

Funding for the service is contained within the existing People Directorate budget.

7.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

7.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

None identified.

7.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None identified.

7.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The provision of a high quality, effective extra care service enables older people to remain in their own home, to maintain or improve their health and wellbeing, and to access additional care and support service should their needs increase.

7.4 **A Safer Halton**

Services delivered under this contract must comply with Halton's Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures. Support is provided to individuals to enable them to stay safe in their own home.

7.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

8.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 8.1 The risks associated with this contract are low, the provision of extra care services will ensure continuity of support to older people.

The procurement risk is low as the contract value is below the EU threshold.

Financial risk is minimised as the service will be delivered within exiting budgets.

9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 9.1 Support services are delivered to some of the most vulnerable and socially excluded members of the community. This contract will support the Council in meeting its duties to promote inclusion and fair access to services for all local residents.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Executive Board report 15/12/2016 Older People's Support Services	Runcorn Town Hall	Kath Howarth