

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board

**DATE:** 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, People

**PORTFOLIO:** Adult Social Care

**SUBJECT:** Preliminary Procurement Notification – Proposed Tender of Halton Healthwatch & Advocacy Hub Service

**WARD(S):** Borough-wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

**1.1** This is a Preliminary Estimate Report to seek approval from Executive Board to commence a new procurement process for the supply of a combined Halton Healthwatch and Advocacy Hub Service. The proposed contract will be for three years (plus a 2 year extension), commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026, in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.3.4.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDED: That Executive Board**

- 1) Note the contents of the report; and**
- 2) Approve this Preliminary Estimates Report in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.3.4.**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

**3.1** In 2017 Halton Borough Council tendered for a combined Halton Healthwatch and Advocacy Hub Service under a single contractual agreement.

**3.2** The contract was awarded to Engaging Communities Staffordshire (ECS), who have subsequently delivered both Halton Healthwatch and Halton's Advocacy Hub over a five year contractual period (2018 – 2023). This covered the initial 3-year contract term and a two year contract extension period. There are no further extension periods available.

**3.3** As the current contract is due to expire on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, Officers have been undertaking work to prepare to re-tender the service, commencing from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.

**3.4** Both of the services covered by the contractual agreement are statutory Adult Social Care services, which the Council has a duty to

commission. The risk of not effectively commissioning these services could result in the Council not meeting its statutory duties.

**3.5** It is proposed that the Council re-tenders on the same contractual basis i.e. for a combined Halton Healthwatch and Advocacy Hub Service under a single contractual agreement.

**3.6** The proposed contract term is for a three year period (1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026) with an option to extend the contract for a two year extension period until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2028.

**3.7** The estimated value of the contract is £1,467,930 over the five year lifetime of the contract. The cost is inclusive of an inflationary uplift of the current contractual value which will be applied at the commencement of the initial three year term of the contract. Any further inflationary uplift and will be re-considered at the commencement of the extension period, if an extension were to be taken.

**3.8** It is proposed to undertake a full open tender procurement exercise to comply with Procurement Standing Order 1.5.2.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

**4.1** None at this stage.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**5.1** The \*estimated total life cost of the contract for the three year term plus two year extension period is £1,467,930. This value includes an inflationary uplift based on the latest Consumer Prices index (CPI) rate (as at August 2022) of 9.9%. The Annual contract value is £293,586 per annum.

\*Note: the contract value at the time of award may be subject to any change in CPI rate.

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

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

None identified at this stage.

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

None identified at this stage.

##### **6.3 A Healthy Halton**

The provision of Halton Healthwatch and Halton's Advocacy Hub will contribute to improving the Health and Wellbeing of Halton Residents.

**6.4 A Safer Halton**

None identified at this stage.

**6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified at this stage.

**7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

**7.1** Approval by Executive Board to proceed with an open tender exercise will ensure appropriate action is taken to procure provision of the Service once the current contract comes to an end.

**8.0 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY ISSUES**

**8.1** None at this stage.

**9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 19s s72**

**9.1**

<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
Draft Service Specifications for Halton Healthwatch and Halton's Advocacy Hub Service.	Runcorn Town Hall	Damian Nolan, Divisional Manager, Urgent Care and Commissioning