

Report to:	Cabinet	Date of Meeting:	5 December 2019
Subject:	Extension of Housing Related Support Contracts		
Report of:	Head of Economic Growth and Housing	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member - Communities and Housing		
Is this a Key Decision:	Yes	Included in Forward Plan:	Yes
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To seek approval from Cabinet to utilise the option to extend the commissioned Housing Related Support (homelessness) Services contracts by two years.

Recommendation(s):

- (1) That Cabinet approves the request to extend the commissioned Housing Related Support (homelessness) Services contracts by two years.
- (2) That Cabinet approves the contract price variation for 2-years, following the core period ending, to be funded from the Flexible Homelessness Support Grant

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

Sefton's current commissioned Housing Related Support Services commenced on 1st July 2015 for a period of 5 years, with the option to extend for two x one year periods.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)
The Council could decide not to extend, which would mean that the contracts would end on 30th June 2020.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

The contracts include the provision for inflationary costs of 2% or prevailing rate of CPI (whichever is the lowest) of the contract value should the contracts be extended. The increase in annual cost will be £17,212 (£34,424 over the two-years) for all of the contracts, which can be funded from the Flexible Homeless Support Grant.

(B) Capital Costs

No direct costs arising from the recommendations of this report

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): Increase in financial cost of £17,212 per year for 2 years.
Legal Implications: None
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: Those who are homeless, and, those at risk of becoming homeless are among the most vulnerable in society.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: Through the intervention by the Council and its partners at the most critical moment when residents are homeless or at the risk of becoming homeless in order to prevent further reliance on public sector support in the future.
Commission, broker and provide core services: The delivery of services which are based on the needs of some of the most vulnerable in society.
Place – leadership and influencer: Through the close working relationship with commissioned service providers to deliver services that help deliver the 2030 vision of the borough.
Drivers of change and reform: Through the understanding of the needs of the most vulnerable in society and change and reform of services in order to meet those needs.
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Help to relieve rough sleeping and homelessness in Sefton has a wide ranging positive impact for those most vulnerable in society by providing residents with the most basic form of need; housing.
Greater income for social investment: Not applicable
Cleaner Greener Not applicable

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Head of Corporate Resources (FD5814/19) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD4038/19) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

Discussions with the existing Providers of Homeless Support services

Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiry of the "call-in" period for the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting

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Appendices:

There are no appendices to this report

Background Papers:

The following background papers, which are not available elsewhere on the Internet can be accessed on the Council website:

- Cabinet Paper – Procurement of Homeless and Housing Related Support Services 27.11.2014
- Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2018-2023.
- Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Action Plan

<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/housing/homelessness-and-rough-sleeping-strategy.aspx>

1. Introduction/Background

1.1 The Council entered into a range of contracts effective from 1st July 2015 to provide Housing Related Support (HRS) Services linked to the prevention, resolution and relief of homelessness in the Borough.

1.2 The contracts are scheduled to last for 5 years, commencing on the 1st July 2015 ("the commencement date") and terminating on the 30th June 2020, with option to extend annually for up to a further 2 years to 30th June 2022.

1.3 Current Contracts

The contracts awarded are as follows:

Provider	Service	No. of clients/units	Cost per annum (£)
Sefton Supported Housing Group (SSHG Consortium)	Accommodation-generic homeless people (including a	70	426,995

	Sit-Up service)		
Humankind	Accommodation-substance misuse	10	93,577
Excel	Accommodation-single women with complex needs	4	29,950
North West Property Custodians	Accommodation-offenders	8	46,250
Humankind	Dispersed Accommodation and Floating Support - generic low level	30	29,722
Humankind	Dispersed Accommodation and Floating Support - offenders	40	93,119
Light for Life	Southport Housing Advice Service	n/a	57,865
Light for Life	Rough Sleeper Outreach & Rough Sleeper Community Service	40	44,134
Whitechapel	Floating Support service – medium level multiple needs clients	20	39,000

2.0 Contract Variation/Increase Agreed

2.1 The below sentence is contained within the existing Housing Related Support Services contracts regarding a contract variation at the end of June 2020,

‘Any price variation following the core period of the Contract (ending June 2020), must be made in writing, with supporting documents, and shall only become valid following acceptance by the Council, and will be limited to 2% or the prevailing rate, whichever is lowest, unless a fixed price contract is agreed.’

2.2 As the contracts total £860,610 per annum it would mean an additional cost of £17,212 per annum (£34,424 over the two-years) would be required in order to fulfil this uplift. It is proposed that this would be funded through the Flexible

Homelessness Support Grant, which is a ringfenced grant that can only be used to prevent or deal with homelessness.

3.0 EIP 1 – Acute Wraparound

- 3.1 These Housing Related Support (homelessness) contracts are within scope of the Council's 'Acute Wraparound services review exercise' (Early Intervention & Prevention 1) workstream which is part of Framework for Change 2017.
- 3.2 The purpose of this workstream has been to capture those specialist services that are commissioned for some of the Council's most vulnerable residents and to look at how those services can work in a more person-centred way, tackling issues together rather than in a service-specific manner. This work has been heavily informed by lottery funded programmes delivered elsewhere across the country, some of which are due to end and be evaluated shortly. In order to take advantage of best practice on these significant pieces of work, it will be several months before the evaluation reports are received and the implications for the commissioning of local services are assessed. It is not intended that this work will change the provision of the commissioned services but may provide an opportunity to amend contract specifications to cover any best practice that is highlighted.
- 3.3 Due to the timescales for moving the Acute Wraparound exercise forward, it won't be possible to undertake and complete a procurement exercise prior to the end date of the current contracts (June 2020). To ensure there is adequate time to finalise our approach to the Acute Wraparound review, follow this with a thorough preparation for procurement, and then undertake a procurement exercise, it is recommended that the current contracts be extended, and an inflationary contract price uplift provided to each of the service providers.