





















Report of: Business Manager, Community Housing**To: Executive Board****Date: 8th October 2007****Item No:****Title of Report : Approval to re-tender Oxford's Street Services and Reconnection Team.**
Summary and Recommendations
 **Purpose of report:** Request to grant project approval to re tender Oxford's Street Services and Reconnection Team. 
Key decision: Yes**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Patrick Murray**Scrutiny Responsibility:** Housing Scrutiny
Area(s) affected: All**Report Approved by**
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Patrick Murray**Legal:** Jeremy Thomas
Finance: Suzan Smart**Strategic Director:** Michael Lawrence
Policy Framework: Homelessness Strategy
Recommendation(s):

The Executive Board is recommended to:

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1. Grant project approval to enable Oxford's Street Services and Reconnection Team to be re-tendered.
 2. Authorise the Director of Housing, Health and Community to award the contract to the selected provider, following a full tender evaluation and process carried out in accordance with European Union procurement regulations. The contract will be for three years, with an option to extend for up two extra years.

Background

1. Oxford City Council currently has a contract with Crime Reduction Initiatives (CRI) to provide a Street Services and Reconnection Team, currently made up of 6 members of staff including a team manager, senior outreach worker, three outreach workers and a reconnection worker. CRI is a voluntary sector organisation.
2. The team provides assertive outreach and support to the City's rough sleepers and hostel dwellers. The main aim of their work is to help people access appropriate accommodation and other services, thus reducing the number of people sleeping rough in Oxford City.
3. The key target for this service is to maintain levels of rough sleeping in Oxford to 8 or below, or as close to zero as possible. The target is set by the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) in central government.
4. The funding for this service comes from an annual grant from CLG's Homelessness and Housing Support Directorate (HHSD) to tackle a range of issues, including rough sleeping. The current grant allocation for 2007-2008 is £600K.
5. The council has been commissioning this service since 1st October 2001 and the current contract with Crime Reduction Initiatives will cease on 31st March 2008, and therefore needs to be re tendered.
6. The current cost of providing a street services and reconnection team by a team of dedicated people is £238,694 per annum, although the Council would look to make efficiency savings through the re-tender process, if possible. It is important that the users of this service build up trust with the service providers and that there is continuity of service, so it is proposed to award a contract for 3 years with the option to extend for up to 2 further years, provided the service delivers its targets and the funding from CLG continues.

Tender and commissioning process

7. The contract value requires the tendering and award process to be carried out in accordance with the EU procurement regime. This is a specialist service, with unknown competition in the market place and it is therefore proposed to commission a new supplier using the EU open tender process. This will enable a new contract to be put in place and fully operational for 1st April 2008.
8. In view of the need for any new provider that may be awarded the contract to require a 3-month hand over with our existing provider an advertisement for this new contract has already been placed with a draft timetable as follows:

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| • Issue tender documents | 28 th September 2007 |
| • Deadline for tenders to be received | 20 th November 2007 |
| • Evaluation completed by | 11 th December 2007 |
| • Contract award | 21 st December 2007 |
| • New contract preparation | 1 st Jan 2008 to 31 st March 2008 |
| • Contract start date | 1 st April 2008 |

Staffing Implications

9. There are no new staffing implications for Oxford City Council as this contract is already managed by an officer in Community Housing.

10. It is possible that TUPE will apply to some or all of the employees of CRI who are currently engaged in providing this service to the Council, in the event that the new contract is awarded to an alternative supplier. In such an event, this matter would need to be discussed between the current and new supplier.

Legal Implications

11. None.

Financial Implications

12. The contract is dependant on the continuation of funding from CLG. Oxford City Council has received a grant from HHSD since 1st April 2002 and current government thinking indicates that there is an on-going commitment to the reduction of rough sleeping and therefore to the continuation of this grant. The provision of the Street Services and Reconnection Team is the major priority for funding from this grant.

13. In order for the Council to ensure that it has sufficient funding from CLG for each year of the contract, the contract will include an annual break clause to cover either the termination or variation of the contract on 1st April each year.

14. The current provider has secured office space in Oxford City Council's St Aldate's Chambers until March 31st 2008, providing an income of £6,675. This provision is not guaranteed beyond this date and that the service provider may be required to provide office accommodation for the team elsewhere, as part of their budget.

Recommendations

15. It is recommended that the Executive Board:
 - a) Grant project approval to enable the Street Services and Reconnection Team to be re tendered.

b) Give delegated powers to the Director of Housing, Health and Community to award a contract to the selected provider following a full tender evaluation and process, carried out in accordance with European Union procurement regulations. The contract will be for three years, with an option to extend for up to two extra years. The contract period will be subject to the Council's right to terminate at the end of each year.

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Background Papers

None

