



To: Executive Councillor for Housing (and Deputy Leader): Councillor Catherine Smart
Report by: Director of Customer and Community Services
Relevant scrutiny committee: Community Services Scrutiny Committee 19/6/2012
Wards affected: All Wards

Supporting People Tender Not a Key Decision

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 The Supporting People contract with the County Council for the provision of support to Older People was extended by one year to March 2013.
- 1.2 It is likely that these contracts will now be tendered in the late Summer/Autumn 2012 and the City Council seeks to update its authority to tender and enter into a new contract commencing April 2013 should the tender be successful.

2. Recommendations

The Executive Councillor is recommended:

To extend the decision of HMB on 14th June 2011 to authorise the Director of Customer and Community Services to:

- 1) Select the most appropriate option for the future provision of support services in sheltered housing.
- 2) To submit tenders in response to the appropriate tender advertisements by the County Council, for the continued provision of support services.
- 3) To enter into a contract with the County Council for the provision of support to Older people, in accordance with the tender specification, should any tender be successful.

3. Background

On 14th June 2011 HMB approved a report authorising the Director Of Customer and Community Services to tender for the continuation of the County Council's Supporting People contracts.

Since that report, the County Council decided to extend the contract for Older Peoples Services to March 2013.

Housing support is an integral feature in providing good quality services for older people, preventing social isolation and contributing towards independent living.

Since that report, the County has reduced the amount they pay per client from £14.13 to £10.46 in category II schemes and £9.00 per week in category I schemes (on a 48 week basis) and the city continues to provide this service to 468 households.

The provision of shared services with South Cambs was explored last year, but discontinued by the County Council at the time.

The City Council continues to explore new ways of working to meet the requirements of the County Council's Supporting People Strategy and to maximise opportunities for community cohesion particularly with regard to services for older people.

The County Council has now set up a project team to explore how Older Peoples Support Services may be delivered, and as a result tendered in the future, and we anticipate that the tender will be advertised some time between June and November 2012.

As a result, the Executive Councillor is asked to continue to authorise the Director of Customer and Community Services to tender for and enter into, as necessary, a contract with the County Council to provide support services to Older People within the City.

4. Implications

(a) Financial Implications

The City Council receives approximately £220,000 per annum for the provision of support services in sheltered housing across the city, from a combination of Supporting People funding and client contributions from those deemed able to meet the costs themselves.

The loss of contracts for the provision of support services in council owned sheltered housing would, in addition to having a detrimental impact on the delivery of the overall housing service to sheltered residents, result in the need to restructure services, potentially incurring a cost of change. Any costs to the City Council would be dependent upon the outcome of TUPE negotiations with any new support provider.

(b) Staffing Implications

There is likely to be implications for staff, who will be kept fully informed and be formally consulted with, at appropriate stages in line with TUPE regulations, if this applies.

(c) Equal Opportunities Implications

An EQIA has been undertaken and details are available upon request.

(d) Environmental Implications

There are no direct environmental implications associated with this report.

(e) Consultation

Staff continue to actively engage with tenants in Older people's Housing to ensure that they are updated with progress about the county council's intentions.

Two further member briefings are scheduled.

Staff are updated regularly through one to one's and regular meetings.

Some wider consultation with key partners will take place when the County Council's plans are known.

(f) Community Safety

Upon receipt of the tender information, issues in relation to Community Safety and site security will be considered.

5. Background papers

(a) Equality Impact Assessment

6. Appendices

(a) HMB report dated June 2011

7. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

Author's Name:	Frances Swann
Author's Phone Number:	01223 - 462255
Author's Email:	Frances.swann@cambridge.gov.uk