

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL
Record of Executive Decision

PROPOSAL TO BID FOR GRANT FUNDING TO DEVELOP CAMBS HIA – LOCAL HOUSING AND CARE OPTIONS SERVICE
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Decision of: Executive Councillor for Housing

Reference: 13/CS/H1

Date of decision: 4 June 2013 **Recorded on:** 4 June 2013

Decision Type: Non Key

Matter for Decision:

Cambs HIA is seeking to develop an approach to secure authority (from both the City council and from partners) to be able to respond to new opportunities and develop its activities outside the City Council's budget setting process.

This decision, if approved, will enable Cambs HIA to submit a bid for EAC (Elderly Accommodation Council) First Stop Partnership Grant. This grant is funded by DCLG. This will support developing a more holistic approach to meeting peoples housing needs across the council areas covered by Cambs HIA by (1) helping people to identify how suitable their homes are as they get older (2) what options they have to meet their current or future needs. Although suitable alternative housing may not be available, this service will enable people to consider carefully whether adaptations to their current home (that are costly and can take a lengthy period to complete) are the best long term solution.

This does not have a direct impact on the City Councils own budget, but if successful will require costs to be reclaimed monthly in arrears subject to satisfactory performance (i.e. initial costs and risks of failure to deliver will be the responsibility of Cambs HIA).

Why the decision had to be made (and any alternative options):

This decision is needed to enable the new shared Cambs Home Improvement Agency (operating across City, South Cambs and Huntingdonshire) to complete and submit an application on 4 June 2013 to bid for 18 months grant funding (available from Oct 2013 if successful).

The Executive Councillor's decision(s):

- To approve the completion of a bid by Cambs HIA. This will enable Cambs HIA to be considered for a Local Housing Options Partnership Grant. This approval is being granted on the basis that this has a neutral financial implication, with all costs anticipated to be fully met by the grant. However, if funding is awarded it will be paid in arrears and be subject to satisfactory performance. The risks and up front costs would be met from the Cambs HIA ring-fenced budget.
- To require the completed bid and implementation plan to be submitted to Community Services Scrutiny Committee for information and endorsement, should the bid be successful.
- To approve the immediate recruitment of a Housing Options Adviser by Cambs HIA, should the bid be successful. Successful bidders will be notified by the end of June and must be able to confirm the appointment of a Housing Options Adviser by 1 October. If this application for urgent decision by Cambridge City Council is approved, preparations will be made to be able to start the recruitment process as soon as the bid decision is confirmed.

Reasons for the decision:

As set out in the Officers Report

Scrutiny consideration:

The Chair and Spokes of the Scrutiny Committee were consulted as per the Scrutiny processes outlined in the constitution.

Report:

A report detailing the background and financial considerations is attached.

Conflicts of interest:

No conflicts of interest were declared by the Executive Councillor

Comments:

None