

# HOUSING RELATED SUPPORT FOR OLDER PEOPLE – DECISION TO ENTER INTO NEW CONTRACT.



**To:**

Councillor Kevin Price, Executive Councillor for Housing

**Report by:**

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**Wards affected:**

All

## Non-Key Decision

### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Cambridge City Council provides housing related support for older people on a tenure neutral basis across the district. Historically, the council only provided support to tenants living in its own sheltered schemes. From May 2014 the County Council expanded the breadth of the service delivered by the City Council to make it tenure neutral.
- 1.2 Since May 2014 the County Council have paid the City Council £180,000 per annum for the delivery of this wider service.
- 1.3 The County Council have approached the City with a proposal for a new partnership agreement to be affective from April 2018 for a 3 year period with an option to extend for a further year. This agreement would be on the basis of a fixed fee of £180,000 per annum for the life of the new arrangement.

- 1.4 If the City Council decline to enter into a new partnership agreement, the County Council will tender these services alongside other housing related support services across the County.

## **2. Recommendations**

The Executive Councillor is recommended to:

- 2.1 Approve that the authority enter into a new partnership agreement for the provision of housing related support for older people on a tenure neutral basis across the district for up to 4 years from April 2018.

## **3. Background**

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- 3.1. The City Council has always delivered the housing related support service across its sheltered housing schemes and for the last 4 years on a wider basis across the entire district.
- 3.2 In sheltered housing, staff deliver support alongside landlord and premises related functions.
- 3.3 Support services in sheltered housing have been funded since April 2003 by a mixture of funding from the County Council through the Supporting People regime and recharges to tenants.
- 3.4 Over the years, the funding from the County Council has reduced significantly, resulting in both reductions in the level of support service provided and increases in the contributions made towards the service by the tenants.
- 3.5 From April 2014 the County Council reduced the support funding to the City Council to £180,000 per annum at the same time as increasing the breadth of service that this funding was intended to provide to ensure that services were offered to all residents within the City.
- 3.6 The new tenure neutral service, delivered on a partnership basis by the City Council, is designed to provide short term support interventions to any resident over the age of 65.
- 3.7 The City Council still provides ongoing support services across its own sheltered schemes with service charges levied to meet the cost of

providing this service. Currently, the Council protects those in receipt of housing benefit from needing to pay for the support charge.

- 3.8 The County Council have proposed a new partnership agreement for 3 years with an option to extend for a further year for the continued provision of housing related support for older people at a continued fixed sum of £180,000 per annum.
- 3.8 The City Council is keen to continue to provide these valuable support services to residents in the City, recognising the benefit not only to its sheltered tenants but also its ageing general needs tenants and other residents of the City.
- 3.9 If the City Council decline to enter into a new partnership agreement, the County Council have confirmed that they will tender these services alongside other housing related support services across the County. This will mean that there is the potential for City Council employees to transfer to a new support provider, but there will need to be some negotiation due to the mix of landlord and support functions that this team provides.
- 3.9 The Housing Revenue Account business plan includes the assumption that the authority continues to deliver these services at £180,000 per annum. The risk to the authority is that over the period of the new contract the cost of providing the tenure neutral service may outweigh the income received for it.
- 3.10 The recent restructure of the housing service reduced the Independent Living team by 1 FTE thus making the delivery of these services more cost effective.
- 3.11 The benefits to the Council of continuing to deliver housing related support for older people include the ability to continue to deliver joined up services for older people in council accommodation, giving them 1 point of contact for a variety of services and enabling them to sustain their tenancies.
- 3.12 This report proposes acceptance of the 3 + 1 year partnership agreement being offered by the County Council but recognises that the authority would need to review its position at the end of the initial 3 year period, to determine whether it is financially viable to accept the 1 year extension or to consider any longer term arrangement.



## **4. Implications**

### **(a) Financial Implications**

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The financial implications associated with the decision to enter into the new agreement are that the City Council will receive a fixed sum of £180,000 per annum for the next 3 or 4 years with no recognition of any increase for inflation. The fixed level nature of this funding will be incorporated into the business plan for the Housing Revenue Account to ensure that budgets are set with this taken into consideration.

Costs will increase during the life of the agreement and the assumption that this will take place will also be incorporated into financial plans.

### **(b) Staffing Implications**

The Independent Living Service consists of 1.81 FTE Independent Living Supervisors, 7 FTE Independent Living Facilitators and 1 FTE Senior Administrator. The receipt of ongoing funding from the County Council for the provision of housing related support for older people is critical in ensuring that the authority can continue to employ these staff directly.

A decision not to enter into a new agreement with the County Council would result in tendering of the service and the potential for some or all of these employees to be transferred to a new employer under the TUPE regulations.

### **(c) Equality and Poverty Implications**

An Equalities Impact Assessment is not considered necessary if this proposal is supported as services will continue to be provided as they are currently.

### **(d) Environmental Implications**

There are no adverse environmental implications anticipated as a result of changes proposed in this report.

### **(e) Procurement Implications**

There are no direct procurement implications associated with this report.

### **(f) Community Safety Implications**

There are no direct community safety implications associated with this report.

## **5. Consultation and communication considerations**

Consultation about the support services to be delivered in the future is being undertaken by the County Council who are responsible for the provision of these services.

## **6. Background papers**

Background papers used in the preparation of this report:

- Report to Housing Management Board June 2012 - "Supporting People Tender".

## **7. Appendices**

There are no appendices associated with this report.

## **8. Inspection of papers**

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

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