

 Executive – 26th September 2018		Agenda Item No. 8
Title	Contract for management of shared accommodation provision for former rough sleepers	
For further information about this report please contact	Ken Bruno Ken.bruno@warwickdc.gov.uk 01926 456044	
Wards of the District directly affected	All	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	Executive – 31 May 2018 Minute number 11	
Background Papers	Executive 31/5/18 agenda item 11.	

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	No
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	Yes Ref 954
Equality Impact Assessment Undertaken	N/A

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Deputy Chief Executive	30/8/2018	Bill Hunt
Head of Service	30/8/2018	Lisa Barker
CMT	23/08/2018	Chris Elliott
Section 151 Officer	28/08/2018	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	30/8/2018	Andrew Jones
Finance	23/08/2018	Rebecca Reading
Portfolio Holder(s)	22/08/2018	Cllr Peter Phillips
Consultation & Community Engagement		
None		
Final Decision?		Yes
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		
Not applicable.		

1. **Summary**

- 1.1 The report sets out proposed arrangements for the provision of specialist housing support for the accommodation project for former rough sleepers, previously agreed by Executive and funded by the grant awarded by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), that will allow it to be undertaken with certainty and efficiency.
- 1.2 The proposed approach requires an exemption from the Code of Procurement Practice due to the delay in the MHCLG announcement of the 2019/20 element of the funding for this project.

2. **Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the Executive approves an exemption from the Code of Procurement Practice to allow Coventry Cyrenians, already selected as the Council's partner for the provision of specialist housing support for the accommodation project for rough sleepers, to continue to provide services during 2019/20.

3. **Reasons for the Recommendation**

- 3.1 On 31st May 2018 Executive approved submission of a bid for funding from the MHCLG Rough Sleepers' Initiative to deliver a number of projects, including operating a shared supported housing initiative. For this project the council would provide properties to a voluntary sector partner for the provision of shared housing with support for people transitioning from the streets.
- 3.2 Members will be aware that the bid for 2018/19 was successful and an announcement is awaited over the bid for funding for 2019/20. The full amount of funding has been received for 2018/19, including £21,583 for the shared accommodation project for part of the year.
- 3.3 Members will also recall that should the bid for 2019/20 not be successful the Executive has agreed to meet the costs of running the project for a further twelve months. In either event the cost of the provision of the necessary specialist support, if delivered by Coventry Cyrenians, will take the full cost of the project to more than £50,000.
- 3.4 In order to proceed swiftly and meet the MHCLG objectives for the project the Head of Finance agreed the selection of Coventry Cyrenians as the specialist providers to run the project for 2018/19 without formal procurement action, in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Procurement Practice. Work is nearing completion to finalise the terms of this appointment and appropriate preparations are being made to ensure the service is up and running imminently.
- 3.5 However as the cost of running the project for 2019/20 through the same provider is in excess of £50,000 Executive agreement for a Code of Procurement exemption for the proposed extension would be required.
- 3.6 Clearly it is extremely important that the same provider runs the project for its entirety, not least so that the clients of the project, all of whom will be vulnerable, will have stability and continuity as they make their journey towards accommodation in mainstream housing. It is also important to allow the provider to plan ahead and for the Council to know that a provider is in

place without the disruption that would be created by a change less than half way the project.

- 3.7 The Procurement team have confirmed that value of the contract means it is classified as a Light touch (CPV 75200000-8) contract. This means that European regulations are unlikely to apply if the contract were to run beyond the initial proposed term.
- 3.8 Under the Light Touch Regime, the Public Contract Regulations 2015 have very few explicit requirements and allow contracting authorities to determine their own appointment procedures as long as the transparency and equal treatment principles and mandatory exclusions apply. The Procurement team has, therefore, agreed that the appointment of Coventry Cyrenians meet these requirements.

4. **Policy Framework**

- 4.1 The Council's FFF Strategy is designed to deliver the Vision for the District of making it a Great Place to Live, Work and Visit. To that end amongst other things the FFF Strategy contains several key projects. This report shows the way forward for implementing a significant part of one of the Council's key projects.
- 4.2 The FFF Strategy has 3 strands – People, Services and Money and each has an external and internal element to it. The table below illustrates the impact of this proposal if any in relation to the Council's FFF Strategy.

FFF Strands		
People	Services	Money
External		
Health, Homes, Communities	Green, Clean, Safe	Infrastructure, Enterprise, Employment
<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Improved health for all Housing needs for all met Impressive cultural and sports activities Cohesive and active communities	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Area has well looked after public spaces All communities have access to decent open space Improved air quality Low levels of crime and ASB	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Dynamic and diverse local economy Vibrant town centres Improved performance/ productivity of local economy Increased employment and income levels
Impacts of Proposal		
Supporting the delivery of new initiatives to improve the health of rough sleepers through the provision of housing with support and associated services	The 'feel' of the town centre will benefit if rough sleepers move into accommodation	The support services will assist rough sleepers to become ready for training or work.
Internal		

Effective Staff	Maintain or Improve Services	Firm Financial Footing over the Longer Term
<u>Intended outcomes:</u> All staff are properly trained All staff have the appropriate tools All staff are engaged, empowered and supported The right people are in the right job with the right skills and right behaviours	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Focusing on our customers' needs Continuously improve our processes Increase the digital provision of services	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Better return/use of our assets Full Cost accounting Continued cost management Maximise income earning opportunities Seek best value for money
Impacts of Proposal		
The project could give rise to significant opportunities for Council staff to develop skills around partnership working with the private sector, community bodies and other public-sector bodies.	Opportunities to improve the delivery of services to rough sleepers and to develop a robust strategy to tackle rough sleeping across the district	The initiative is designed with clear exit strategies and taking into account the current review of housing related support being undertaken by WCC

Supporting Strategies

- 4.3 Each strand of the FFF Strategy has several supporting strategies and the relevant ones for this proposal are explained here. The Council adopted the current Housing and Homelessness Strategy in April 2017. This includes an objective of providing suitable accommodation, information and advice for the homeless in an effort to prevent and reduce homelessness and an action of "Implementing the extension of our legal duties to the homeless, including single people under the Homelessness Reduction Bill."

Changes to Existing Policies

- 4.4 This report is only concerned with seeking a procurement exemption for the project and does not impact upon or amend wider policy and strategy.

5. Budgetary Framework

- 5.1 The budget for this project has already been agreed by Executive on 31 May 2018.

6. Risks

- 6.1 In giving a procurement exemption there are two principal risks:
- That the opportunity to obtain a cheaper provider is missed; and
 - That other providers may complain that they did not have the opportunity to bid.
- 6.2 As regards the risk of missing a cheaper alternative, any new provider will have to incur set up costs that the current provider will already have covered in

2018/19 whereas the current provider will simply continue to run the service. It therefore seems highly unlikely that another provider would be able to step in, set up and provide the same level of service at a cheaper cost.

- 6.3 As regards the risk of complaints this is possible but it is considered that the reasons for requesting an exemption are reasonable and robust enough to withstand such a challenge should this occur.

7. Alternative Option(s) considered

- 7.1 The option of tendering for the service has been considered but has been rejected because of the disruption that this would cause to the service and the customers of the service.