

## **The Vale of Glamorgan Council**

### **Cabinet Meeting: 6 June, 2016**

## **Report of the Cabinet Member for Housing, Social Care and Health**

### **Supporting People Payments**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To obtain approval to extend four contracts for the provision of housing related support, due to expire on 30th June 2016, for a period of one month.

#### **Recommendation**

1. That Cabinet waives the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and Financial Regulations to enable an extension of contracts with Llamau, and Taff Housing Association for the Tenant Support Schemes (TESS) services (contract numbers 3,8,6,7 only) for one month, approving payments under these contracts up to the 31st of July 2016.

#### **Reason for the Recommendation**

1. To ensure the stability of services provided to very vulnerable people in the Vale of Glamorgan and to comply with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and Financial Regulations.

#### **Background**

2. The Supporting People (SP) programme is the policy and funding framework for delivering housing related support to vulnerable people in different types of accommodation and across all tenures.
3. The programme contributes to meeting the aims of 'Improving Lives and Communities - Homes in Wales' the National Housing Strategy and the ten year Homelessness Plan, with a strong emphasis on the prevention of homelessness. Its importance is also recognised in the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.
4. At a local level the programme takes forward a number of strategic aims, reflecting Community Safety and Health, Social Care and Wellbeing objectives. It aims to deliver high quality and strategically planned housing-related support services that are cost effective, complement existing services and provide service users with the best possible outcomes.

5. In order to ensure overall compliance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, Financial Regulations and other procurement requirements, on 29 June 15 Cabinet approved the retendering of the first Approved Provider List (APL) for the provision of housing related support services funded by the Supporting People Programme Grant for a four year period (Cabinet Minute C2829).

### **Relevant Issues and Options**

6. Due to protracted discussions to explore all of the procurement options in introducing an Approved Provider List, the tendering process was delayed for a number of services where contracts had expired or were due to expire. These have now been completed, however it has impacted on the tendering for the Tenant Support contracts for the wider floating support service (TESS). Whilst the whole team is undertaking the procurement exercise it is not possible to retender the 10 separate contracts, which make up the TESS scheme simultaneously.
7. Accordingly approval is sought to extend four of the contracts due to expire to enable full compliance with the procurement requirements. This time would include the statutory ten day stand still period and include the transfer of staff under TUPE legislation if the incumbent service provider is unsuccessful.
8. These contracts are:
  - TESS 3&8, the provider for both is Llamau, due to expire on 30th June 2016 which covers services to people with substance misuse problems and young and vulnerable clients.
  - TESS 6&7 the provider for both is Taff Housing Association, due to expire on 30th June 2016 which covers services for generic clients and for vulnerable families.
9. In accordance with Welsh Government guidance all of these services are regularly monitored by the Supporting People Team to ensure that they continue to provide value for money and a high quality service. If any service was found to be no longer required or not meeting the aims and objectives set down, it would have been decommissioned or reconfigured immediately.
10. If the services under the expired contract were discontinued, it would destabilise the very vulnerable service users and impede their progress towards achieving independent living at a time when they required the assistance and support the most.
11. It is therefore thought prudent to continue to make payments to the support providers in order that the support could continue for the period of one month during the retendering process.

### **Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)**

12. The Welsh Government provides grant funding for all of these services and the budget has been confirmed up until 31st March 2017; therefore there are no direct financial implications for the Council.

### **Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

13. There are no sustainability climate change implications directly arising as a result of this report.
14. The principles of sustainability and climate change will be considered as part of the procurement exercise, including employment and environmental considerations.

## **Legal Implications (to Include Human Rights Implications)**

15. The existing contracts with Llamau and Taff will expire on 30th June 2016. In view of the amounts payable under these contracts, it is not possible to rely on any of the exemptions to the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and Financial Regulations. Therefore, a temporary waiver is required to allow the contracts with these two organisations to continue for the reasons outlined in this report.
16. Both existing and new contracts are in a standard format that have been drafted by Legal Services and are consistent with Welsh Government requirements for this type of funding.
17. In relation to establishing a new contract, the procurement exercise being undertaken will ensure that the retendering of housing related support services complies with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and The Public Contract Regulations 2015.

## **Crime and Disorder Implications**

18. The continuation of good quality support services will protect and support very vulnerable clients who are likely to be more susceptible to experience crime and disorder difficulties if these projects were not in place.
19. The continued provision of services to very vulnerable clients will have a beneficial impact upon reducing crime and disorder in the Vale of Glamorgan.

## **Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)**

20. The continuation of these projects will do much to improve the quality of life of some of the most socially and economically disadvantaged people in the Vale of Glamorgan.

## **Corporate/Service Objectives**

21. This report is consistent with the Corporate Plan 2016 - 20 Well-being Outcome  
1: An inclusive and safe Vale.  
Objective  
2: Providing decent homes and safe communities:  
Provide appropriate accommodation and support services for particularly vulnerable groups.  
This report is also consistent with the Council's Local Housing Strategy 2015-20 which aims to ensure that 'Vale of Glamorgan residents have access to affordable, good quality suitable housing and housing advice and support'.

## **Policy Framework and Budget**

22. This report is consistent with the Policy Framework and Budget and is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet.

## **Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)**

23. These services are situated throughout the Vale of Glamorgan; therefore no individual ward member consultation has been undertaken.

## **Relevant Scrutiny Committee**

24. Homes and Safe Communities.

### **Background Papers**

(i) Welsh Government Document - Supporting People Programme Grant (SPPG) Guidance (Wales) July 2012 (updated June 2013).

### **Contact Officer**

Helen Jones - Strategy and Supporting People Manager

### **Officers Consulted**

Joan Davies, Principal Auditor  
Lori Bigglestone, Accountant  
Legal Services  
Committee Services

### **Responsible Officer:**

Miles Punter - Director of Environment and Housing Services