

Report to	Cabinet
Date of meeting	26 th July 2022
Lead Member / Officer	Councillor Rhys Thomas (Lead Member for Housing and Communities) / Ann Lloyd (Interim Head of Service)
Report author	Hayley Jones / Nigel Jones
Title	Procurement of new Temporary Emergency Accommodation Support Service (Homelessness Prevention)

1. What is the report about?

1.1. This report is to provide information on a proposal for a new homelessness temporary emergency accommodation support project, with a request for approval to commence the procurement of this service.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

2.1. A decision is required on the tendering for a new homelessness temporary emergency accommodation support project. The Commissioning Form (Appendix 1) will be approved by the relevant parties, in line with the Denbighshire Contract Procedure Rules.

3. What are the Recommendations?

The recommendations are for decisions set out below:

- 3.1. That the Cabinet approves the commencement of the procurement as set out in the Commissioning Form at Appendix 1.
- 3.2. That the Cabinet confirms they have read and taken into account the Well-Being Assessment (Appendix 3 WIA for the HSG Delivery Plan 2022-25).

4. Report details

- 4.1. We want to develop our temporary emergency accommodation offer to provide a better experience where people are supported to improve their wellbeing and build on their future. As captured in our Housing Support Grant (HSG) Delivery Plan 2022-2025, we want to develop our support offer for people placed in temporary emergency accommodation.
- 4.2. We want this project to provide holistic support to citizens placed in temporary emergency accommodation owned by the local authority to reduce the risk of homelessness reoccurring and improve wellbeing outcomes.
- 4.3. We are keen to see an engaging programme of meaningful activities as a key element of this project. We also want the project to be able to provide support to people placed in temporary emergency accommodation at any time of day or night, therefore an overnight staffing provision will be required.
- 4.4. Individuals supported as part of this project will be any gender; aged 16 and above; single or part of a couple, and may or may not have dependent children and pets.
- 4.5. A Wellbeing impact assessment has been completed for the over-arching HSG Delivery Plan – (Appendix 3).
- 4.6. This contract will be fully funded by the HSG allocated by the Welsh Government.
- 4.7. We have estimated costs and value for money based on our HSG fulltime equivalent benchmark rate; however, value for money will be evaluated and can be negotiated further as part of the procurement exercise.
- 4.8. The contract would be for a period of five years, with the option to extend for a further five years, subject to satisfactory performance, and continued funding and strategic relevance. This will be a brand new contract, therefore there is no incumbent provider.
- 4.9. The service would be monitored throughout the year. The provider/providers will be expected to submit quarterly performance monitoring returns, and 6 monthly outcomes submissions in line with the HSG/Supporting People Outcomes Framework. The project will also have a number of bespoke KPIs, as set out in the project specification (Appendix 2).

- 4.10. We are looking to offer this tender opportunity to the third sector as they have the experience and expertise in operating 24 hour supported accommodation. Welsh Government recognises the need for Local Authorities (LA) to work in partnership with the Third Sector as it is widely accepted that they are value driven and motivated by social, cultural or environmental objectives, rather than simply to make a profit; as well as being committed to reinvesting their surpluses to further their social aims and for the benefit of local people and communities.
- 4.11. As Local Authority Commissioners we should support the Third Sector and wider economy with our spending power where it generates benefits to the LA aims and objectives. Through delivery of public contracts our spending power has the potential to influence market development in the medium to long term and create opportunities to deliver wider socio-economic and environmental outcomes, meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

- 5.1. Housing: There will be a clear focus (and performance measures) around supporting people to avoid risk of homelessness.
- 5.2. Connected Communities: A key requirement is that it will be accessible, including consideration and creativity when it comes to the meaningful activities in a variety of settings in the community across Denbighshire to improve people's wellbeing.
- 5.3. Resilient Communities: Building independence and resilience are key goals. Through a variety of methods, it will seek to equip people and communities with the knowledge and skills to address and prevent homelessness and improve wellbeing. Addressing issues and improve wellbeing will help to prevent homelessness from reoccurring.
- 5.4. Environment: In terms of the project delivery, the support will be based across two council owned sites that will be used for temporary emergency accommodation and as a hub for the programme of activities to be delivered. Additionally, Community Benefits must be delivered as part of this contract, and we have set out that we are

particularly interested in proposals that will support DCC to achieve its Net Carbon Zero goal.

5.5. Young People: Young people 16+ and adults with children will be included within the direct support scope of this project. We expect that some of the support and activities will also benefit children and young people residing in the accommodation

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

6.1. This project will be wholly funded from the Denbighshire Housing Support Grant, provided by the Welsh Government. We expect that the provision will reduce the impact on statutory services and associated Bed and Breakfast costs.

6.2. We are consulting cabinet as a result of the level of spend for this project as the estimated annual contract value is £914,000 with a view to offer a 5-year contract with the option to extend for a further 5 years.

6.3. This project would cost significantly more to deliver as an internal service as a result of Local Authority employment terms and conditions, therefore it is better value for money for this project to be delivered by the Third Sector (Appendix 4).

6.4. The Community Benefits policy approach seeks to act upon this wider definition of value for money by delivering the very widest social, economic and environmental benefits in the course of securing the goods, services or works required by the public sector in Wales. Delivery of Community Benefits through public sector procurement is aligned to the Well Being of Future Generations Act and delivers against its goals

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

7.1. The impact assessment for the over-arching HSG Delivery Plan 2022-2025 scored 34 out of 36, giving 3 out of 4 stars. A positive impact was identified for all of the wellbeing goals

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

8.1. The specification has been developed following extensive consultation, including a targeted stakeholder survey. Responses included feedback from citizens and a wide

variety of other key stakeholders including meet the buyer event in May 2022. In the absence of a Scrutiny Committee before this Cabinet meeting, approval has been gained from the Chief Executive of the Council.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

- 9.1. The proposal forms part of the strategy for dealing with the financial impact of homelessness to deliver support within council owned temporary emergency accommodation which will hopefully reduce the number of people accommodated in Bed and Breakfast establishments. This will help manage the rising costs in this service in the future while also provider a better service. The costs of this scheme are fully covered by external Welsh Government funding and on that basis the decision is fully supported

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

- 10.1. A robust tendering process, including evaluation by a diverse panel (including members with lived experience of homelessness/risk of homelessness) will ensure as far as possible that we award this contract to the best provider/providers.
- 10.2. All Housing Support Grant funded projects are regularly monitored to ensure that any problems/risks can be identified and addressed as soon as possible. As a new project and model of delivery, we will work closely with the provider/providers to learn and develop best practice.
- 10.3. We build break clauses into all of our contracts, allowing us to terminate or amend the agreement (with appropriate notice periods) in the event of a contract breach, reduction in WG funding, or any other grounds that may materialise.

11. Power to make the decision

- 11.1. The development and tendering of this contract is supported by the County under the Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) Act 2014 and Denbighshire County Council's Financial Regulations and Contract Procurement Rules (rules 2.7.1 and 5.5).
- 11.2. Power delegated to the Cabinet Member as per the Member Scheme of Delegation outlined in Appendix 2(b) to Section 13 of the Council's Constitution.