

Report to	Cabinet
Date of meeting	19 December 2023
Lead Member / Officer	Councillor Rhys Thomas / Ann Lloyd
Report author	Hayley Jones, Contracts and Commissioning Officer
Title	Procurement of new accommodation sustainment support project (Homelessness Prevention)

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1. This report is to provide information on a proposal for a new holistic, housing related support project designed to support people living in Denbighshire to sustain their accommodation and prevent homelessness, 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 accommodation sustainment support project. The Commissioning Form (please see 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 considered the Well-Being Assessment (please see appendix 3).

4. Report details

- 4.1. This project is part of the recommissioning of housing related support services to align with our transition towards Rapid Rehousing. As captured in our Housing Support Grant (HSG) Delivery Plan 2022-2025. It is planned to undertake a significant recommissioning exercise of the floating support provision to ensure there is an appropriate support offer in place for people with a range of needs and characteristics – which is person-centred and proportionate, with the flexibility to offer both ‘generic’ and specialist support where required.
- 4.2. Successful rapid rehousing is dependent on timely and appropriate support being available to suit the Citizens requirements. Evidence clearly suggests that most people who have experienced homelessness, inclusive of those who have been severely marginalised and homeless for a long time, are able to maintain their tenancies in appropriate housing, with the right level of support where they need it.
- 4.3. There is the requirement for the project to provide holistic, and where appropriate, multidimensional support to citizens in their own accommodation, support that will facilitate them to sustain their accommodation and prevent homelessness reoccurring.
- 4.4. Support will not be time limited and will need to be flexible as it is recognised that people’s support needs differ and change overtime.
- 4.5. Citizens supported by this project will be any gender; aged 16 and above; single or part of a couple and may or may not have dependent children.
- 4.6. A Wellbeing impact assessment has been completed for this proposal – please see appendix 3.
- 4.7. This contract will be fully funded by the Housing Support Grant, allocated by the Welsh Government.
- 4.8. Costs have been estimated and value for money based on the HSG fulltime equivalent benchmark rate; however, value for money will be evaluated and can be negotiated further as part of the procurement exercise.

- 4.9. The contract would be for a period of three years, with the option to extend for a further two years, subject to satisfactory performance, and continued funding and strategic relevance.
- 4.10. This service will replace three existing floating support services delivered by three separate organisations.
- 4.11. It is envisaged that an alliance-style approach to this project is taken, with providers working together with collective accountability to provide tailored support to meet individual needs. With this being a holistic support service, it is important that collaborations with various specialisms are formed to ensure the service can be flexible and responsive to citizen's support needs.
- 4.12. The service would be monitored throughout the year. The provider/providers will be expected to submit quarterly performance monitoring returns, and bi-annual outcomes submissions in line with the HSG Outcomes Framework. The project will also have several bespoke Key Performance Indicators, as set out in the draft project specification (please see appendix 2).

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 for the service is that it will be accessible, including specific 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 of this project. Through a variety of ways, it will seek to equip people and communities with the knowledge and skills to address and prevent homelessness and improve wellbeing. The ability to address issues and improve wellbeing will help to prevent homelessness from reoccurring.

5.4. Environment: 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 as part of the household being supported.

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. Expectations are that the provision will reduce the impact on statutory services and associated Bed and Breakfast costs through the prevention of homelessness.

6.2. Cabinet consultation is as a result of the level of spend for this project, the estimated annual contract value is £500,000 with a view to offer a 3-year contract with the option to extend for a further 2 years.

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

7.1. The impact assessment for this proposal scored 32 out of 36, giving 3 out of 4 stars. A positive impact was identified for all 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. A meet the buyer event is scheduled to take place on 8th December 2023.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1 The proposal forms part of the strategy for dealing with the financial impact of homelessness. 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 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 Break clauses are integral to all contracts, allowing termination or amendment to 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 are supported by the Council 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).