

Community Wellbeing and Housing Committee

29 March 2022

Title	Procurement of a Housing First service
Purpose of the report	To make a decision
Report Author	Marta Imig, Strategic Lead, Housing
Ward(s) Affected	All wards
Exempt	No
Exemption Reason	n/a
Corporate Priority	Affordable Housing
Recommendations	<p>Committee is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve the proposed procurement of a Housing First service for the duration of 3 years, with 3 x 1-year extensions in the Council's sole discretion subject to government funding availability and the performance of the contract, 2. Delegate the appointment of the contractor to the Group Head of Housing in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Community Wellbeing and Housing Committee 3. Authorise the Group Head of Corporate Governance to enter into any legal documentation necessary to implement the new contract.
Reason for Recommendation	To provide a Housing First service

1. Key issues

- 1.1 The Council has a current contract for the provision of a Housing First service with A2 Dominion. The contract is being carefully managed and reviewed regularly. Due to contract performance issues the Strategic Housing Group (SHG) recommended going out to procurement of this contract and to select a provider through a competitive tender process. The current contract with A2 Dominion ends on 31 May 2022. A2Dominion are welcomed to submit their tender in accordance with the updated specification of service.

- 1.2 The Housing First service is delivered to households of single people or childless couples, who are identified by the Council to be most at risk of eviction and therefore rough sleeping, and/or who have a history of tenancy failure.
- 1.3 The Council will carry out an open tender to invite bidders to provide the service, which requires the provision of 10 suitable bedsits/1-bedroom properties within Spelthorne Borough, or by exception, a small number of units in adjacent boroughs, to house clients as identified by the Council.
- 1.4 The service will be delivered in the spirit and in accordance with the Housing First principles, and in accordance with the specification forming the Contract. The new provider will be required to support those who are recovering from sleeping rough and support improvements in their wellbeing and prospect of tenancy sustainment.
- 1.5 The Contract will be monitored and managed by the Council's Data and Contract Officer.

2. Options analysis and proposal

Option 1 Reprocure a new contract in line with the new Specification, and to delegate the appointment of the contractor to the Group Head of Housing in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Community Wellbeing and Housing Committee [as attached]– (recommended)

The new contract will be procured to commence on the expiry of the current contract. The scope and specification of the Contract requirements will be more clearly defined to ensure clearer contract responsibilities of the Service Provider. The new Contract will also include a range of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) intended to monitor and measure the Service Provider's performance. It will ensure that we provide appropriate support to our most vulnerable clients.

Option 2 Do nothing

The contract will not be procured, and the Housing First service will end. This is not recommended, as there is a clear need for the service to be provided.

Option 3 – Reprocure a new contract with changes to the new Specification and Delegate the appointment of the contractor to the Group Head of Housing in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Community Wellbeing and Housing Committee [as attached]

The Committee may wish to make changes to the proposed Service Specification and approve it for procurement in the amended form.

3. Financial implications

- 3.1 The rent and service charges will be covered through Housing Benefit or Universal Credit collections. The full value of the contract is estimated at approx. £100,000 per annum and will be covered through the Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) funding, therefore there will be no net cost to the Council. The current RSI funding is for a period of 3 years. It is proposed that the new Housing First service contract is also for 3 years with the option to extend for 3 further 1-year periods, subject to further funding availability, in the Council's

sole discretion, and subject to the performance of the contract by the Service Provider.

4. Other considerations

n/a

5. Equality and Diversity

- 5.1 An Equality and Diversity assessment has been completed and is enclosed in Appendix A.

6. Sustainability/Climate Change Implications

- 6.1 The contractor will be required to use environmentally friendly methods of transport and sustainably sourced furniture and white goods. The proposed procurement does not otherwise have any impact on the Council's sustainability / climate change position.

7. Timetable for implementation

- 7.1 Once approved, the tender will be advertised on the e-tendering portal with target service commencement date of 1 June 2022.

Background papers: there are none

Appendices:

Appendix A - Equality and Diversity Assessment, Housing First
Appendix B – Housing First Service Specification