

REGISTER OF URGENT
DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

1) SUBJECT: STREETWISE CONTRACT & PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

2) REQUESTED DECISION:

- To approve the extension of our current contract with Encompass South West for the Streetwise Partnership for the value of £12885, for the period 19.12.14 to 31.3.16.
- To approve as an exception from the provisions of the contract procedure rules (Appendix 14, section 3.3 (c)) to allow the extension of the current contract because the total aggregated value of the contracts for this service from 19.12.09 – 31.3.16 is £62885.

Background

The Streetwise Partnership agreement was approved in October 2009 through the Council's formal PAD process for the Streetwise project which:

- Is delivered by Encompass South West (Formerly Barnstaple Poverty Action Group)
- Delivers NDC's Homelessness Prevention Services to young people aged 16 – 17 years and care leavers in North Devon
- Operates across NDC and TDC, providing cover for each in periods of leave/absence
- Is a multi-funded service:
 - Devon County Council (DCC) provide £20k per financial year for the North Devon aspect
 - NDC provide £10k for the NDC based officer
 - DCC provide £20k per financial year for the Torridge District Officer (TDC) aspect
 - TDC provide £10k for the TDC based officer
- The Streetwise Officers provide:
 - a specialist service with the knowledge and skills necessary to assist this client group, such as, most appropriate accommodation option, access to education, benefits.
 - have strong relationships with all appropriate local agencies to ensure access and best outcomes for the customer, such as Devon County Children's services, Education services, Young Offending teams, Work and Pensions.
- North Devon Council operates the Young Persons Homelessness Prevention Panel to coordinate access and priority to vacancies in Young Persons

Supported Accommodation projects across North Devon and Torridge. The Streetwise Officer Chairs this group on our behalf.

This project has been delivered under this partnership arrangement since December 2009.

DCC have committed to fund the £20k from April 2015 to the joint funded post on the understanding that we are continuing to fund in that year too.

DCC had indicated that they would be putting the service out to tender from 1.4.14. but delayed that process until 1.4.15. Unfortunately, In October 2014, DCC decided again, to delay a tender process until 1.4.16.

Therefore, this years contract is to enable the maintenance of the status quo for a further year pending the consideration of a formal commissioning process from 1.4.16. to which we may be involved in negotiating the best outcome for North Devon.

NDC have an allocated a budget for to meet the contract extension costs.

Benefits

This project has been and is still considered a success and good value for money.

- NDC benefit from the services of a full time Streetwise Young Person Homelessness Prevention Officer for the cost of £10k per year.
- The Officer deals with about 90 new cases a year. This work often prevents young people from entering our temporary accommodation as an emergency approach. We have had only five young people accommodated so far this year in our accommodation.
- The Officer ensures early engagement with this client group by operating out in the community, such as at the college, in sixth forms or at schools, averting their approach as crisis point. The Officer is often able to mediate with the family and help young people remain at home.
- The Northern Devon arrangement provides us with Officer coverage in times of Officer absence or peak demand times, as both Officers can cover each others area or can double up in one area if demand is high.

Risks

- The contract for the present Streetwise service ends on the 18th December 2014.
- Vulnerable customers are likely to suffer from a reduced/lack of service provision having a detrimental impact on them..
- If we are not able to extend this contract/funding from 19.12.14 it will have an immediate and detrimental impact on the Homelessness Prevention Service as officers will have to consider existing open and new cases. This service already has increasing/high workloads per Officer.
- We would not have the capacity or expertise to provide the level of service of the current project within our own resources.

- We would likely see an immediate increase in the number of young persons requiring NDC's temporary accommodation. At present we have no young people in temporary accommodation. We have a limited supply capacity of temporary accommodation in North Devon and would not easily accommodate a sudden increase in demand. Furthermore, the temporary accommodation option we would offer may not be appropriate for this client group.
- Low risk that we could be challenged as we are entering into a contract without testing the market and without knowing whether we are getting best value or not. Going to the market could result in an increased cost as well as a decreased cost.

3) STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE REQUEST AND WHY IT IS URGENT:

- The current Streetwise contract ends on 18.12.14.
- NDC Officers require approval to extend the current contract beyond 19.12.14, to 31.3.16 at a value of £12885.
- NDC were notified in October 2014 of Devon County Council's decision to continue the partnership in this manner for another final year.
- Officers have been unable to prepare reports for an earlier Executive decision due to the lack of Housing Service Officer resource.
- There are risks to a vulnerable client group if a speedy decision is not acquired.
- There are internal risks to NDC if the contract is not extended.

4) FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: (NOTE: Please state if there are any financial implications. If so, state if there are sufficient funds within the agreed budget. If there are not sufficient funds, please state how the decision will be financed)

- The 2014/15 approved budget includes £10,000 sufficient funding to cover contract period for 19.12.14 to 18.12.15. The draft base budget for 2015/16 is currently at £10,000 which is yet to be formally approved. If this contract is approved the base budget for 2015/16 can be reduced to £2885.

5) ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED:

- Not providing the service – risks highlighted above
- Provide the service in-house – Rejected because we would not have the capacity or expertise to provide the level of service of the current project within our own resources

6) A RECORD OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARED:

None.

7) A NOTE OF ANY DISPENSATION IF GRANTED:

Not applicable.

8) THE CONSENT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WAS OBTAINED ON:

15th December 2014.

9) LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS (but not including published works or those which disclose exempt or confidential information (as defined in rule 10 of appendix 15 (Access to Information Procedural Rules) and the advice of a political advisor):

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10) CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN:

The following have been consulted on this urgent decision:

Consultee	Consulted Yes/No	Date
Executive Member	Yes	12.12.14
Chief Executive	Yes	12.12.14
Head of Service (name)	Yes	11.12.14
Legal	Yes	12.12.14
Finance	Yes	12.12.14

11) APPROVED BY DECISION TAKER

Councillor Greenslade – Leader

12) NOT APPROVED BY DECISION TAKER

13) DATE THAT DECISION WAS TAKEN:

15th December 2014.

GUIDANCE NOTES

NOTE: ALL REFERENCES TO SUB-PARAGRAPHS REFER TO APPENDIX 12 OF THE CONSTITUTION

PROCEDURE FOR DECISIONS WHICH MAY BE CONTRARY TO ADOPTED PLANS AND STRATEGIES (INCLUDING THE BUDGET):

1. The Chief Executive must notify the Leader/Deputy Leader/Other Executive Member.
2. The Leader/Deputy Leader/Other Executive Member must approve the use of the procedure and notify the Chief Executive of his approval together with his reasons.
3. The Chief Executive must notify the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or if unable to act the Chairman of Council or if absent the Vice-Chairman to seek his determination as to whether the conditions detailed in paragraph 1.1 (b) (i), (iii) or (iv) are satisfied.
4. The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or if unable to act the Chairman of Council or if absent the Vice-Chairman, must confirm to the Chief Executive in writing that the proposed decision is urgent and that either of the conditions identified in paragraph 1.1 (b) (iii) or (iv) have been satisfied, the Chief Executive shall advise the Leader, Deputy Leader or other member of the Executive that the decision may be taken by a person or body possessing a relevant power to make such a decision.
5. If a decision is specific to a Ward, efforts should be made to ascertain the views of the local Councillor (s).

PROCEDURE FOR DECISIONS WHICH ARE WITHIN THE ADOPTED PLANS AND STRATEGIES (AND CAN NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE FORWARD PLAN):

1. If the Chief Executive considers that the conditions in sub-paragraph 2.1 are satisfied, he must notify the Proper Officer of the need for the decision, the reasons why it was impracticable for it to be included in the Council's Forward Plan, and whether or not the decision is required to be taken within five working days.
2. On receiving the notification, under sub-paragraph 2.3 and where satisfied that no decision is required to be taken for five working days, the Proper Officer shall:
 - (a) notify in writing the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or if there is no such person, each Member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, with particulars of the proposed decision, the

reasons for its urgency and the reasons for it being impracticable to include in the Council's Forward Plan;

- (b) make available for public inspection at the Council offices a copy of the written notice given to the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee about the decision.
3. Decisions to which sub paragraph 2.4 applies, shall not be made until after five working days have elapsed following publication of the proposed decision under 2.4 (b) of Appendix 12 in the Constitution.
4. Where it appears to the Chief Executive that an urgent decision-
- (a) meets the requirements of sub-paragraph 2.1 of Appendix 12 of the constitution; and
 - (b) because of the urgency cannot be deferred for five working days,
- he shall seek the agreement and confirmation in writing on both those points from-
- (c) the Proper Officer; and
 - (d) the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or in his absence the Chairman of Council or if there is no Chairman the Vice-Chairman of Council;
- and the person or body possessing a relevant power to make the decision may proceed to make it only when the necessary agreement and confirmation have been obtained.
5. If a decision is specific to a Ward, efforts should be made to ascertain the views of the local Councillor (s).