

AGENDA ITEM: 17

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Meeting	Cabinet Resources Committee
Date	30 March 2006
Subject	Supporting People Programme – Extension of Contracts
Report of	Cabinet Member for Community Services
Summary	This report recommends that the Council extends the existing contracts for Supporting People services for a further 12 months

Officer Contributors	James Taylor – Supporting People Manager
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards affected	All
Enclosures	List of currently contracted organisations
For decision by	Cabinet Resources Committee
Function of	Executive
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in (if appropriate)	Not applicable

Contact for further information: James Taylor, Supporting People Manager, Adult Social Services

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That as an exception to paragraph 5.6.2.1 of the Contracts Procedure Rules, authority be given to extend for a further year contracts expiring on 31 March 2006 for services in receipt of Supporting People Programme Grant allocated by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.**

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 2.1 None.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Promoting independence of vulnerable adults.
3.2 Helping the vulnerable in our community.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 The Council has carried out reviews of the services to ensure that they are in compliance with appropriate standards in terms of their strategic relevance, quality and value for money. Improvement plans are in place where applicable.
4.2 The organisations that provide the services have also been subject to assessment against accreditation criteria to determine their suitability to receive and manage public funds, and conditions will be included in future contracts where applicable

5. FINANCIAL, STAFFING, ICT AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The services are funded by Supporting People Programme Grant, a ring-fenced grant allocated to local authorities by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. The amount of grant that has been allocated to Barnet for 2006/7 would be sufficient for the council to fulfil its obligations if the contracts are extended as recommended

6. LEGAL ISSUES

- 6.1 The existing contracts commenced on 1 April 2003 or subsequently and in all cases expire on 31 March 2006. Since the contracts were not subject to procurement by tender or competitive quotation, an exception to Contract Procedure Rules is necessary to extend them.

7. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS

- 7.1 Constitution – Responsibility for Functions – Part 3 – Responsibility of the Executive – Paragraph 3.6 – Responsibility of the Cabinet Resources Committee.
7.2 Contract Procedure Rules – Paragraph 5.6.2 - Acceptance Parameters for Contract Extensions – Paragraph 5.6.2.1 – requirement that the initial contract was based on a competitive tender or quotations.

8. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 8.1 Local authorities were required by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) to enter into contracts with effect from April 2003 until March 31 2006 with specified named

organisations for certain services providing support for vulnerable people, known as Supporting People services. The Council had no discretion in the matter. This requirement was part of a programme administered by central and local government to reform the financial and commissioning arrangements for housing related support services. The national Supporting People contract arrangements fell outside normal local authority procurement processes and in particular the council's Contract Procedure Rules.

- 8.2 From April 2003, the ODPM allocated an annual Supporting People grant to each authority to enable it to meet its obligation to make payments under the contracts for the Supporting People services. The Council is accountable to ODPM for expenditure of Supporting People grant, acting under the strategic direction of Barnet's multi-agency Supporting People Commissioning Board.
- 8.3 Barnet entered into 65 contracts for 141 Supporting People services in 2003, comprising a total value of £7.7M. Since then a number of services have been decommissioned, expanded or re-modelled. The projected 2006/7 value of the remaining 114 services is £6.6M.
- 8.4 Contractors are listed at Appendix 1 and include mainly housing associations and charitable bodies with a small number of private companies and in-house council services. The programme covers a wide range of different types of service including:
- sheltered housing support for older people
 - supported housing for people with mental illness and learning disabilities, referred by Barnet's statutory social services
 - peripatetic support for homeless people in temporary accommodation
- 8.5 The Council has carried out detailed reviews of Supporting People services in accordance with national requirements, and expects to complete remaining reviews by March 2006. Services proposed for contract extensions have demonstrated compliance with appropriate standards relating to strategic relevance, quality and value for money. The council in partnership with other boroughs in north London has also completed a joint exercise to accredit organisations for contract purposes. A performance framework is in place with requirements for all services to provide periodic data on inputs and outcomes.
- 8.6 The Supporting People Commissioning Board is currently considering future procurement arrangements for Supporting People services and its recommendations will be the subject of a further report during 2006/7.
- 8.7 The contracts for the services expire on 31.3.06. Following consideration, the Supporting People Commissioning Board has recommended that the Council extend the contracts for a further period of 12 months. The Board and the council wish to ensure that changes in the SP programme are managed in a planned way. Ending the contracts without making alternative provision would lead to the withdrawal of support from vulnerable people and to increased expenditure against other budgets. It would also be likely to affect the viability of provider organisations, including some that provide other kinds of services under contracts with the council.
- 8.8 The Acceptance Parameters for Contract Extensions are set out in the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. They include a requirement that the initial contract should have been based on a competitive tender or quotations. Because of the special circumstances in which the Council entered into the contracts for Supporting People

services, an exception to the Contract Procedure rules would be necessary to enable the proposed extension of the contract period.

9. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 Supporting People Team operational files

9.2 Anyone wishing to inspect the background papers should telephone 020 8359 4886

Legal: PJ

CFO: HG

BARNET SUPPORTING PEOPLE PROGRAMME**CURRENTLY CONTRACTED ORGANISATIONS**

Abbeyfield Camden Society Ltd
Abbeyfield UK
Day's and Atkinson's Almshouse Charities
ASRA Greater London Housing Association
Barnet Homes
Barnet Mencap
Baytree Community Care (London) Ltd
Birnbeck Housing Association
Cara Housing Association
Jewish Blind & Physically Handicapped Society
Cherry Tree Housing Association
Chinese Mental Health Association
Christian Action Housing Association
Eleanor Palmer Trust
Family Housing Association
Habinteg Housing Association
Hanover Housing Association
Hestia
Homeless Action in Barnet
Hornsey Housing Trust
Housing 21
Jewish Care
Jewish Community Housing Association
Jewish Women's Aid
John Grooms Housing Association
LBB Environmental & Neighbourhood Service (SLA)
LBB Housing Service (SLA)
LBB Community Care Service (SLA)
Lewis W. Hammerson Memorial Home
Metropolitan Housing Trust
Middlesex Association for The Blind
Miss A.S (sole trader)
Mrs A.M (sole trader)
Mrs V.G (sole trader)
National Mencap
Novas
Norwood
Notting Hill Housing Trust
Orbit Housing Association
Orchard Housing Society
Paddington Church Housing Association
Penta Hact
Retail Trust
Richmond Fellowship
Royal Scottish Corporation
Safe Start Foundation
Sanctuary Housing Association

Servite Houses
Shaftesbury Housing Group
St Pancras and Humanist Housing Association
Tamarisk Trust
Thomas Watson Cottage Homes
Turning Point
Umbrella
Warden Housing Association
Westlon Housing Association
Willow Housing Association