

Public Document Pack

Officer Decisions

Friday, 13th December, 2024
10.00 am

AGENDA

1. **Contract Award for the Provision of Domestic Abuse Services**
Contract Award for the Provision of Domestic Abuse Services 2 - 4

2. **Tree-maintenance Services Contract**
Tree-maintenance Services Contract 5 - 7

Date Published: 13th December 2024
Denise Park, Chief Executive

Agenda Item 1

**RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN UNDER
DELEGATED AUTHORITY FROM
EXECUTIVE/COUNCIL/COMMITTEE
DELEGATED POWERS OUTLINED IN
THE CONSTITUTION**



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| DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION TAKEN BY: | Strategic Director of Environment & Operations |
| DELEGATED BY: | Executive (8 Aug 2024) |
| IN CONSULTATION WITH: | Executive Member |
| PORTFOLIO AREA: | Housing & Public Health |

SUBJECT: Contract Award for the Provision of Domestic Abuse Services

1. DECISION

On 8 August 2024, the Executive Board of Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council gave delegated authority to the Strategic Director of Environment and Communities, in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing and Public Health, to award the contract for the provision of domestic abuse services following the completion of the procurement process.

The Strategic Director of Environment and Communities in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing and Public Health has agreed to:

- Approve the awarding and commencement of the new contract for Domestic Abuse Services Lot 1 - Community Based Support, to the successful bidder Blackburn and Darwen District without Abuse (The Wish Centre) in partnership with Humraaz following completion of the procurement exercise which was undertaken through the Council's e-procurement portal The Chest.
- Approve the awarding and commencement of the new contract for Domestic Abuse Services Lot 2 - Accommodation Based Support & Floating Support Services, to the successful bidder Blackburn and Darwen District without Abuse (The Wish Centre) in partnership with Humraaz following completion of the procurement exercise which was undertaken through the Council's e-procurement portal The Chest.

The new contract will be awarded for a three-year duration with an option to extend for a further two years (plus 1 year, plus 1 year) subject to funding still being available and satisfactory performance being evidenced.

2. REASON FOR DECISION

The provision of Domestic Abuse Services has been retendered due to the current contract coming to an end on 31st March 2025.

The commission is required to:

- Protect vulnerable people and support victims of crime in line with our statutory duties.
- Provide a holistic domestic abuse service which meets the need of the people of Blackburn with Darwen
- To provide the best value, highest quality service for the residents of Blackburn with Darwen.
- Provide a service model that ensures safe, compliant, quality services which are effective and efficient and meet critical needs within this borough as required and inspected by Ofsted and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services.

A recommissioning and procurement process was carried out, with the opportunity advertised on the North West's Local Authority Procurement Portal (The CHEST), Contracts Finder, and the Find a Tender Service. The threshold for award was agreed at 60% prior to the commencement of the evaluation process.

The successful bidder for Lot 1, Blackburn and Darwen District without Abuse (The Wish Centre) in partnership with Humraaz achieved a score of 72%.

The successful bidder for Lot 2, Blackburn and Darwen District without Abuse (The Wish Centre) in partnership with Humraaz achieved a score of 72%.

3. BACKGROUND

Further to the Executive Board Decision Paper published on 8th August 2024, the Executive Board agreed:

- 1) To commence the procurement process for the provision of Domestic Abuse Services
- 2) To give delegated authority to the Strategic Director of Environment and Communities, in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing and Public Health, to award the contract to the most appropriate provider, following the completion of the procurement process.

4. KEY ISSUES AND RISKS

The current contract is due to come to an end on 31st March 2025, if the contract award following the procurement exercise is not agreed, the following risk factors are will occur:

- There will be no domestic abuse service in place to protect vulnerable people and support victims of crime in line with our statutory duties.
- There will be no commissioned service to provide a holistic domestic abuse service which meets the need of the people of Blackburn with Darwen.
- There will be no service model that ensures safe, compliant, quality services which are effective and efficient and meet critical needs within this borough as required and inspected by Ofsted and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council will pay the successful provider a total of £404,023 per year across the total contract.

This is anticipated to be managed from a variety of funding streams including cash limit, OPCC monies, Public Health contributions and Domestic Abuse duty funding from Ministry of Housing,

Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). Any future shortfalls in funding streams may create a budget pressure.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

A procurement exercise has been undertaken to allow providers to bid for this contract. The tendering process was compliant with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Council's Contract and Procurement Procedure Rules. Contracts will be in a form approved by legal officers in the Contracts and Procurement team.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The management and implementation of the contract will be actioned by services across the Council including input from Legal, Finance, Strategic Commissioning and the Community Safety Team.

8. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

None

9. CONSULTATIONS

In preparation for the procurement exercise, the following has taken place:

Engagement & Consultation with:

- Community Safety
- Finance
- Legal
- Housing Needs
- Office of Police and Crime Commissioner
- Public Health
- Pennine Partnerships Manager

The service specification has been updated, aligned to engagement and consultation above.

10. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of the officer with delegation and any Member who has been consulted, and note of any dispensation granted should be recorded below:

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| VERSION: | 1 |
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| CONTACT OFFICER: | Farheen Mahamroot |
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| DATE: | 14 th November 2024 |
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| BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: | Executive Board decision: – update on Domestic abuse provision and seek approval for commencement of a procurement process (8 August 2024). |
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Agenda Item 2

**RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN UNDER
DELEGATED AUTHORITY FROM
EXECUTIVE/COUNCIL/COMMITTEE
DELEGATED POWERS OUTLINED IN
THE CONSTITUTION**



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| DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION TAKEN BY: | Strategic Director of Environment & Communities |
| DELEGATED BY: | Executive (date of delegation) |
| IN CONSULTATION WITH: | Chief Officer |
| PORTFOLIO AREA: Environment and Communities | |

SUBJECT: Tree-maintenance Services Contract

1. DECISION

To approve the procurement strategy for the provision of a new contract for tree-maintenance services.

2. REASON FOR DECISION

A new long-term contract for tree-maintenance services is required following the expiry of the previous contract on the 31st of May 2024. The Council spends approximately £100,000 per year with external contractors for tree-maintenance services and therefore, an open tender exercise is required to demonstrate value for money. The tender will be advertised on Find a Tender Service, Contracts Finder and issued on The Chest e-tendering portal.

3. BACKGROUND

The Council is seeking to work collaboratively with a supplier of arboriculture services to help deliver high quality maintenance of our tree stock and ensure the safety of all employees, residents and visitors to the Council's land holdings. The supplier will provide extra capacity alongside the Council's in-house arboriculture team.

The Council originally entered into contract with Greenfingers Landscape Ltd in June 2022 however, on the 1st of June 2023 Tivoli Group Ltd acquired 100% of the share capital of Greenfingers Landscape Ltd and a contract novation was agreed with the Council.

Following discussions with Tivoli Group Ltd, the Council decided not to execute the final one-year contract extension option and has therefore, been operating outside of a formal agreement since June 2024.

The previous tender exercise was highly competitive with 16 submissions received. Following this success, we are looking to conduct another open tender exercise and award to the highest scoring bidder using the evaluation criteria detailed below:

Price – 45%
Quality – 40%
Social Value – 15%

It is proposed that the contract is established for an initial three years with the option to extend for a further one year.

4. KEY ISSUES AND RISKS

The Council are currently operating outside of a formal agreement for tree-maintenance services. Formally procuring a long-term contract will reduce risk to the Council if any disputes, performance or any other issues arise. It will also demonstrate value for money through effective use of competition.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No major financial implications, the cost of the services to be undertaken will be met from within existing budgets.

The successful contractor will be required to fix their prices for 12 months and any future price increases will be capped at no more than RPIx.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The procurement process will be carried out in accordance with the Council's Contract and Procurement Procedure rules and the Public Contract Regulations 2015. The contract will be in a form approved by legal officers.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Members from the Contracts and Procurement Team and the Environment Department will be required to develop the tender documents, evaluate the bids received and manage the subsequent contract.

8. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The use of a national Framework such as YPO or ESPO – This option was rejected as it would not give the opportunity for the large number of capable local contractors to bid for the work.

Extending the existing contract – This option was rejected following discussions with Tivoli Group Ltd and failure to reach an agreement regarding the extension.

Further information is available from the report author.

9. CONSULTATIONS

No consultations

10. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of the officer with delegation and any Member who has been consulted, and note of any dispensation granted should be recorded below:

N/A

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| VERSION: | 1 |
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| CONTACT OFFICER: | Mark Wilde |
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| DATE: | 1 st November 2024 |
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| BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: | N/A |
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