

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



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:

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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