

CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SERVICES – 1 JUNE 2010

PROVISION OF HOUSING AND RELATED SUPPORT SERVICES FOR YOUNG FAMILIES AGED 16-24 YEARS AND HOMELESS PEOPLE AGED 16-59 YEARS.

Report by Director for Social & Community Services

Reasons why Annex is Exempt

1. *The public should be excluded during discussion of Annex 1 to the report because its discussion in public would be likely to lead to the disclosure to members of the public present information in the following prescribed category:*

3. *Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)*

and since it is considered that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, in that where information has been supplied in commercial confidence such disclosure would prejudice the commercial position of the parties involved.

Introduction

Purpose of the Paper and Key Issues:

2. To recommend the award of contracts for:
 - (a) accommodation and support services for young families across the Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire;
 - (b) accommodation and support services for single homeless people aged 16-59 years in West Oxfordshire.
3. In each case the contract term would be 1 October 2010 – 31 March 2013, with the option to extend for a further 2 years.

Background

4. In May 2009, the Supporting People Core Strategy Group and Oxfordshire's Children and Young People's Trust Board endorsed the proposed strategy for commissioning housing and related support for young people and young parents aged 16-24 years. This strategy set out the approach for improving the quality, effectiveness and value for money of these services.

5. The partners to this strategy are:
 - The Supporting People Partnership, which commissions housing related support services to help people achieve and sustain their independence. These services include specialist provision for young people and young parents aged 16-24 years.
 - Oxfordshire County Council's Children, Young People and Families Directorate, which is responsible for ensuring that the following groups are adequately housed and supported: care leavers aged 16-17 who are living independently; unaccompanied asylum seeking children aged 16-17 years (UASC); UASC aged 18-21 who have no recourse to public funds; and care leavers who are unable to claim benefits because they are in further education.
 - Oxford City Council, Cherwell, South Oxfordshire, Vale of the White Horse and West Oxfordshire District Councils, who are responsible for providing housing for vulnerable young people assessed as homeless and in need. These duties are set out under the Homelessness Act 2002. The City and District Councils work in partnership with the County Council to fulfil their obligations.
6. In June 2009 an Invitation to Tender called for bids for a range of housing related service provision across 5 service packages:
 - **Service package 1:** Reconnection and referral service in Oxford City
 - **Service package 2:** Housing and support for unaccompanied asylum seeking children in Oxfordshire
 - **Service package 3:** Supported lodgings service across Oxfordshire
 - **Service package 4:** Housing and support for high risk young people with multiple needs
 - **Service package 5:** Supported housing for single young people and young families across Oxfordshire.
7. Following evaluation by the partner organisations, Oxford City Council agreed the award of the contract for service package 1, the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families agreed the award of contracts for service packages 2, 3 and 4 and, in November 2009, the Cabinet Member for Adult Services agreed the award of the contracts for service package 5.
8. However within service package 5, it was not possible to recommend the award of contract for two lots. These lots were a) 11 units of accommodation with housing related support for young families in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse and b) 8 units of young people's accommodation with housing related support in West Oxfordshire.
9. In the case of West Oxfordshire, the Supporting People partnership agreed to re-tender the 8 young people's units together with 19 units of a service for homeless people aged 25-59, thus creating a hybrid service for single homeless people aged 16-59 years. Within this service, 19 units are allocated to young people and the remaining 8 units are allocated to people aged over-25 years. The rationale for creating this hybrid service was that it would be more viable and more attractive to potential suppliers.

The Tender Process

10. An Invitation To Tender (ITT) for the two service lots was issued on 11 January 2010 with a closing date of 19 February 2010. The ITT documentation provided full details of the procurement process which has been fully complied with by the evaluation team.
11. The relevant District Councils were involved in the evaluation of the service lots and in making the recommendation.
12. The tables in Annex 1 provide the following information:
 - The percentage scores achieved by each of the bidding organisations invited to the presentation stage.
 - The overall cost of the bids for the 2.5 year contracts.

Financial Considerations

13. Natalia Lachkou, Supporting People Programme Manager, confirms that as the budget holder for SHT211 from which these new contracts would be funded that these awards are within the budget allocation for the tender, for the duration of the contracts.

RECOMMENDATION

14. **The Cabinet Member for Adult Services is RECOMMENDED to confirm the award of contracts as follows:**
 - (a) **Housing and related support for young families**

Stonham Home Group be awarded a contract for delivery of 11 units of housing and related support for young families, to be delivered in both the Vale of White Horse District and South Oxfordshire District, the contract term to be from 1 October 2010 to 31 March 2013 with the option to extend for a further 2 years.
 - (b) **Housing and related support for single homeless people aged 16-59 years**

St Mungo's be awarded a contract for 27 units of housing and related support for single homeless people aged 16-59 years in West Oxfordshire District, the contract term to be from 1 October 2010 to 31 March 2013 with the option to extend for a further 2 years.

JOHN JACKSON
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Background Papers: Nil

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April 2010