
Decision Maker:	PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR RENEWAL, RECREATION & HOUSING
Date:	20 December 2021
Decision Type:	Urgent Executive Key
Title:	WOMEN'S REFUGE, SUPPORT & TENANCY SUSTAINMENT SERVICE
Contact Officer:	Lydia Lewinson, Head of Housing Options and Support Tel: 020 8313 3334 E-mail: Lydia.lewinson@bromley.gov.uk
Chief Officer:	Lead Director: Sara Bowrey, Director Housing, Planning and Regeneration
Ward:	All Wards

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 In June 2020, following approval from the Portfolio holder and the Renewal, Recreation and Housing Policy & Development Scrutiny Committee, the Council has undergone an open procurement process for a Women's Refuge, Support and Tenancy Service.
- 1.2 This report, together with the accompanying Part 2 report, sets out the outcome of the competitive process and recommends award of contract as detailed in the Part 2 report.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 The Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing is recommended to approve award of contract for the Women's Refuge, Support and Tenancy Service as detailed in the accompanying Part 2 report.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: The award of this contract will ensure that services continue to be provided to support those at risk of or fleeing domestic abuse. It will ensure access to safe accommodation and specialist services for those who have been affected.
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Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Not Applicable Existing Policy New Policy: Further Details
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People Excellent Council Safe Bromley Supporting Independence
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: detailed in Part 2 report
 2. Ongoing costs: detailed in Part report
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Supporting People and Operational Housing
 4. Total current budget for this head: £1,029k
 5. Source of funding: Existing Revenue Budget
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Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): N/A
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable:
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Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: As detailed within the report.
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): 95 women
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 A Gateway Report (HPR2021/036) was presented to the Renewal, Recreation and Housing Policy & Development Scrutiny Committee on 16th June 2021 outlining the current provision of support services for women in refuges, and proposed changes and service modifications the Council would adopt in line with the Domestic Abuse Bill 2021. The review was based on an assessment of the current service levels, the need to ensure the safety of vulnerable service users and service user feedback.
- 3.2 The review outcome led to key changes to the specification which include:
- The access and accommodation criteria to comply with the Domestic Abuse Bill 2021.
 - The referrals process and outcomes for local women referred by the Council
 - Specifically, designed support services for children and young people
 - Speedier access to counselling sessions for residents.
- 3.3 Each of the landlords of the refuge properties were contacted, Optivio, Hyde and A2 Dominion; each confirmed that their accommodation provision would be available should the Council enter a new contract with a Provider to deliver Women's Refuge, Support and Tenancy Sustainment Services.
- 3.4 The Portfolio Holder and Committee agreed for Officers to go out to Open tender asking Providers to bid for this specialist provision. Once the final specification was approved by Housing and Children Service's colleagues, the tender went live on the Pro-Contract portal.

The Tender Process

- 3.5 In accordance with the Council's financial and contractual requirement, and following Portfolio Holder Approval in June 2021, the Service has been subject to a full tender process.
- 3.6 The tender process was undertaken using ProContract, the Council's electronic tendering system. This is a specialist service and whilst 23 suppliers expressed an interest, only 3 suppliers submitted a bid.
- 3.7 The tender was evaluated based on the Award Criteria questions with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. The questions were evaluated based on a 60% finance and 40% quality split. The evaluation of quality was based on the following criteria:

1	Financial Resources and Contract Affordability	5%
2	Information Governance & Security	5%
3	Service Delivery	20%
4	Support to Service Users	15%
5	Service Implementation	20%
6	Innovation	15%
7	Quality Assurance	15%
8	Added Social Value	5%
		100%

- 3.8 The pricing document required that Providers submit a fixed price for the delivery over the period of the five year contract. This is detailed in the Part 2 report.

4. CONTRACT AWARD RECOMMENDATION

4.1 Detailed in the accompanying Part 2 report.

5. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

5.1 The Domestic Abuse Bill 2021, came into law in April 2021 and the housing element took effect, on 5th July 2021. This is reflected in the new specification and contract to ensure that the Council is compliant with its duties.

5.2 Housing Act 1996 (as amended by the Homelessness 2002); Homelessness Reduction Act 2017; the Crime and Disorder Act 1998; The Children's Act 1989.

5.3 The housing objectives are set out in the relevant business plans and Homelessness Strategy 2018-2023. These objectives are compliant with the statutory framework within which the Council's housing function must operate.

5.4 The legislation pertaining to homelessness requires appropriate advice and support to be provided to households at risk of homelessness and suitable accommodation and support to those households to whom the Council owes a statutory rehousing duty. These services play a key part within the overall provision of homeless prevention and accommodation services.

6. IT AND GDPR CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 The recommended provider has provided sufficient documentation and policy to confirm they adhere to all current and relevant GDPR and data storing/sharing requirements.

7. PROCUREMENT RULES

7.1 This report seeks to award the above contract as detailed in the accompanying Part 2 report.

7.2 An open tender process was undertaken via ProContract, the Council's electronic tendering system to appoint the above supplier to deliver the Women's Refuge, Support and Tenancy Sustainment Service requirement

7.3 This is a services contract and the value of this procurement falls below the thresholds set out in Part 2 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, so is only subject to Part 4 of the Regulations.

7.4 This process has been carried out in line with the requirements of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. A voluntary standstill period will need to be observed.

7.5 As the contract value is over £25k, an award notice will need to be published on Contracts Finder.

7.6 The Council's specific requirements for authorising an award of contract are covered in CPR 16 with the need to obtain the Approval of Portfolio Holder following Agreement by the Chief Officer, the Assistant Director Governance & Contracts, the Director of Corporate Services, the Director of Finance and the budget holder for a contract of this value. In accordance with CPR 2.1.2, Officers must take all necessary professional advice.

7.7 The actions identified in this report are provided for within the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, and the proposed actions can be completed in compliance with their content.

8. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 Detailed in the accompanying Part 2 report.

9. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

9.1 The Council has various legal duties and powers towards the safeguarding and promotion of the welfare of vulnerable domestic abuse adults and children. These include powers and duties related to homelessness and crime and disorder in particular those set out in section 5.4 of this report. In furtherance of these powers, the Council has the legal power to enter into a contract with the recommended tenderer.

9.2 As the estimated value of the contract over the whole life of the contract fell below the light touch regime threshold of £663,540, it was therefore not necessary to procure in accordance with that regime under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

9.3 The Council must carry out the procurement in compliance with its Contract Procedure Rules (CPR's) and must also ensure it complies with its fiduciary duty towards taxpayers to procure the services prudently.

9.4 The procurement section of this report sets out the requirements under CPR's and demonstrates that the Council has obtained best value which meets the Council's fiduciary duty.

Non-Applicable Sections:	PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS / STRATEGIC PROPERTY
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	[Title of document and date]