

**Health and Wellbeing Board: Commissioning Sub-Committee
24 March 2021**

	Report for Resolution
Title:	Integrated Assistive Technology Service
Lead officer(s):	Steve Oakley, Acting Director of Commissioning and Procurement
Author and contact details for further information:	Anna Coltman, Commissioning Officer anna.coltman@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
Brief summary:	The Integrated Assistive Technology (AT) Service and the Dispersed Alarms Service are both provided by Nottingham City Homes (NCH). The current contractual arrangements for these services end on 31 March 2021. These services provide support to citizens to remain living independently in their own home or in the community. This report requests approval to continue service provision with new contractual arrangements with NCH in place from April 2021.
Is any of the report exempt from publication?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is this an Executive decision?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Executive decisions are subject to call-in, unless otherwise stated here.
Recommendation to the Health and Wellbeing Board: Commissioning Sub-Committee:	
<p>The Health and Wellbeing Board Commissioning Sub-Committee is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Endorse Nottingham City Council as the lead commissioner of the Integrated Assistive Technology Service and the Dispersed Alarms Service. 2. Approve the award of the Integrated Assistive Technology contract to Nottingham City Homes as a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Council, through 'Teckal' arrangements. This is a 3-year contract with an annual value of £434,400 and a total value of £1,303,200. 3. Approve the award of the Dispersed Alarms contract to Nottingham City Homes as a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Council, through 'Teckal' arrangements. This is a 3-year contract with an annual value of £17,940 and a total value of £53,820 	

4. Delegate approval to the Acting Director of Commissioning and Procurement to award and sign the contracts for these services.

5. Approve the spend associated with this decision subject to the joint approval of the 2021/22 Better Care Fund Plan as detailed in Section 4 of the report.

Contribution to Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Health and Wellbeing Strategy aims and outcomes	Summary of contribution to the Strategy
Aim: To increase healthy life expectancy in Nottingham and make us one of the healthiest big cities	The key outcomes for the Integrated AT Service and the Dispersed Alarms Service continue to be that:
Aim: To reduce inequalities in health by targeting the neighbourhoods with the lowest levels of healthy life expectancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • citizens are enabled to remain living independently in their own home, safely, for as long as possible; • moves into residential care are prevented or delayed; and • unnecessary hospital admissions are avoided.
Outcome 1: Children and adults in Nottingham adopt and maintain healthy lifestyles	<p>The service can also contribute to meeting additional outcomes including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improved outcomes for people with a learning disability, e.g. enabled to live more independently of facilitates a move from residential care to supported living; • improved outcomes for people admitted into hospital following accidents and falls; • carers and families are supported in their caring role; • delaying the journey into social care and health for many elderly and vulnerable people through the provision of a prevention service. This keeps them safe and independent in their homes for longer and compliments and supports any necessary social care interventions; • using Assistive Technologies to facilitate and widen access to, and choice of alternative forms of support provided by health services, community services and the voluntary
Outcome 2: Children and adults in Nottingham will have positive mental wellbeing and those with long-term mental health problems will have good physical health	
Outcome 3: There will be a healthy culture in Nottingham in which citizens are supported and empowered to live healthy lives and manage ill health well	
Outcome 4: Nottingham's environment will be sustainable – supporting and enabling its citizens to have good health and wellbeing	

	<p>sector; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> citizens are more able to understand and manage their own health and care needs through the use of AT. <p>Outcome measures will be monitored and reviewed through the life of the contract to ensure that they are sufficient to demonstrate that the needs of service users are being met and that the outcomes of the service are being achieved.</p>
<p>How mental health and wellbeing is being championed in line with the Health and Wellbeing Board's aspiration to give equal value to mental and physical health</p>	
<p>Citizens with an assessed mental health need, including cognitive impairment or Dementia, will have access to the equipment and on-call support available through this service. The equipment has the potential to enable these citizens to live more independently at home and to support carers in their caring role.</p>	

<p>Reason for the decision:</p>	<p>The existing contractual arrangements end on 31 March 2021 and a decision is required to continue the services.</p>												
<p>Total value of the decision:</p>	<p>£1,357,020</p>												
<p>Financial implications and comments:</p>	<p>The total cost of the decisions outlined in this report is £1,357,000 for the 3-year proposed contract duration based on the revised service specifications, or £452,000 per annum.</p> <p>Providing there are no changes to the current levels of grant funding received, the annual funding envelope to support the proposals contained within this report are detailed in Table 1 below.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="485 1597 1393 2009"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" data-bbox="491 1606 1386 1682"> TABLE 1 – ANNUAL FUNDING FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SERVICE INC DISPERSED ALARMS </th> </tr> <tr> <th data-bbox="491 1684 1201 1771"> BETTER CARE FUND (BCF) FUNDING: </th> <th data-bbox="1203 1684 1386 1771"> 2021/22 £m </th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="491 1774 1201 1827"> Assistive Technology Service </td> <td data-bbox="1203 1774 1386 1827"> 0.334 </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="491 1830 1201 1883"> Dispersed Alarm Service </td> <td data-bbox="1203 1830 1386 1883"> 0.018 </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="491 1886 1201 1939"> Sub Total </td> <td data-bbox="1203 1886 1386 1939"> 0.352 </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="491 1942 1201 1995"> DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT (DFG) CAPITAL FUNDING: </td> <td data-bbox="1203 1942 1386 1995"> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	TABLE 1 – ANNUAL FUNDING FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SERVICE INC DISPERSED ALARMS		BETTER CARE FUND (BCF) FUNDING:	2021/22 £m	Assistive Technology Service	0.334	Dispersed Alarm Service	0.018	Sub Total	0.352	DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT (DFG) CAPITAL FUNDING:	
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<p>Procurement implications and comments (including where relevant social</p>	<p>Whilst this decision contains an element of capital related expenditure to be offset by the associated DFG income, there will be no additional drawdown required from the Capital Programme nor any prudential borrowing implications.</p> <p>Whilst the contracts outlined in this decision have formed part of the BCF plan in the current and previous years, any funding allocations against BCF schemes in future years (2021/22+) will require joint approval by this Committee via the completion of the BCF plan. The annual BCF funding plan will be subject to a further report for approval once the full planning guidance has been published.</p> <p>If the level of BCF/DFG funding diminishes in future years, work will need to be undertaken jointly to identify an alternative funding source or to ascertain which BCF schemes to reduce/decommission in order to fully mitigate the financial risk to both partners.</p> <p>Recommendation 2 and 3 seeks to direct award the contracts to Nottingham City Homes (NCH). As a wholly owned subsidiary of the Council, the contracts with NCH fall under the teckal exemption (Public Contract Regulations 2015) which means that a full procurement tender exercise is not required where it is considered that the arrangement offers best value to the Council.</p> <p>Value for money will continue to be delivered by procuring services that meet the needs of local people through the most economic, efficient and effective means. The service delivery options including the managed key performance indicators supporting BCF targets alongside the recommendations for the use of teckal arrangements outlined above will support the delivery of value for money. The Dispersed Alarms service will also be subject to annual reviews with the outcomes for citizens to be monitored closely through contract reporting and service user feedback surveys.</p> <p>Advice provided by Hayley Mason (Strategic Finance Business Partner) on 15 March 2021.</p> <p>The decisions in this report relate to the proposed award of contracts to Nottingham City Homes for the delivery of Assistive Technology and Dispersed alarms services from April 2021. It is considered that delivery by Nottingham City Council represents value for money and the proposed awards will</p>				

<p>value implications):</p>	<p>enable continuity of services to vulnerable citizens. As a wholly owned subsidiary of the Council, NCH may be awarded this funding directly under contracts, in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations and Contract Procedure Rules (2.6.10 and 2.6.11)</p> <p>Advice provided by Jo Pettifor (Category Manager – Strategy and People) on 19 February 2021.</p>
<p>Other implications and comments, including legal, risk management, crime and disorder:</p>	<p>Legal comments:</p> <p>In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Council when buying services is permitted to enter into arrangements with one of its subsidiary companies if it meets certain criteria under the procurement regime provided under the Public Contract Regulations 2015, known as the 'teckal exemption'.</p> <p>Arrangements falling under the teckal exemption are excluded from the requirements to seek quotation or tenders under the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, provided a contract is put in place and the arrangement is considered to offer best value to the Council.</p> <p>It is understood that the arrangement with NCH, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Council that is deeded to fall within the teckal exemption, not only offers well managed services to the Council for Assisted Technology and Dispersed Alarms and service users, but in light of a difficult market and financial constraints upon the Council, it is also considered value for money to the Council.</p> <p>It is also understood that the services will be remodelled to ensure broader opportunities will be open to the Council and its citizens under the Contracts that will be established.</p> <p>Advice provided by Dionne Screatton, Solicitor.</p>
<p>Equalities implications and comments:</p>	<p>An Equalities Impact Assessment is currently being undertaken.</p>
<p>Published documents referred to in the report:</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Background papers relied upon in writing the report:</p>	<p>None.</p>

Other options considered and rejected:

1. Do nothing. This was rejected as the current contracts are ending and new arrangements are required.
2. Seek to review service provision and explore alternative models. This was rejected for the Integrated AT Service as the contract has been subject to review in the previous term of the contract which resulted in a contract variation to reduce the contract value. Any further changes to deliver efficiencies would risk destabilising the current service model provided by NCH. The Dispersed Alarms contract has been subject to a review of service provision resulting in a change to service model.
3. Extending the contracts for a further year. This was rejected as the contract is ending with no option for extension and a decision is required to put in place a new arrangements. New contracts will allow commissioners to work with the Provider to explore opportunities for achieving better value for money, to review and remodel the service and to explore broader range of equipment choices for citizens. Commissioners will also initiate development work with NCH to create an outcomes focussed service model and align the service with NCC's draft Digital Strategy. This development work will form part of the annual reviews.
4. Tender the services through an open and competitive tender process. The current services are considered to be delivering value for money for Nottingham City Council. NCH as housing provider and alarm service provider have infrastructure, systems and processes in place which any new provider would need time and funding to establish. There are not felt to be other providers who could deliver the same service within Nottingham. NCH is a wholly owned subsidiary, direct awards are permissible through 'Teckal' provisions of the Procurement Regulations.