

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:	4206
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Department:	Strategy and Resources
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Subject: Sheltered Alarms - Assistive Technology

Total Value: £529,722.00 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

- 1) To approve the award of a contract for the Sheltered Alarm service to Nottingham City Homes as a wholly owned subsidiary of Nottingham City Council.
- 2) To approve the continuation of contracted service provision for the Sheltered Alarms service for a term of 3 years (2021 - 2024), including expenditure of up to a maximum of £529,722.00 (£176,574 per annum).
- 4) To delegate authority to the Director of Commissioning and Procurement to enter into the contracts and the Head of Contracting and Procurement to sign the Contracts with the service provider.

Reasons for the Decision(s)

Nottingham City Council (NCC) currently funds a Sheltered Alarm service for all residents of sheltered accommodation across the city. The service includes installation of equipment, maintenance, monitoring and call-out response.

Many of the alarms within sheltered accommodation are hardwired to properties, although digital alarms can now be installed. The service is funded by NCC for those citizens who are eligible for housing benefit. This service is provided by Nottingham City Homes (NCH).

The current contract for alarms in Sheltered accommodation comes to an end in March 2021. The current service is operating well and delivering outcomes for citizens and offers value for money for Nottingham City Council. This will be closely monitored throughout the contract period to ensure that this continues to be the case.

This request to award to NCH is for a maximum period of 3 years during which time the contracts will be subject to annual review.

Other Options Considered:

- 1. Do nothing. This was rejected as the current contract is ending and new arrangements are required.**
- 2. Seek to review service provision and explore alternative models. This was rejected as the contract had been subject to review in the previous term of the contract which resulted in contract variations to reduce the contract value. Any further changes to deliver efficiencies would risk destabilising the current service model provided by NCH.**
- 3. Extending the contract 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 new arrangements. Continuing to provide services will allow commissioners to work with the Provider to explore opportunities for achieving better value for money and a 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 in an open and competitive tender process. The current service is felt 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.**

Background Papers:

Published Works:

Affected Wards:

Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests:

None

Consultations:

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications:

None

Equality:

EIA not required. Reasons: This is a continuation of existing activities so there is no impact on citizens.

Decision Type:

Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In:

Yes

Call In Expiry date:

14/05/2021

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance, Procurement

Legal Advice:

The proposals in this report raise no significant legal issues and are supported.

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'.

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.

It is understood that the arrangement with NCH, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Council that is deemed to fall within the teckal exemption, not only offers well managed reputable service to the Council 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. Annual contract reviews should be undertaken to ensure this continues to be the case.

Advice provided by Dionne Claire Scream (Solicitor) on 08/03/2021.

Finance Advice:

This decision seeks approval for the continuation of the Assistive Technology Contract covering the sheltered alarms service for a period of 3 years covering between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2024.

The total maximum cost of this decision is £529,722 over the 3 year contract period (or £176,574 per annum). This decision will be funded from existing Housing Related Support budgets incorporated within the Adults Medium Term Financial Plan.

As a wholly owned subsidiary of the Council, this contract with Nottingham City Homes (NCH) falls 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.

The service delivery options and recommendations outlined in this report including the use of the Teckal arrangement with NCH, alongside managed key performance indicators and regular contract monitoring/reviews will support value for money for the organisation.

Advice provided by Hayley Mason (Strategic Finance Business Partner) on 08/03/2021.

Procurement Advice:

The proposal to continue provision for the Sheltered Alarms service for a term of 3 years from 1st April 2021 as a direct award to Nottingham City Homes are permitted under the EU Procurement Regulations under the Teckal exemption. The proposal is considered to offer value for money. For these reasons, the decision is supported from a procurement perspective. Advice provided by Julie Herrod (Procurement Officer) on 11/02/2021. Advice provided by Julie Herrod (Procurement Officer) on 05/03/2021.

Signatures

Adele Williams (Portfolio Holder for Adults and Health)
SIGNED and Dated: 07/05/2021
Catherine Underwood (Corporate Director for People)
SIGNED and Dated: 23/04/2021