

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:	1959
Author:	Antony Dixon
Department:	Children and Families
Contact:	Antony Dixon (Job Title: Strategic Commissioning Manager, Email: antony.dixon@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 01158763491)
Subject:	Alarm Contracts in Sheltered Housing
Total Value:	£749,499 (Type: Revenue)
Decision Being Taken:	To approve dispensation from contract procedure rules 5.1.1 and 5.1.2 under financial regulation 3.29 to award contracts for alarm provision within sheltered and extra care accommodation for the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2018 as detailed in Appendix 1; To approve expenditure associated with the contracts detailed in Appendix 1; To delegate authority to the Head of Quality and Efficiency to sign the contracts.
Reasons for the Decision(s)	Alarm provision within sheltered and extra care accommodation has previously been incorporated within contracts for the scheme manager function within these services. These contracts all expire on 31st March 2015 although all were let in 2012 on a three year plus three year plus three year basis. As part of the 2014/15 budget process it was agreed to end housing related support funding for scheme manager functions but continue funding the alarm element where the service provided meets the service specification for alarm provision agreed in 2012. As such there is a requirement to issue new contracts. A direct award to Nottingham City Homes for their alarm contract is permissible through the Teckal provision. Direct awards in relation to the other contracts are recommended as there are no other viable alternatives. The levels for the block contracts that will be issued are determined by the number of residents at each scheme on 31st March 2011.

Other Options Considered:

Tender for alarm provision. This option is not recommended. The Strategic Review for Older People determined that all alarm provision in the City should be delivered to the same high standard of service as that provided by the Nottingham City Homes Nottingham on Call service. In order to receive funding for the service all City sheltered and extra care accommodation providers were required to either sub-contract with the Nottingham on Call service or confirm that their in house alarm service complies with this specification. The original intention of the joint sheltered and alarm contracts was that these would be extendable if it was determined that they were still strategically relevant and being delivered in accordance with quality expectations. This is the case with alarm provision in these units. There can be no obligation on accommodation providers to accept an alarm service from a provider that we determine as the alarm function forms part of property provision.

Commission as a subsidy based contract. This option is not recommended. The Early Intervention Directorate no longer has the resources to process subsidy claims for a contract of this size. The cost of processing these claims would far outweigh any cost benefits associated with varying (lower) levels of citizens eligible for subsidy. For the same reason it is not recommended to base contract values at the current level of eligibility.

Cease funding alarm provision in sheltered accommodation. This option is not recommended. Alarm provision is a low cost preventative service. Availability of an alarm helps to distinguish sheltered provision from general (age restricted) housing provision.

Background Papers: Alarm Contracts in Sheltered Housing (appendix 1, attached).

Unpublished background papers: Alarms March 15 Appendix.docx

Published Works: None.

Affected Wards: Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests: None.

Dispensation from Financial Regulations: Yes

Consultations: Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications: None

Equality: EIA not required. Reasons: Extension of existing provision - a separate EIA has been conducted in relation to the ending of funding for the scheme manager function

Decision Type: Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In: Yes

Call In Expiry date: 05/05/2015

Advice Sought: Legal, Finance, Procurement

Legal Advice:

The Council may grant a dispensation from its Contract Procedure Rules for operational reasons. The reasons have been set out in this report.

The contract awards do not raise any significant legal issues with regard to procurement legislation. Although the total value stated is above the current threshold for these types of services under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 they are, by the nature of the arrangements with the different accommodation providers, considered to be separate contracts not capable of being aggregated.

Advice provided by Naomi Vass (Senior Solicitor) on 26/03/2015.

Finance Advice:

It is proposed to award the contracts for alarm provision within sheltered and extra care accommodation for three years with effect from 1st April 2015; details of the individual contracts are listed in Appendix 1.

The annual cost of these contracts is £249,833. This totals £749,499 over the three years. Provision for this expenditure is included within the Housing Related Support budget, and has been accounted for in the MTFP.

This process will ensure VFM is achieved through the efficient and effective commissioning process.

This proposal seeks dispensation from Contract Procedure rules (5.1.1 and 5.1.2) in accordance with Financial Regulation 3.29, and is appropriate in these circumstances.

Steve Lynk - Finance Analyst
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1st April 2015
Advice provided by Stephen Lynk (Finance Analyst) on 01/04/2015.

Procurement Advice:

Dispensation from contract procedure rules 5.1.1 & 5.1.2 under financial regulation 3.29 is needed to award a number of contracts for alarm provision within sheltered and extra care accommodation for the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2018 as detailed in Appendix 1, for the reasons detailed in the report.

The Strategic Procurement and Contracts team have been involved with this process in liaison with Legal Services and there are no procurement concerns. Advice provided by Nicola Harrison (Procurement Lead Officer) on 26/03/2015.

Signatures

Alex Norris (PH Adults, Commissioning and Health)
SIGNED and Dated: 27/04/2015
Alison Michalska (Corporate Director for Children and Adults)
SIGNED and Dated: 21/04/2015
Geoff Walker (Acting Head of Strategic Finance) - Dispensation from Financial Regulations
SIGNED and Dated: 07/04/2015
Chief Financial Officer's Comments: