

Gloucester City Council

INDIVIDUAL OFFICER DECISION DECISION RECORD FORM

Date of Decision

21.01.22

Subject

Award of a contract for delivery of the "Rough Sleeper Outreach and Support Service" (RSOSS)

Wards affected

All

Decision Maker

Ruth Saunders, Director of Communities

Decision taken: Agree to Gloucester City Council awarding a contract to People, Potential, Possibilities (P3) for delivery of a "Rough Sleepers Outreach and Support Service", following a procurement process through the countywide Community and Accommodation Based Support (CABS) framework.

Delegated power used:

The Constitution allows for the Director of Communities to undertake the following function:

To accept tenders up to £250k or within budget.

Reasons for decision:

The Gloucestershire Strategic Housing Partnership has agreed to jointly commission a Rough Sleepers Outreach and Support Service (RSOSS). This service will replace the existing "Assertive Outreach Team" from 1 April 2022.

The RSOSS will respond quickly to rough sleeping by identifying anyone who is rough sleeping in Gloucestershire, supporting those who are on the streets to access accommodation and other services which they need; and wherever possible to prevent individuals known to the service from losing accommodation once it is found. In particular the service will:

- Respond to "Street Link" referrals and undertake proactive checking of known rough sleeping sites to identify and provide support to any individual sleeping on the streets.
- Respond to the individual welfare needs of known rough sleepers to safeguard them from harm wherever possible, and to draw in wider services where required.
- To support rough sleepers to access accommodation: including by providing advice and support in completing Homelessness Applications and/or identifying alternative sources of accommodation.
- To build relationships and provide support to long-term rough sleepers, with the ultimate objective of identifying solutions with those individuals which will enable them to engage with offers of accommodation and support.

The service is intended to be responsive: both to the needs of individuals currently on the streets, and in response to changes in the overall number of those entering the streets. It is our ambition that the downward trajectory of rough sleeping in Gloucestershire will enable this service to transition to focus increasingly on preventative activity over the lifetime of the contract.

Since February 2021 Gloucester City Council has been the host organisation for the countywide Housing Partnership Programme Team, and acts as lead contractor on behalf of the Partnership for countywide rough sleeping interventions. The service specification has been prepared by officers from Gloucester City Council and other partners and was scrutinised and endorsed by the countywide Partnership's Oversight Board, which includes representation from all Partner organisations. The Housing Partnership has agreed that the countywide Programme Team should manage these services going forward.

This decision follows an invitation to tender issued to the County Council's Community and Accommodation Based Services (CABS) framework, which is available for use by all Gloucestershire local authorities and public agencies. A total of five suppliers had an opportunity to respond to this tender having previously been accepted to the framework. A supplier workshop was held in September 2021 to enable potential suppliers to understand the requirement and provide feedback on the tender and service design. P3 were the only supplier to submit a bid for this service. An evaluation panel including representatives from Gloucester City Council and the wider Partnership has concluded that the bid was submitted by P3 met requirements and has recommended that an award be made to that supplier.

The total value of the contract is £604,000 from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2024.

There is an option to extend by an additional 12 months, making the total potential value of the contract £906,000. This funding for this service comes from contributions from a variety of local Partners including all six Gloucestershire Districts; the County Council; Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner; and the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group. Funding is also being sought from the Department for Levelling Up, Communities and Housing's Rough Sleeping Initiative.

A Participation Agreement setting out the arrangements by which Gloucester City act as lead contractor for the Partnership is in place. Gloucester City's contribution is £25k per annum (£75k for the 3 years).

Alternative options considered:

A tender process has been completed according to procurement regulations and P3 have been identified as the preferred bidder following evaluation and moderation.

Consultation Undertaken and Results of Consultation: Officers Consulted: Ben Challis (Partnership Programme Manager); Neil Coles (Housing Services Manager, Gloucester City Council); Caroline Sutcliffe (Housing Strategy, Cheltenham Borough Council); Caroline Clissold (Housing Services Manager for the Cotswolds and Forest of Dean, Publica); Julian White (Housing Options Team Leader, Stroud District Council); Roland Halford (Procurement, Gloucester City); Linden Dunham (Legal Advisor, OneLegal);

People Impact Assessment (PIA):

Screening Stage completed:	Yes	No
Full PIA required, completed and attached:	Yes	No

Any Conflicts of Interest:

None

Declarations of Interest (including any dispensations granted):

None


Background documents: Specification for the service.

Confidential or Exempt Information: Yes No

Name of document(s) which are confidential or exempt Final Report:

N/A

Date: 21.01.22



Signed :