

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	To take up the 12-month contract extension option in relation to the Supported Living Contracts for services in Leominster and Hereford.
Date of decision:	10 July 2020
Decision maker:	Assistant Director of Adults and Communities
Authority for delegated decision:	Constitution Procedure Rules, part 4, section 6 contract rules
Ward:	All Wards.
Consultation:	This is a twelve-month contract extension to the existing arrangement; as such, there is no change in services and no need for further consultation.
Decision made:	To take up the contract extension option of 12 months from the 31 st July 2020 to 30 th July 2021. This contract supports 33 people with a learning disability with their own tenancy over 2 supported living settings in the north of the county and 2 supported living settings in Hereford City.
Reasons for decision:	<p>The current contractual arrangement has an end date of the 31st July 2019 and the contract allows the Local Authority to extend this agreement beyond the Initial Term by a further period or periods (Extension Period) of up to two years http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?Id=4352</p> <p>The option to extend for the second period is being utilized as per the terms of the contract.</p> <p>Commissioners recommend the contract extension option which will;-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide continuity and stability to 33 people in 4 locations during the Covid -19 pandemic • Under the Care Act 2014 customer choice is a key driver for determining support provider. It is noted that the current tenants have positive relationship with this contractor and would choose to retain the current provider. • The current contractual arrangements represent value for money and are cost effective • Is a spot purchase arrangement, the provider has a track record of reducing support to increase independence and the current service is meeting the needs of current customers • Provides opportunities to pilot technology solutions for night time response
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<p>The current provider Aspire Living is operating the service at the standard fee rate consistent with the supported living framework.</p> <p>There is no change to the current pattern of spend anticipated, no changes to services and therefore no equality considerations.</p> <p>Oversight of this contract will be via commissioners and the Accommodation Needs Group will check demand against voids and meet monthly to ensure that suitable referrals are being made if any vacancies occur.</p> <p>There are no health and safety implications as this is an extension of the current year contractual arrangement, and the provider is currently rated as 'Good' by the CQC (Nov 2019). The current housing management provider, Citizen, the support provider, Aspire and the Local Authority have worked hard over the last 12 months to manage and mitigate against voids to control the spend, and this has seen 100% occupancy on current tenancies after introduction of additional governance and ways of working.</p>

<p>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</p>	<p>Recommission the service: This is not recommended;-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Following a review of this contract the current model of support is unlikely to change and the contract extension will provide continuity for customers and staff. It is noted that the current tenants are happy with the support and would choose to maintain this provider. - The time to recommission this service would have been at the height of the covid-19 pandemic, the market was already under pressure and would not have been as able to respond to a tender exercise - Recommissioning this service will bring no financial economies as the current contract operates at framework rates. <p>Cease the contractual obligation with a support provider: This is not recommended;-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The only option available for support for current tenants would be via a direct payment, and the local authority would not be meeting its obligations under the Care Act 2014. Also the local authority would not be in a position to shape the market in the future if required.
<p>Details of any declarations of interest</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Signed</p>	
<p>Date</p>	

