

Report to: Policy and Resources Committee, 13th December 2022

Report of: Corporate Director - Operations, Homes and Communities

Subject: SINGLE PERSON AND CHILDLESS COUPLES RECOMMISSIONING

1. Recommendation

1.1 To amend the decision of Policy and Resources Committee on 15th November 2022, recommendation 1.2, as follows:

That the Committee agrees to fund Worcester City Council's contribution, being £65,646 per annum for the first three years of the contract, from the Homeless Prevention Grant, and to receive subsequent reports to identify future funding for the rest of the contract term.

2. Background

- 2.1 This report asks Committee to revisit a previous recommendation and issue a correction. This will enable the related procurement process to be commissioned on the most optimal terms.
- 2.2 The Single Person and Childless Couples Homeless Prevention Support Service is a countywide service commissioned in partnership with all Worcestershire Local Housing Authorities (LHA) and Worcestershire County Council. Worcester City Council acts as the lead authority for the procurement and management of this contract.
- 2.3 A report was considered at Communities Committee on 2nd November 2022 for the recommissioning of this contract and approved. The report was subsequently referred to Policy and Resources Committee to approve the allocation of the funding due to the total contract value of £301,500 per annum.
- 2.4 The report recommended under section 1.2 that Committee: Recommends to the Policy and Resources Committee that Worcester City Council's contribution, being £65,646 per annum for the first two years of the contract, be funded from the Homeless Prevention Grant and receive subsequent reports to identify future funding for the rest of the contract term.
- 2.5 Reference to there being funding for the first two years was an error; in fact, funding is available for the first three years of the contract.
- 2.6 Throughout the review of the existing contract and development of the specification and tender documentation, commissioners from each District and Worcestershire County Council have committed to an initial term of 3 years with the option to extend beyond this term.

- 2.7 Worcester City Council has forecast the allocation of funding from the Homeless Prevention Grant for the initial 3 year term and although the allocation of Homeless Prevention Grant has yet to be determined beyond 2022/23, it is anticipated that the grant level will remain at a similar level to recent and current allocations (£474,097 in 22/23 and £464,362 in 21/22).
- 2.8 In addition to the grant allocation, reserves in the Homeless Prevention Grant at the end of year 2022/23 are forecast at £819,687 and therefore sufficient to fund the initial 3 year term if Homeless Prevention Grant funding levels reduced. The contract as is common practice, will also include a break clause in the event of insufficient funding being available.
- 2.9 All commissioners have confirmed funding for the initial term of 3 years. It is considered that a contract period of less than an initial term of 3 years will impact on commissioning Councils' ability to establish a sound model of service delivery and would therefore impact on the viability of the contract.

3. Amendment

- 3.1 The proposed amendment to recommendation 1.2 of the Policy and Resources Committee on 15th November 2022 is as follows:

That the Committee agrees to fund Worcester City Council's contribution, being £65,646 per annum for the first three years of the contract, from the Homeless Prevention Grant, and to receive subsequent reports to identify future funding for the rest of the contract term.

Ward(s): All
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Background Papers: None