

CABINET MEETING – 7 DECEMBER 2011

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report:

Community Equipment Service (CES) – Tender for provision of riser recliner and bespoke chairs

Author(s):

Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services

Purpose of Report:

To seek Cabinet's approval to invite suppliers to tender for the provision of riser recliner and bespoke chairs and to award the contract to the supplier who has the most advantageous tender.

Description of Decision:

Cabinet is asked to approve:

- i) The invitation of suppliers to tender for the provision of riser recliner and bespoke chairs
- ii) Awarding the contract to the supplier who provides the most economically advantageous tender

Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? Yes

If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework

Suggested reason(s) for Decision:

The introduction of a contract for the provision of riser recliner and bespoke chairs means that a standard specification will be developed. The specification along with the contract will enable CES to improve timescales, reduce costs and in time develop a portfolio of recycled chairs.

Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:

There are no alternative options for consideration.

Is this a "Key Decision" as defined in the Constitution? Yes

Relevant Scrutiny Committee:
Health and Well Being

Is it included in the Forward Plan?
Yes

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, HOUSING AND ADULT SERVICES

COMMUNITY EQUIPMENT SERVICE (CES) – PROVISION OF RISER RECLINER AND BESPOKE CHAIRS

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet's approval to invite suppliers to tender for the provision of riser recliner and bespoke chairs and to award the contract to the supplier who has the most advantageous tender.

2. DESCRIPTION OF DECISION

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to approve:

- i) The invitation of suppliers to tender for the provision of riser recliner and bespoke chairs
- ii) Awarding the contract to the supplier who provides the most economically advantageous tender

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 CES is a jointly funded partnership between Sunderland City Council and Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust (STPCT). CES is delivered by Sunderland City Council and provides community equipment and simple aids for daily living to meet the clinical and social needs of the residents of Sunderland, following assessment by a health or social care professional. The equipment loaned is designed to promote personal independence, safety and mobility and is also supplied to social and health care practitioners to help in their course of work in the community. Sunderland CES provides a procurement, storage, delivery, installation, demonstration, collection, cleaning, refurbishment and recycling service.

- 3.2 The increase in demand for equipment and minor adaptations shows a continuing trend in recent years. In 2010-11, 36168 items of equipment were delivered. It is thought that this is as a result of a number of factors outlined below:

- An increase in the number of children with disabilities surviving into adulthood, particularly due to increased birth rates in the 1990s;
- An increase in older people, particularly those with functional dependencies because of ill-health who need help with daily living.
- An increase in the number of customers experiencing significant trauma i.e. head injury, amputation or surviving injury and being supported to live at home.

- More people aspire to stay in their homes for as long as possible rather than, as an alternative, admission to institutional care and is a key objective in the Sunderland Strategy.

4. CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 CES has put a number of measures in place to manage demand within existing resources whilst ensuring that an effective and efficient service is still delivered to customers. A procurement exercise took place in 2010 to put a framework agreement in place for standard items of equipment which helped to contribute to the overall financial performance of CES.
- 4.2 The procurement exercise outlined within this report is the first of a series of tenders to put contracts in place for bespoke and special order items of equipment.

5. REASONS FOR DECISION

- 5.1 Formal contractual arrangements for the provision of riser recliner and bespoke chairs will bring numerous benefits to the Council and its Customers as outlined below:
- I. Reduced waiting times for provision of a chair resulting in improved customer experience
 - II. Reduced costs achieved through economies of scale
 - III. Increase in the amount of chairs (and components of chairs) that can be recycled and as such in the longer term reduce the number of new chairs that are purchased at full cost
 - IV. Contribute to personalisation objectives by providing customers with the option of 'trading up' if they would like to request a colour or fabric other than those within the specification
- 5.2 The procurement exercise for the supply of riser recliner and bespoke chairs needs to be completed and a contract awarded by 1st April 2012.
- 5.3 The contract term will be for 1 year with an option to extend for up to a further 2 x 12 months.

6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 6.1 No alternative options have been considered.

7. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS/CONSULTATION

7.1 Legal and Procurement Implications

Legal services and Corporate Procurement have and will continue to be consulted throughout the procurement process.

7.2 The Public

Service Users will be consulted regarding the specification for the chair.

7.3 Sustainability

In the longer term the contract will result in more chairs being included within a recycling programme, meaning that less new chairs need to be purchased at full cost, less chairs need to be scrapped than is currently the case and as such less materials are used and less are wasted.

A Sustainability Impact Appraisal undertaken for this cabinet report found that the riser recliner chair contract would help improve the council's sustainability and recorded no negative impacts.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The National Health Service and Community Care Act (1990)

The Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act (1970)

Statement of Purpose for the Provision of Equipment and Wheelchairs
Revised October 2010

Department of Health, Guide to Integrating Community Equipment
Services

