

CABINET MEETING – 11 MARCH 2009 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET	
Title of Report: Sunderland Home Improvement Agency (HIA) - Procurement of straight and curved tracked stairlifts	
Author(s): Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services	
Purpose of Report: To seek Cabinet's approval to procure contracts for straight and curved tracked stairlifts.	
Description of Decision: Cabinet is asked to approve the placing of an advert in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) inviting tenders from potential contractors to deliver the service in accordance with the Council's Procurement Procedure Rules.	
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 contract awards will ensure that efficiencies can continue to be achieved as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timescales will be kept to a minimum for the customer as a result of having the contracts in place. The contracts will remove the need to procure the works on a job by job basis; Unit costs will be kept to a minimum through economies of scale. These efficiencies have been demonstrated over the last two years, for the duration of the previous contracts.	
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? <div style="text-align: right;">Yes</div>	Relevant Review Committee: Health and Wellbeing Regeneration and Review Committee
Is it included in the Forward Plan? <div style="text-align: right;">Yes</div>	

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, HOUSING AND ADULT SERVICES

SUNDERLAND HOME IMPROVEMENT AGENCY – PROCUREMENT OF CONTRACTS FOR STRAIGHT AND CURVED TRACKED STAIRLIFTS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet's approval to procure straight and curved tracked stairlifts.

2 DESCRIPTION OF DECISION

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to approve the placing of an advert in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) inviting tenders from potential contractors to deliver the service in accordance with the Council's Procurement Procedure Rules.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council provides fixed mechanical equipment in the homes of eligible disabled applicants following a need being identified through an assessment carried out by an Occupational Therapist. This equipment is funded through a Disabled Facilities Grant under The Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration act 1996.
- 3.2 Contracts to supply and install straight tracked stairlifts have been successfully used for the past eleven years and curved tracked stairlifts for the past two years.
- 3.3 The contracts have demonstrated value for money both in terms of achieving low unit costs (illustrated by a recent regional benchmarking exercise) and via improving the customer journey by reducing the time taken from the point of referral into the HIA to the point where the adaptation is delivered.

4. CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 Liftable Ltd currently hold the contract for straight tracked stairlifts. The contract has been in place since 1 April 2007 and expires on 31 March 2009. A delegated decision has been made to extend the contract period until the end of June 2009, by which time the new contract will be in place.
- 4.2 Stannah Stairlifts currently hold the contract for curved tracked stairlifts. The contract has been in place since 1 April 2007 and expires on 31 March 2009. A delegated decision has been made to extend the contract period until the end of June 2009, by which time the new contract will be in place.
- 4.3 A timetable for the procurement exercise has been drawn up and this confirms that the new contracts will be in place by the 1 July 2009.

- 4.4 It is proposed that the contracts be let for a period of two years, commencing on 1st July 2009 and terminating on the 31 June 2011 with an option for the Council to extend the contract for a further year.

5. REASONS FOR DECISION

- 5.1 The contract awards will ensure that efficiencies can continue to be achieved as follows:

- Timescales will be kept to a minimum for the customer as a result of having the contracts in place. The contracts will remove the need to procure the works on a job by job basis.
- Unit costs will be kept to a minimum through economies of scale.

These efficiencies have been demonstrated over the last two years, for the duration of the previous contracts.

6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 6.1 There are no alternative options for consideration.

7. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS / CONSULTATION

7.1 Financial Implications

The tender figure is expected to be in the region of £450,000 per annum for the period 2009-2011. The costs will be met from the budget for Disabled Facilities Grants and adaptations, for which provision is included in the approved Capital Programme for 2009/2010 of £2,052,000. Future years provision is dependant upon a range of factors including future government grant settlements, but are anticipated to be of the same order.

7.2 Legal Implications

Sunderland City Council will enter into an agreement with the contractor (s) and will be subject to the conditions of the contract throughout the contract period

7.3 Disability Discrimination Act

This proposal will reduce the assessment time for a disabled resident and will improve the way the needs of disabled residents are met through the Disabled Facilities Grant.

7.4 Procurement

The invitation to tender, the tender process and the award of the contract will be carried out using the services of Corporate Procurement and will adhere to all Council Procurement Procedure Rules governing the procurement of services

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Fair Access to Care Services - Department of Health – 2003
- Statement Of Purpose (Criteria for the provision of structural alterations to property for adults and children with a physical disability). Sunderland City Council. Health, Housing and Adult Services
- The Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970

