

Report of: Service Manager – Tenant Engagement

Report to: Chief Officer for Housing Management

Date: 21 February 2018

Subject: West Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Company (known as ‘Community Payback’)

Are specific electoral wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. Housing Leeds wishes to renew an existing partnership with West Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Company (known as Community Payback). The partnership provides three teams of supervised labour to carry out a range of environmental works in areas with Council housing.
2. The partnership is a useful estate management tool to tackle problem areas by cleaning up, cutting back, tidying up, painting etc jobs in response to tenant feedback, helping improve the quality of the environment and of the neighbourhood as places to live and providing extra resources for Council teams to use.
3. The partnership adds value in that the costs relate to the supervision (not labour) of three teams of eight operatives, their transportation and basic equipment, to respond to work requests from local housing and Cleaner Neighbourhoods Teams.
4. The partnership is to be funded from a direct contribution from Housing Leeds, to the value of £87,858 The service will continue to engage the 11 Housing Advisory Panels in the monitoring of local partnership delivery to ensure VFM is maintained and to keep in regular check the responsiveness of the service to tenants' priorities.
5. The responsibilities, monitoring requirements and other operational, health and safety and contract management issues are outlined in a full partnership agreement.

Recommendations

6. That the Chief Officer for Housing Management agree to a 2018/19 partnership with West Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Company to the value of £87,858.
7. That permission is agreed in line with CPR 8.2, to enter into an intermediate value contract with a value between £10k and £100k without seeking competition and CPR 27.1 by completing a Chief

Officer Delegated Decision Notice following the receipt of this waiver report.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To seek Chief Officer approval for a 2018/19 partnership agreement with West Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Company for the provision of supervised labour to undertake a range of environmental related activities for the benefit of Council tenants.

2 Background information

- 2.1 Housing Leeds wishes to extend a partnership with West Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Company (known as Community Payback). The partnership provides three teams of supervised labour to carry out a range of environmental works in areas with Council housing.
- 2.2 This additional resource gives the service a responsive estate management tool to tackle problem areas by cleaning up, cutting back, tidying up, painting etc jobs in response to tenant feedback and local estate walkabouts, helping improve the quality of the environment for Council tenants.
- 2.3 During the last 10 months of the 17/18 partnership, 162 local referrals have been completed, helping improve the overall quality of the environment. The original 17/18 partnership cost of £89k represents good value for money as had achieved an overall return on investment of £132k with a further two months of the year remaining.
- 2.4 The inherent value for money in the partnership is that the costs relate to the supervision (not the labour) of three teams of eight operatives, their transportation and basic equipment, to respond to work requests from local housing and locality teams

3 Main issues

- 3.1 No appropriate Internal Service Provider, Exclusive Supplier, existing provider, LCC Approved Framework Agreement or Approved Framework Agreement exists.
- 3.2 The service provided by West Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Company is unique in that it delivers the sentencing judgements of the court. Magistrates and Judges have a choice between a prison sentence, a Community Order, a Suspended Sentence Order, a fine or conditional discharge. The Community Order allows magistrates and judges to tailor-make a different sentence for each offender; one option is Community Payback, meaning unpaid community work, giving something back to the community and giving meaningful work and skill development opportunities to the individuals themselves.
- 3.4 The service has a direct benefit to tenants. Local housing teams are able to use the partnership as a tool to respond to tenant or Councillor feedback or from work identified during estate walkabouts. Tenants themselves on the Housing Advisor Panels review the activity taking place in their local area as performance is regularly reported to them.
- 3.5 Housing Management Teams and Localities staff are engaged in partnership activity, and have in previous years of partnership work help develop local service standards and recommendations for improvement, most recently supporting the joint purchase of a mechanical chipper to reduce the volume of waste being generated that needs removing from site.

4 Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1 Consultation and feedback has been ongoing with HAPs, who support the partnership and wish to see the partnership continue. TARAs are able to influence the activity undertaken through

the partnership and estate walkabouts with tenants are a key opportunity to identify work in response to local tenant feedback.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

- 4.2.1 The proposed partnership helps build relationships between tenants, the wider community and Council services as they see work take place that they themselves have identified. The offenders undertaking the work are given meaningful work, and an opportunity to develop confidence and skills to progress onto other training, development or employment opportunities.

4.3 Council policies and city priorities

- 4.3.1 The continuation of this partnership supports a range of Council and Housing Priorities, in particular, the importance of all residents living in 'good quality, affordable homes within clean and well cared for places'. The partnership also helps delivery on the 2016/17 priority of 'enhancing the quality of our public realm and green spaces', and 'providing skills programmes and employment support'.

4.4 Resources and value for money

- 4.4.1 The partnership provides additional resources in the form of supervised labour to Cleaner Neighbourhoods and Housing Management Teams, to be able to respond to a range of work that is out of the day to day scope of Council activity. There is a further opportunity to save money in future years and to improve overall tenant satisfaction with the neighbourhood as a place to live as areas that are cleared or improved can then be regularly maintained thereafter – reducing the need and cost for large scale intervention or the problems associated with environmental neglect such as fly-tipping or anti-social behaviour.
- 4.4.2 The partnership cost of £89.5k is less than the return on investment gained, which for 2017/18 is estimated to be in the region of £150k.

4.5 Risk management

- 4.5.1 There are very limited risks in entering a partnership with this unique provider – one that has been engaged with Housing Leeds and the former ALMOs for a number of years. The risks of not entering into a partnership are significant in terms of the impact on the appearance of neighbourhoods and the removal of this additional resource.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 The renewal of the partnership with West Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Company gives the service an additional cost-effective resource to be able to improve the appearance of estates and neighbourhoods managed by the Housing Service.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 The Chief Officer of Housing Management is recommended to approve the proposal for the partnership agreement to a value of £87,858. In line with the Contract Procedure Rule 8.2 – entering into an intermediate value contract of between £10k and £100k without seeking competition.