Report of: Head of Housing Support

Report to: Director of Environment and Housing

Date: September 2013

Subject: Sanctuary Scheme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Are specific electoral Wards affected?</td>
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<tr>
<td>If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):</td>
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<td>Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<td>Is the decision eligible for Call-In?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Appendix number:</td>
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Summary of main issues

1. The Sanctuary Scheme is a homelessness prevention option enabling people experiencing domestic violence or hate crime to remain in their property through the installation of security measures.

2. Following a tender process in 2011, Safe Partnership was awarded the contract for one year, extendable for each of the next two years, beginning on 1\textsuperscript{st} October 2011.

3. However due to an administrative oversight the contract was not extended from October 2012 to October 2013 and so it is now necessary to invoke CPR 31 to waive CPR 13.1 in order to put an interim contract in place until 30th September 2014. During which time a new tender exercise will be undertaken with a new contract coming into effect from 1\textsuperscript{st} October 2014.

4. Safe Partnership has proposed a price increase for the final year, citing that the breakdown of installation types has been different in practice to expectations at tender. With the proposed price increase factored in, projections remain within budget.

Recommendations

- The Director of Environment and Housing is recommended to invoke CPR 31 to waive CPR 13.1 in order to put an interim contract in place for 12 months with Safe
Partnership which will cover the period from 1st October 2013 to 30th September 2014.

1.0 Purpose of this report

1.1 This report is to seek approval to put an interim contract in place which will cover the period from 1st October 2013 to the end of September 2014 with Safe Partnership.

2.0 Background information

2.1 The Sanctuary scheme was introduced as a partnership between Leeds City Council and West Yorkshire Police to enable customers experiencing domestic violence or hate crime and wishing to remain in their property to do so through the installation of security measures.

2.2 The Sanctuary scheme has been an effective homelessness prevention option in Leeds, with in excess of 400 installations made during each of the last four financial years. Households are enabled to remain in their homes and their communities, and do not require emergency accommodation placements.

2.3 Safe Partnership submitted the successful tender in the 2011 tender exercise, and were awarded a contract for one year, extendable for each of the next two years, beginning on 1st October 2011.

2.4 However due to an administrative oversight the contract was not extended from October 2012 to October 2013 and so it is now necessary to invoke CPR 31 to waive CPR 13.1 in order to put an interim contract in place which will cover the retrospective period as well as cover the period October 2013 until the end of September 2014.

2.5 Safe Partnership have carried out Sanctuary installations efficiently and within timescale, liaising effectively with West Yorkshire Police where necessary.

2.6 It is projected that with the price increase applied, the Sanctuary scheme will remain within the existing budget for 2013-14, and for the first 6 months of 2014-15, after which the contract will expire.

2.7 The new proposed prices remain less expensive than those submitted by the other tenderers in the 2011 tender exercise – please see confidential appendix.

3 Main issues

3.1 Following a tender process in 2011, Safe Partnership was awarded the contract for one year, extendable for each of the next two years basis, beginning on 1st October 2011.

3.2 However due to an administrative oversight the contract was not extended from October 2012 to October 2013 and so it is now necessary to invoke CPR 31 to waive CPR 13.1 in order to put an interim contract in place which will cover the
retrospective period as well as cover the period October 2013 until the end of September 2014.

3.3 Safe Partnership have identified that the breakdown of work by installation type is different than the tender estimate, and have submitted a proposal to increase the price of installations for the final year if extended.

3.4 Scheme budget for 2013-14 is £200,000.

3.5 The spend incurred in 2012-13 totalled £139,800.

3.6 Projected spend for Quarters 1 & 2 2013-14, based on Quarter 1 commitment, is £47,498.

3.7 Projected spend for Quarters 3 & 4 2013-14, based on Quarter 1 commitment, and including Safe Partnership’s proposed price increase, is £57,593.

3.8 Total projected spend for 2013-14 based on Quarter 1 commitment and including the proposed price increase during Quarters 3 & 4 is £105,091, remaining within the budget of £200k for 2013-14.

3.9 Projected spend during Quarters 1 & 2 2014-15, based on Quarter 1 2013-14 commitment is £57,593, after which the contract will end and a new contract will be in place. Including the proposed price increase, Safe Partnership’s prices remain cheaper than all other tendered prices in the 2011 tender exercise.

3.10 Pricing details from the 2011 tender are attached in confidential appendices and are shown with Safe Partnership’s tendered price, and proposed new price. The appendices to this report are confidential and exempt under Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4 (3) as they contain information relating to the business affairs of each organisation involved in the tender process. It is felt that if information is disclosed it would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of the Council.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 Consultation is on-going with West Yorkshire Police and the Domestic Violence Service.

4.1.2 The scheme is tenure neutral and is available across the City to any individual who requires the service.

4.1.3 It is solely the customer’s choice whether to accept an offer of a Sanctuary installation. Customer satisfaction with the Sanctuary scheme remains high.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 The Council is committed to preventing homelessness where possible. Domestic Violence has historically been the main reason for homelessness in Leeds. Under the Sanctuary scheme, security installations are made to the homes of customers
who are experiencing domestic violence or hate crime. Installations are made only where the customer has expressed their preference for such an installation to help them remain in their own home. The scheme is tenure neutral and free to the customer, so can be accessed by all social groups without restriction if experiencing domestic violence or hate crime. The scheme enables people to remain ‘safely’ in their existing homes and therefore promotes cohesion and integration of people experiencing domestic violence into the wider Leeds community.

4.2.2 Homelessness is one of the most acute forms of disadvantage in society and the Council is committed to preventing homelessness. The Sanctuary scheme is free to the customer, tenure neutral and the take up of a Sanctuary offer is entirely a person’s choice. An Equality screening document has been appended to this report.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

4.3.1 The Sanctuary scheme makes an important contribution to the priority of supporting more people to live safely in their own homes.

4.4 Resources and value for money

4.4.1 There are sufficient funds to deliver the proposed services in 2013/14. The Sanctuary scheme represents value for money in that it prevents homelessness and expensive temporary accommodation placements. In many instances the alternative to the Sanctuary scheme would be to place applicants in temporary accommodation and in some instances bed and breakfast placements.

4.4.2 The cost of bed and breakfast and temporary accommodation is expensive in monetary terms to the Council and the cost to the individual and family who are placed in temporary accommodation can be high in terms of upheaval for children having to start new schools and move away from family support networks.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 The report does not contain any exempt information.

4.5.2 The report is not subject to call in.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 The failure to provide homelessness prevention services will lead to an increase in the use of emergency accommodation.

5 Conclusions

5.1 The continued funding of the Sanctuary scheme helps the Council to prevent homelessness and reduce temporary accommodation placements.
6 Recommendations

6.2 The Director of Environment and Housing is recommended to invoke CPR 31 to waive CPR 13.1 in order to put an interim contract in place with Safer Partnership, from 1st October 2013 until 30th September 2014. During which time a new tender exercise will be undertaken with a new contract coming into effect from 1st October 2014.

6.3 Background documents¹

6.1 None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.