

Committee:	Dated:
Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee	01/05/2019
Subject: Options Appraisal – Update Report	Public
Report of: Andrew Carter – Director of Community and Children’s Services	For Information
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Summary

This report provides an update on the options appraisal work package advertised commercially for the consideration of specialist consultants. It sets out our current position and the timeline for the procurement process as well as a draft timeline for the completion of the interim and final reports.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. At the annual street count in November 2018, the City of London recorded 67 rough sleepers. This snapshot data is provided to Central Government and helps form long-term trend analysis. This represents an 86% increase on 2017. This challenging picture was confirmed by Quarter 3, 2018/19 data which showed that 212 individual rough sleepers were recorded across the 12 weeks, a 45% increase on the same period in 2016/17.
2. With this situation in mind, the view was taken that a review of our current service provision should be undertaken, along with a detailed options appraisal of potential additions and developments that could be considered.
3. At the February Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee, the *What We Need Now: An Options Appraisal* report set out a summary of potential ways forward. A brief description of risks, benefits and costs was also included.

4. The main recommendation from this report was that a consultant be commissioned to undertake a full and detailed appraisal of the strengths and weaknesses of our current provision, and an analysis of new interventions and service improvements. The principle output of this work is a report that will enable officers and members to decide on new courses of action from an informed position.

Current Position

5. The work specification was drafted, and the tender uploaded to our online sourcing portal on 7 March 2019. The following schedule was advertised:

STAGE	DATE
Issue Request for Quotation	07/03/19
Request for Quotation Deadline	01/04/19
Notification of Outcome	10/04/19
Expected Contract Award	19/04/19

6. Two bids were submitted, and both were evaluated on 03/04/19. Both submissions were proposals from specialist organisations utilising three or more consultants.
7. The successful proposal was from Homeless Link, who were notified on 04/04/19. Homeless Link are well known throughout the homelessness sector in the UK. They have an established reputation for developing and sharing best practice models, policy and strategy work, training and consultation. They also fulfil a role as the official verifier for the Government's annual street count of rough sleepers.
8. Homeless Link broke their submission down into the following work strands:
 - Project planning
 - Scoping of comparator areas
 - Researching context and policy trends
 - Supply versus demand – qualitative review
 - Scoping service improvements and success service models – qualitative review
 - Co-production research
 - Cost benefit analysis.
9. Although these work strands do follow a chronological order, they will not necessarily run concurrently. Also, different consultants may be active in different work strands at any one time.
10. An interim report will be available for the July Sub-Committee, and a final report will be available for the October meeting. The latter will include a full presentation to members.

11. Areas from the Homeless Link application which impressed during the evaluation include:

- the commitment to provide cost–benefit analysis for all models, and the identification of New Economy’s Unit Cost database v1.4 as their preferred model for doing so
- the clear reference to co-production in the tender response
- the broad range of relevant and up-to-date sector experience, demonstrated through the consultants involved
- Homeless Link’s ability to utilise its own bank of good practice policies and research studies.

12. Representatives from Homeless Link will meet with a project board from the Corporation week commencing 22/04/19 to begin mobilisation.

13. The consultation will be aligned with the Sub-Committee schedule as follows:

Sub-committee	Report
1 May 2019	Update on tender process and mobilisation
1 July 2019	Interim report from Homeless Link
4 October 2019	Final report and presentation from Homeless Link

Implications

14. The total cost quoted is £23,612.

Conclusion

15. The evaluation team are satisfied that the chosen provider is of the highest quality and well suited to completing the task within the specified timeframe.

16. The bid included a high level of detail and articulated a clear approach to the work.

17. The tender process is slightly ahead of schedule and we expect work to begin by the end of April 2019.

Appendices

- None

Background Papers

- *What We Need Now: An Options Appraisal*. Report provided to the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee in February 2019.

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