

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: HOUSING AND SOCIAL WORK SERVICES COMMITTEE		Subject: HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICES – EXTENSION OF FUNDING	
From: HEAD OF HOUSING SERVICES			
Date: 20 AUGUST 2008	Ref: MP/SR		

1. Purpose of Report / Introduction

This report is to seek committee approval for the extension of three 'Supporting People' funded contracts until 30 September 2009.

2. Background

2.1 Previous Housing and Technical Services committee reports of 2 April 2004 and 16 November 2004 approved the selection of voluntary sector organisations to work in partnership with North Lanarkshire Council to provide housing support services to vulnerable people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

2.2 The organisations that successfully tendered for the contracts were as follows:

- Young Person's Project, Muirhead - Blue Triangle (Glasgow) Housing Association.
- Bridgework Project, Motherwell - Scottish Association for Mental Health.
- Houldsworth Court Project, Wishaw - Blue Triangle (Glasgow) Housing Association.

2.3 Previous Housing and Social Work Services committee report of 19 December 2007 extended the contracts for all three projects to 30 September 2008 following satisfactory Supporting People Reviews and delivery of continual improvement plans.

2.4 The projects are currently part of a wider ongoing review of Council directly provided and commissioned temporary accommodation through the development of a Council Temporary Accommodation Strategy.

3. Proposals

3.1 It is proposed to extend the contracts for all three services until 30 September 2009.

- 3.2 The extension period will allow time to complete the review of temporary accommodation and develop proposals for any re-tendering or re-provisioning of services including a required six month contractual notice to end a service.
- 3.3 The total annual contract values for the three services for 2008/2009 are:
- Bridgework Project, Motherwell - Scottish Association for Mental Health. (Housing support finding £104,021 and Management fee £62,100).
 - Houldsworth Court Project, Wishaw - Blue Triangle (Glasgow) Housing Association. (Housing support finding £129,954 and Management fee £35,000).
 - Young Person's Project, Muirhead - Blue Triangle (Glasgow) Housing Association. (Housing support finding £108,842 and Management fee £51,750).
- 3.4 Project costs for 2009/10 are anticipated to be at 2008/09 levels plus inflation rate or lower. The Management Fee element of the contracts is funded separately through rent charges to clients for occupying the accommodation with support.

4. Financial / Personnel / Legal / Policy Implications

- 4.1 Supporting People grant has been rolled up into the financial settlement for each local authority from 2008/09. Funding is available within the current housing support budgets. There are no additional financial costs to the Council.
- 4.2 The Executive Director of Finance and Customer Services has been consulted on this report and is in agreement with its terms.
- 4.3 There are no other direct financial, personnel legal or policy implications for the Council arising from this report.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) approve the proposals to renew the contracts as outlined in 3.1.
- (ii) note that any re-tendering and/or re-provisioning of these services will be the subject of a future committee report.



Monica Patterson
Head of Housing Services
7 August 2008