

To: HOUSING AND SOCIAL WORK SERVICES COMMITTEE		Subject: TENDER FOR HOME CARE SERVICES
From: HEAD OF SOCIAL WORK DEVELOPMENT		
Date: 21 OCTOBER 2009	Ref: DOD/EOC	

### 1. Purpose of Report

To seek Committee approval of the process for re-tendering of independent sector home care contracts.

### 2. Background

- 2.1. A report to Committee in February 2009 advised of Social Work's tendering programme for 2009 and included reference to the need to implement a tender for home care services.
- 2.2. That report referred to a Best Value Review of home care then taking place and advised that the tendering approach being taken would be informed by the outcomes of the Best Value Review.
- 2.3. The outcomes from the Best Value Review of home care were presented to the Committee in August 2009. The time delay between concluding the review and contract termination dates necessitated an extension of existing contracts up until 31 March 2010. This was agreed by current providers on existing terms and costs.

### 3. Tendering proposals

- 3.1. Proposals for managing the tender have been subject to discussion and agreement with corporate Procurement and Legal Sections.
- 3.2. In 2008/09 approximately 22% (435,000 hrs) of total home care services in North Lanarkshire were provided by the independent sector services. It is envisaged that this service level will be maintained. The value of the tender will be in the region of £4m annually.
- 3.3. Due to the service value, and in line with EU regulations and the Council's Standing Orders, a competitive approach to re-tender is proposed. This will be a two stage process, the first involving an open advert followed by a pre qualification assessment. Potential providers will be selected through this pre qualification assessment. The second stage will be that where providers selected through the pre qualification stage will be invited to submit a full tender with its assessment based on both cost and quality criterions. A process of provider interview and service user involvement will be built into the second stage process, this in line with best practice in tendering for social care. The outcome of this final assessment will result in a decision on the preferred service providers for the next 4 years.

#### **4. Financial / Personnel / Legal / Policy / Equalities Implications**

- 4.1 The re-tender will be undertaken in line with the Council's procurement policies and Council Standing Orders. The proposed contract duration will be x 4 years with the option to extend for one additional year
- 4.2 Committee should note that Employment Regulation 2006 (TUPE) may apply to any resultant contracts and contractors will require to consider this within their tender submissions.

#### **5. Recommendation**

Committee is asked to:

- (i) approve the proposals to proceed to re-tender for independent sector home care services,
- (ii) remit the Executive Director of Housing and Social Work Services to bring forward a report seeking approval of the outcome of the re-tender exercise.



**Duncan Mackay**  
**Head of Social Work Development**  
**15 September 2009**

For further information on this report please contact Dennis O'Donnell, Manager, Quality Assurance tel: 01698 332084.