

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: HOUSING AND TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE	Subject: Housing Support Services - Bridgework Project	
From: DIRECTOR OF HOUSING AND PROPERTY SERVICES		
Date: 22nd April 2005	Ref: TMcK/KI/SR	

1. Introduction

1.1 This report is to seek approval for the purchasing of additional housing support services for people who are homeless or potentially homeless.

2. Background

2.1 The Committee will recall the reports of 17 March 2003 and 2 April 2004 approving the development of supported accommodation at the 'Bridgework' project in Motherwell and the selection of the provider respectively.

2.2 The project provides temporary accommodation with housing support services for up to four individuals with alcohol problems and has been operational since April 2004.

3. Proposals

3.1 The contract service specification details that the housing support provided by the Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH) is specifically contained within the core accommodation. However, the expected duration of stay within the project is 26 weeks and there is a requirement for follow-on support to be provided to service users when they move-on from the project into mainstream accommodation within the community. This will help ensure that clients' are able to maintain their tenancies and do not re-present as homeless.

3.2 This report seeks approval for a variation to the present contract to allow the provision of additional 'floating' support service to enhance service delivery.

3.3 This variation allows for the provision of additional support (an additional 1 post) at an additional cost of £20,139.85 per annum. The service contract is due for review within this financial year and terminates on 31st March 2006. Any continuation of the project will be decided upon following the service review.

4. Corporate Considerations

4.1 The proposal meets with the Council's priority of tackling social exclusion and the priorities contained within the Local Housing Strategy, Homelessness Strategy and Supporting People Strategic Plan.

4.2 The proposal will be funded from Scottish Executive Rough Sleepers Initiative Grant.

4.3 The variation of contract will be confirmed by Council's Supporting People Contracts Panel.

5. Recommendations

5.1 Committee is requested to:

i) Approve the variation to the Bridgework housing support service contract to include the provision of a floating support service funded from Rough Sleeper Initiative resources.

ii) Refer this report to Social Work Committee for information.

6. Background information

6.1 Background papers are available within the Department



Thomas McKenzie
Director of Housing and Property Services