

HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICES - TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF FUNDING

11. With reference to (1) paragraph 8 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 27 May 2004 when it had been noted that the Director of Administration was progressing acceptance of tenders received from Blue Triangle (Scotland) Housing Association and the Scottish Association for Mental Health respectively, for the projects at Lindsaybeg Road, Muirhead, and Bridgework, Bellshill Road, Motherwell, in terms of his delegated powers, and (2) paragraph 8 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 20 January 2005 when it had been noted that the Director of Administration was progressing acceptance of the tender received from Blue Triangle (Glasgow) Housing Association to manage and provide support for the project at Houldsworth Court, Wishaw, in terms of his delegated powers, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 15 February 2006 by the Director of Housing and Property Services seeking approval for the temporary extension until 31 December 2006, of three Supporting People funded contracts for the Young Person's Project, Muirhead, with Blue Triangle (Glasgow) Housing Association, the Bridgework Project, Motherwell, with Scottish Association for Mental Health, and the Houldsworth Court Project, Wishaw, with Blue Triangle (Glasgow) Housing Association (a) advising that (A) the services were funded by the Scottish Executive Supporting People Programme which had received confirmed funding until 31 March 2008, and (B) Local Authorities were statutorily required to undertake a Supporting People Service Review of all housing support services by April 2007; (b) intimating that (A) the reviews were currently underway, with a target date of 31 March 2006 for completion, with the outcome of the reviews being reported to a future meeting of the Committee, and (B) initial indications showed that the aims and objectives of the contracted housing support services were currently being met; (c) proposing that (A) as the contracts terminate on 31 March 2006 that they be extended until 31 December 2006 to allow the outcome of the reviews to be reported to Committee, and (B) the extension would allow a contractual six month notice period to be given to any organisation if the recommendation of the Service Review was to withdraw the service, and (d) indicating that the total annual contract value for all three services for 2006/2007 was £484,888, with the funding being available from the Supporting People Allocation for the financial year 2006/2007.

Decided:

- (1) that the temporary extension of the contracts for the Young Person's Project, Muirhead, with Blue Triangle (Glasgow) Housing Association, Bridgework Project, Motherwell, with Scottish Association for Mental Health and Houldsworth Court Project, Wishaw, with Blue Triangle (Glasgow) Housing Association until 31 December 2006, be approved, and
- (2) that the report be remitted to the Social Work Committee for information.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

AGENDA ITEM No

To: HOUSING AND TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE	Subject: Housing Support Services - Temporary Extension of Funding	
From: DIRECTOR OF HOUSING AND PROPERTY SERVICES		
Date: 15 February 2006	Ref: TMcK/KI	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report is to seek committee approval for the temporary extension of three 'Supporting People' funded contracts until 31 December 2006.

2. Background

- 2.1 Committee will recall reports of 2 April 2004 and 16 November 2004 approving 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 are 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 These services are funded through the Scottish Executive Supporting People Programme, which has received confirmed funding until at least 31 March 2008.
- 2.4 The voluntary sector organisations delivering these housing support services to vulnerable homeless people, are currently contracted until 31 March 2006.
- ### 3. Proposals
- 3.1 Recent Scottish Executive guidance issued requests that all local authorities are statutorily required to undertake a Supporting People Service Review of all housing support services by April 2007.

- 3.2 Contracts were issued on basis that they would be extended beyond 31 March 2006 following a successful Supporting People Service Review. The reviews are currently underway with a target date of 31 March 2006 for completion and the outcome of the reviews will be reported to a future committee.
- 3.3 Initial indications of the reviews show that the aims and objectives of the contracted housing support services are currently being met these projects are providing much needed services to support vulnerable people.
- 3.4 As the contracts terminate on 31 March 2006 it is proposed to temporarily extend the contracts until 31 December 2006 to allow the outcomes of the reviews to be reported to committee. This will also allow a contractual 6 month notice period to be given to any organisation, if it is the recommendation of the Service Review and Committee, that the service be withdrawn. This will help ensure best value is being achieved in accordance with Council policy and Scottish Executive guidelines.
- 3.5 The total annual contract values for all three services for 2006/ 2007 is £ 484,888. This funding is available within the supporting people allocation for financial year 2006/ 2007.

4. Corporate Considerations

- 4.1 There are no financial implications for the Council, as the current budgeting arrangements will ensure services continue to be delivered and there are no additional financial costs.
- 4.2 The Director of Finance and the Director of Social Work have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its terms.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 Committee is requested to:
- i) Approve the temporary extension of the contracts in place, for the services contained within section 2.2, as proposed in section 3.2 until 31 December 2006.
 - 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