

North Lanarkshire Council Report

Communities and Housing Committee

approval noting

Ref SL/KMcG

Date 22/05/19

Contract for Garden Assistance Scheme

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Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the committee to commence a procurement exercise to establish a contract for the provision of the Garden Assistance Scheme across North Lanarkshire to commence in March / April 2020.

The current measured term contracts for the Garden Assistance Scheme is within its final year and is due to end in October / November 2019 at the end of the growing season and after this year's programme has been completed.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Communities and Housing Committee:

1. Consider the content of this report, and
2. Agree permission to tender for a contract for the Garden Assistance Scheme across North Lanarkshire.

Supporting Documents

The plan for North Lanarkshire This report links to the Council's Plan by improving relationships with Communities with the service ensuring the overall environmental and visual amenity of estates is kept to a good standard, therefore ensuring the provision of safe and attractive environments that support the wellbeing of communities.

1. Background

- 1.1 The housing service currently provide and administer a Garden Assistance Scheme to residents of North Lanarkshire, through appointed contractors. The works contained within the Garden Assistance Scheme contracts comprise the routine cyclical maintenance of garden areas to both North Lanarkshire Council tenants and to non-council tenants. The Garden Assistance Scheme includes cutting grassed areas on ten occasions over the growing season, trimming hedges on three occasions and reforming grass edges twice
 - 1.2 The current Garden Assistance scheme is provided in two lots through two contractors. One contractor provides the service to properties in Airdrie, Coatbridge, Cumbernauld, Kilsyth, Moodiesburn and surrounding villages and the other provides services to Bellshill, Viewpark, Motherwell, Wishaw, Shotts and surrounding villages.
 - 1.3 The current measured term contracts for both contractors were approved by committee on 2 February 2017 for a period of three years commencing in March 2017 and are due to expire after this year's programme has been completed.
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2. Report

- 2.1 In March at the beginning of the growing season, there were 6,344 gardens being maintained under the Garden Assistance Scheme. 5,593 were council tenants and 751 were non council tenants (Owner occupiers, tenants of private landlords and tenants of housing associations).
 - 2.2 The provision of this service ensures the overall environment and visual amenity of estates is good and it is a valuable service received by vulnerable and elderly service users who would not otherwise have the capabilities or the means to arrange to maintain their gardens.
 - 2.3 It is proposed that this service will be continued and that a new contract or contracts should be awarded for a 36 month period with an option to extend for a further 12 months at the discretion of the council.
 - 2.4 The estimated contract value is £4,000,000 including possible extension period. Given the value of the proposed contract, the procurement will be conducted in accordance with Scottish Procurement Regulations and will involve engagement with the Corporate Procurement Team to establish the most appropriate procurement route, consideration of Fair Work practices, Community Benefits and contract performance measures to leverage maximum benefit to the Council from the procurement. Consideration will also be given as to how best shape the procurement to encourage participation from local and different sized providers.
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3. Equality and Diversity

3.1 Fairer Scotland

There are no specific impacts on Fairer Scotland

3.2 Equality Impact Assessment

A full equality impact assessment has been carried out for the Care of Garden scheme and it has been identified that the scheme will have a positive impact on older people, disabled people and people with long term conditions. There have been no adverse impacts identified for any protected characteristic group.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial Impact

Costs for the service will be contained within existing HRA budgets with the cost associated with the provision of the service to non-council tenants being fully recovered before work progresses.

4.2 HR/Policy/Legislative Impact

There are no implications.

4.3 Environmental Impact

There are no environmental implications.

4.4 Risk Impact

There are no implications.

5. Measures of success

- 5.1 Measures of success can be demonstrated by the general impact the maintained gardens have on the overall environment within an area and how it continues to make areas desirable for current residents and prospective tenants. This can assist in ensuring the service are able to allocate void properties in a quick timeframe and reduce the number of refusals of properties due to the area.
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