

	<b>Decision of Cabinet Member for Housing and Resident Services</b>
	<b>Report from the Corporate Director, Partnerships, Housing and Resident Services</b>
<b>Authority To Tender Contract For Various Rough Sleeper Services In Accordance With Paragraph 13 Of Part 3 Of The Constitution</b>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Key Decision
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	Appendix 1: Equalities Impact Assessment
<b>Background Papers<sup>1</sup>:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Name: Laurence Coaker Job Title: Director, Housing Needs & Support Email: laurence.coaker@brent.gov.uk

## 1.0 Executive Summary

1.1 This report concerns the procurement of contract(s) for the provision of the following services for rough sleepers:

- a) The core contract for the Outreach, Housing Advice and Resettlement Services;
- b) Housing First Service funded by the Ministry of Housing, Community and Local Government under the Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) Grant;
- c) Rapid Assessment Hub funded by the Ministry of Housing, Community and Local Government under the Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) Grant;
- d) Additional Outreach, Housing Advice and Resettlement Services funded by the Ministry of Housing, Community and Local Government under the Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) Grant.

This report requests approval to invite tenders in respect of contract(s) for the provision of Outreach, Housing Advice and Resettlement Services (core contract and additional RSI funded services); Housing First Service; Rapid Assessment Hub as required by Contract Standing Orders 88 and 89. The proposed contracts are anticipated to commence from 1 May 2025 and be for a term of three years to 30 April 2028.

The purpose of the proposed contracts are to deliver services which will provide intensive support in order to meet the complex support needs of rough sleepers; and to prevent and reduce rough sleeping.

## **2.0 Recommendation(s)**

That the Cabinet Member for Housing and Resident Services, having consulted with the Leader and in accordance with paragraph 13 of Part 3 of the Constitution:

- 2.1 Approves inviting tenders for the provision of (1) Outreach, Housing Advice and Resettlement Services (core contract and additional RSI funded services); (2) Housing First Service; and (3) Rapid Assessment Hub; for rough sleepers on the basis of the pre - tender considerations set out in paragraph 3.24 of the report.
- 2.2 Approves Officers evaluating the tenders referred to in 2.1 above on the basis of the evaluation criteria set out in paragraph 3.24 of the report.
- 2.3 Notes that the following services are subject to RSI grant funding received by MHCLG: Housing First Service; Rapid Assessment Hub; and additional Outreach, Housing Advice and Resettlement Services

## **3.0 Detail**

### **Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context**

- 3.1 This contract will contribute to 3 of the priorities in the borough plan through social value namely,
  - Best Start in Life
  - Thriving Communities:
  - A Healthier Brent : Number of course sessions encouraging physical activity for clients resident in our Brent services.
- 3.2 The Council currently has a contract with St Mungo's to deliver *the Outreach, Housing Advice and Resettlement Services (core contract); Housing First Service; Rapid Assessment Hub; and additional Outreach, Housing Advice and Resettlement Services for rough sleepers*. This contract is due to expire on 30 April 2025.
- 3.3 Rough sleepers are one of the most vulnerable groups in society, and many have high levels of complex and interrelated needs such as mental health problems and drug and alcohol dependencies. The longer someone sleeps rough, the more likely these conditions are to get worse.
- 3.4 A number of government-led initiatives have also been introduced nationally such as Rough Sleeping Initiative, Single Homeless Accommodation Programme, Housing First and Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grants.

- 3.5 Despite these efforts however, rough sleeper counts have been rising. Government statistics for 2023 recorded a 22.7% increase in the number of people sleeping rough in England since 2022.
- 3.6 In Brent, the numbers of individuals rough sleeping has consistently increased since the beginning of this financial year and we are seeing a 50% increase year on year.

### **Current Provision of Services**

#### Outreach, Housing Advice and Resettlement Services (core contract)

- 3.7 This service is not subject to RSI grant funding; it is funded by the Housing Needs & Support general fund budget. The aim of the service is to reduce rough sleeping as close to zero as possible and provide a responsive service that helps rough sleepers back into accommodation with the appropriate assistance they need in order to avoid repeat homelessness.
- 3.8 The current service provision in Brent includes an Outreach Service (with 2.5 Outreach workers) to identify and engage with rough sleepers in Brent who require assistance with getting into accommodation and off the streets. It also includes a Housing Advice and Resettlement Service to assist people who are at risk of sleeping rough to secure and maintain appropriate and stable accommodation.
- 3.9 The current service provider works with a range of service users, some who present with considerable needs but have limited or no engagement with other support services, so they present with potential risks to themselves and/or others. Support is also provided to service users with chaotic lifestyles, including those who may have had or still have ongoing drug and alcohol issues and/or mental health issues and may present with significant vulnerability as a consequence of these needs. Referrals to the Street Outreach team are currently received by Streetlink. If the client refers themselves to Streetlink, the service provider then investigates the Sleep Site and begins to work with them if they are found.

### **Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) Grant**

- 3.10 The Rough Sleeping Initiative was first announced in March 2018 to make an immediate impact on the rising levels of rough sleeping. Since 2018/2019, the Council's Housing Needs & Support Service has submitted bids to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), now known as Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) for funding under the Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) Grant, to help tackle rough sleeping nationally.

- 3.11 In 2022, the government announced an investment of up to £500 million in funding to local authorities across England under the first multi-year funding for the Rough Sleeping Initiative (2022 to 2025). The Rough Sleeping Initiative 2022-25 funding has supported local authorities in delivering local and tailored rough sleeping services to give those in need the best chance of a safe and sustainable life off the streets.
- 3.12 Officers at MHCLG have confirmed the grant determination for 25/26 remains unchanged and is the same as the grant allocation for 24/25.

### **Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) Interventions**

- 3.13 A total of £3,930,737 was allocated to the Council by MHCLG under annual Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) Grant determination in 2022-2025 for the purposes of achieving specific interventions to support a reduction in the number of rough sleepers.
- 3.14 Officers at MHCLG have confirmed the grant determination for 25/26 is as follows:

Intervention	Name	Description	25/26 funding
Intervention 1	Rapid Assessment Hub	Provision of 24 hour Rapid Assessment Hub to assess rough sleepers and provide short term accommodation pending assessment for up to 14 rough sleepers, including No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) individuals	£458,943
Intervention 2	Housing First Service	This approach prioritises moves into secure accommodation for up to 18 entrenched rough sleepers (the number of rough sleepers supported has yet to be determined for 21/22)	£125,177
Intervention 3	Additional Outreach, Housing Advice and Resettlement Services	Provision of 1.5 Outreach workers to identify and engage with rough sleepers in Brent who require assistance with getting into accommodation and off the streets. The core contract would be varied to include this intervention.	£84,011K
Total			£668,131

## Rapid Assessment Hub

- 3.15 This service is designed to provide a rapid response service to reduce the number of rough sleepers on the streets. The service provider undertakes intensive support around reconnection and assessments ensuring all key elements and barriers to access accommodation are addressed. Self-contained or accommodation is expected for up to 14 individuals. The accommodation is sourced independently. The service provides 24 hours waking support with a target stay of 12 weeks. The grant determination for 25/26 remains unchanged and will continue to provide support for 10 bed spaces for complex needs clients with recourse to public funds and 4 bed spaces for clients with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF).

## Housing First Service

- 3.16 This Housing First service is designed to assist up to 12 entrenched rough sleepers with a chance to rebuild their lives. The service provider identifies individuals known to outreach teams. The Council then approves and assists with sourcing and allocating accommodation to each individual and the provider continues to provide support on an individual basis.

## Contract Value

The estimated contract value is calculated over 3 years.

- 3.17 The contract value for the RSI interventions has been based on the RSI grant determination for 25/26.
- 3.18 The Outreach & Resettlement service (core contract) is funded by the Housing Needs & Support General Fund and therefore is not subject RSI funding. The contract value for this service has been based on the contract spend for 24/25.

RSI funded Rapid Assessment Hub	£1.4M
RSI funded Housing First	£376K
RSI funded additional Outreach, Housing Advice and Resettlement Services	£252K
Outreach, Housing Advice and Resettlement Services (core contract)	£465K
Total	£2.5M

- 3.19 The above budgets, save for the core contract for Outreach & Resettlement service, are based on the 25/26 Grant determination and subject to change based on the annual determination of the RSI Grant by MHCLG and the annual bid by the Council. We are seeking to provide a service on an ongoing basis

though the source of funds which are based on an annual grant determination by MHCLG under the RSI grant.

### **Benefits of the service**

- 3.20 The interventions delivered by these services reduce the barriers that prevent rough sleepers from accessing accommodation, reducing rough sleeping and providing broader benefits to those who receive the targeted support. The Rapid Assessment Hub provides an immediate route off the street, whilst obtaining ID, benefits, bank accounts and support. This equips this cohort to address any support issues such as substance misuse or mental health before moving on to stable accommodation.
- 3.21 Whilst there has been a reduction in the number of people sleeping rough, there is still an on-going demand for this service. So far this financial year we have seen 407 individuals sleeping rough in the Borough, 168 were new to rough sleeping.
- 3.22 The service has the potential to save the Council money over the medium-term by prevention of future and repeated rough-sleeping, homelessness acceptances, and by reduction in the future need for supported housing and adult social care. Housing first allows the individual to receive intensive support for as long as they may need, ensuring they are able to sustain their tenancy and live independently. Before ending their support all service users are referred on to the Council's in-house rough sleepers Floating Support and Tenancy Sustainment team, allowing a smooth transition to a new support worker and reducing the risk of them returning to rough sleeping.
- 3.23 Homelessness amongst this group if not tackled often leads to future problems such as offending, worsening mental and physical health, reduced employment prospects and substance abuse, all of which could lead to higher financial costs to the Council.

### **Pre-tender Considerations**

- 3.24 In accordance with Contract Standing Orders 88 and 89, pre-tender considerations for the procurement of the contract for Outreach, Housing Advice and Resettlement Services, Housing First Services; and Rapid Assessment Hub (the "Contract") have been set out below for the approval of the Cabinet Member:

<b>Ref.</b>	<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Response</b>
(i)	The nature of the services	Provision of services for Rough Sleepers: a) Outreach, Housing Advice and Resettlement Services (core contract and RSI funded services; b) RSI funded Housing First Service c) RSI funded Rapid Assessment Hub

Ref.	Requirement	Response	
(ii)	The estimated value.	£2.5M excluding VAT	
(iii)	The contract term.	3 years	
(iv)	The tender procedure to be adopted.	Open	
v)	The procurement timetable.		<b>Indicative dates are:</b>
		Adverts placed on Contracts Finder and London Tenders Portal	07/02/2025
		Deadline for tender submissions	12pm 10/03/2025
		Panel evaluation and moderation	11/03/2025 – 21/03/2025
		Report recommending Contract award circulated internally for comment	24/03/2025
		Cabinet Member approval	04/03/2025
		Minimum 10 calendar day standstill period – notification issued to all tenderers and additional debriefing of unsuccessful tenderers	04/04/2025 – 13/04/2025
		Contract Mobilisation	14/04/2025
		Contract start date	01 May 2025
(vi)	The evaluation criteria and process.	1. At selection stage shortlists are to be drawn up in accordance with the Council's Contract Procurement and Management Guidelines by the use of a selection questionnaire to identify organisations meeting the Council's financial	

Ref.	Requirement	Response
		<p>standing requirements, technical capacity and technical expertise.</p> <p>2. At tender evaluation stage, the panel will evaluate the tenders against the following criteria:</p> <p>Quality 50%</p> <p>Price 40%</p> <p>Social Value 10%</p>
(vii)	Any business risks associated with entering the contract.	No specific business risks are considered to be associated with entering into the proposed Contract. Financial Services and Legal Services have been consulted concerning this Contract
(viii)	The Council's Best Value duties.	The adoption of an open tendering process will enable the council to achieve best value for money.
(ix)	Consideration of Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012	The Council is under duty pursuant to the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 ("the Social Value Act") to consider how services being procured might improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of its area; how, in conducting the procurement process, the Council might act with a view to securing that improvement; and whether the Council should undertake consultation Officers have had regard to considerations contained in the Social Value Act in relation to the procurement and social value forms 10% of the evaluation score.
(x)	Any staffing implications, including TUPE and pensions.	See section 9 below.
(xi)	The relevant financial, legal and other considerations.	See Financial Considerations at Sections 5 and Legal Considerations at Section 6 below.
(xii)	Sustainability	This has been assessed in line with the Procurement Sustainability Policy and determined that a quality measure for sustainability is not required and can be captured as part of the Social Value criteria.
(xiii)	Key Performance Indicators / Outcomes	Appropriate Key Performance Indicators / Outcomes will be included in the Contract.
(xiv)	London Living Wage	The Contract will require the payment of the London Living Wage



Ref.	Requirement	Response
(xv)	Contract Management	A contract manager will be appointed and appropriate contract management provisions will be included in the Contract.

#### **4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement**

4.1 N/A

#### **5.0 Financial Considerations**

- 5.1 The Housing First Service, Rapid Assessment Hub, Additional Outreach, Housing Advice and Resettlement Services will be funded from the Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) Grant. These services will be fully costed within the claim and any breach of the conditions may result in the funds to be returned.
- 5.2 The allocation of the RSI grant determination remains unchanged for 25/26, therefore the services provided will be managed within the grant claim allocated. Any overspend that may arise will result in an additional pressure on the Housing Needs budget.
- 5.3 The core contract cost of the Outreach, Housing Advice and Resettlement Service is currently £465k for three years and it is funded from the Housing Needs budget. Once the tendering process begins, and subject to the value of bids received, additional funds may need to be set aside in the Medium Term Financial Strategy. The additional costs are anticipated to be low value and in relation to inflationary staffing expenditure.

#### **6.0 Legal Considerations**

- 6.1 The estimated value of the proposed Contract is above the threshold for Services/Works under the Public Procurement Regulations 2015 (the "PCR 2015") and the procurement is therefore governed by the PCR 2015.
- 6.2 The procurement is subject to the Council's own Standing Orders and Financial Regulations in respect of High Value Contracts given the Council's element of the procurement is valued at £2,500,000.00 excl. VAT. In accordance with paragraph 13 of Part 3 of the Council's Constitution, the Cabinet Member for Housing and Resident Services having consulted with the Leader, has delegated power to approve the pre-tender considerations set out in paragraph 3 above (Standing Order 89) and the inviting of tenders (Standing Order 88) for High Value Contracts.

- 6.3 Once the tendering process is undertaken, Officers will report back to the Cabinet Member in accordance with Contract Standing Orders, explaining the process undertaken in tendering the contracts and recommending award.
- 6.4 As this procurement is subject to the full application of the PCR 2015, the Council must observe the requirements of the mandatory minimum 10 calendar standstill period imposed by the PCR 2015 before the Contract can be awarded. The requirements include notifying all tenderers in writing of the Council's decision to award and providing additional debrief information to unsuccessful tenderers on receipt of a written request. The standstill period provides unsuccessful tenderers with an opportunity to challenge the Council's award decision if such challenge is justifiable. However if no challenge or successful challenge is brought during the period, at the end of the standstill period the Council can issue a letter of acceptance to the successful tenderer and the Contract may commence.
- 6.5 As set forth in this report, it should be noted that part of the funding for the Contract is subject to receipt of anticipated grant funds, and as such the value of the Contract may be adjusted in line with the amounts actually awarded to the Council.

## **7.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations**

- 7.1 Pursuant to s149 Equality Act 2010 (the "Public Sector Equality Duty"), the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act
  - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
  - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it,
- 7.2 The Public Sector Equality Duty covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, marriage and civil partnership, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 7.3 Having due regard involves the need to enquire into whether and how a proposed decision disproportionately affects people with a protected characteristic and the need to consider taking steps to meet the needs of persons who share a protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it. This includes removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by persons who share a protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.

7.4 There is no prescribed manner in which the council must exercise its public sector equality duty but having an adequate evidence base for its decision is necessary.

7.5 The proposals in this report have been subject to screening and officers believe that there are no adverse equality implications.

## **8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations**

8.1 N/A

## **9.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)**

9.1 This service is currently provided by an external contractor and there are no implications for Council staff arising from retendering the Contract.

### **Report sign off:**

**Peter Gadsdon**

Corporate Director, Partnerships, Housing and Resident Services