

	<p>Key Decision of the Strategic Director of Community Wellbeing 26 July 2017</p> <p>Report to the Strategic Director of Community Wellbeing</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Wards Affected: ALL</p>	
<p>AUTHORITY TO AWARD GRANT FOR THE BRENT SINGLE PASS PROGRAMME</p>	

Appendix 1 is Not for Publication

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report requests authority to allocate grant funding for the Brent Single PASS Programme. This report summarises the process undertaken in specifying and soliciting bids for this grant and, following the completion of the evaluation of the bids, recommends to whom the grant funding should be allocated.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Strategic Director of Community Wellbeing, in consultation with the Lead Member for Housing and Welfare Reform approve the allocation of grant funding for the Brent Single PASS programme to Brent Homelessness Support for the period 16th August 2017 to March 2020.

3.0 Detail

Background

- 3.1 Following the Council's Housing and Vulnerable People Outcomes Based Review and the successful application for £900k from the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Homelessness Prevention Trailblazer fund for the period April 2017 to March 2019, Cabinet agreed in January 2017 to commit up to £900k match funding between January 2017

and March 2020 to fund local voluntary sector organisations to deliver homelessness prevention and relief outcomes for single people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Brent, and for necessary set up costs. The final amount to be spent will depend on the number of successful outcomes which are achieved.

- 3.2 Cabinet further agreed to delegate authority to the Strategic Director, Community Wellbeing, in consultation with the Lead Member for Housing and Welfare Reform, to approve criteria for grant funding, to approve criteria for the evaluation of bids and to approve the allocation of grant on acceptable terms for evidenced homeless prevention and relief, and accommodation sustainment outcomes, for single people.

The grant application process

- 3.3 The new grant will be awarded on the basis of an outcomes based grant agreement, with a price review mechanism to be implemented after the programme has been operational for one year.
- 3.4 Notification of the grant applications process was made via Brent CVS and London CVS as well as to those who attended an engagement event in January 2017, which was similarly advertised.
- 3.5 The detailed specification and application documentation were placed on the Council's website.
- 3.6 The grant specification stated that the grant would be awarded on the basis of 60% quality and 40% commercial. In evaluating the grant applications, it was stated that the Council would have regard to the following criteria and weightings:

QUALITY CRITERIA	WEIGHTING
REFERRAL PATHWAY	10%
PROPOSED INTERVENTION	20%
DELIVERY OF AMBITION	10%
DIVERSITY	10%
ADAPTATION (ABILITY TO ADAPT THE INTERVENTION AS THE PROJECT PROGRESSES)	5%
PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND EVIDENCE OF OUTCOMES	5%

COMMERCIAL CRITERIA

DISCOUNTED PRICE	25%
OUTCOME AMBITION	15%
TOTAL	100%

GOVERNANCE AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST Pass/Fail

FINANCIAL VIABILITY Pass/Fail

Evaluation process

- 3.6 The bid evaluation was carried out by a panel of officers from Community Wellbeing and Corporate Services.
- 3.7 All bids had to be submitted electronically no later than 5.00p.m. on 16th June 2017. Bids were opened following expiry of the bid deadline on 16th June 2017 and two valid bids were received. Each member of the evaluation panel read the bids using evaluation sheets to note down their comments on how well each of the award criteria was addressed.
- 3.8 The panel met on 22nd June 2017 and each submission was marked by the whole panel against the award criteria.
- 3.9 The names of the bidders are contained in Appendix 1. The scores received by the bidders are included in Appendix 2. It will be noted that Applicant B was the highest scoring bidder. Officers therefore recommend the award of the grant to Brent Homelessness Support.
- 3.10 Brent Homeless Support (BHS) is a consortium, in which a new organisation will be established, and capitalised by Bridges Fund Management, one of the UK's leading social investment fund backed by a number of investors including Big Society Capital and Esmée Fairbairn. Services will be delivered under contract to BHS by Crisis and Thames Reach, who are both highly experienced voluntary sector organisations with a strong track record in working on single homelessness.
- 3.11 In addition services will also be purchased from a number of framework partners. Confirmed partners are Advice 4 Renters, SUFRA, St Mungo's and Brent CAB and a number of others have entered into discussions about participation on this basis, including Addaction Brent, Ashford Place, CVS Brent, Salvation Army Harlesden.
- 3.12 The intention of BHS and the Council is to broaden participation in this project and use this project to build capacity in the Brent Voluntary

Sector to reduce homelessness. The Council will work with BHS to ensure that a wide range of relevant organisations are involved and that all of these organisation have access to the information and development opportunities they need to be able to play a full role. This will be aligned to the comprehensive strategy of communication, engagement and capacity building that the Council is developing to improve the wider delivery of homelessness prevention and relief in the borough. This strategy will ensure that community organisations understand and can access the full range of council supported services more easily (including the PASS scheme) and can contribute to the development of the council's approach to the implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act.

- 3.13 The grant agreement will commence on 14th August 2017 subject to the Council's observation of the call-in period.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 Authority to award the grant was delegated by Cabinet in January 2017 to the Strategic Director of Community Wellbeing in consultation with the Lead Member for Housing and Welfare Reform.
- 4.2 The estimated value of this grant agreement is up to £1.8m depending on the number of outcomes achieved.
- 4.3 It is anticipated that the grant will be funded from £900K DCLG Homelessness Prevention Trailblazer funding and up to £900k of the Flexible Homelessness Support Grant funding could be released to fund the Council's contribution to the programme.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The council is required to provide information and advice to its local residents where necessary, under a range of statutory provisions to include the Health & Social Care Act 2012, Housing Act 1977, Housing Act 1996 and Homelessness Act 2002. Further, the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 imposes a statutory obligation on the council to take "reasonable steps" to prevent or relieve homelessness for anyone at risk of homelessness within 56 days. The purpose of the proposed grant is to fund voluntary sector organisations to deliver homelessness prevention and relief outcomes for single people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Brent and the allocation would therefore assist in meeting such duties.
- 5.2 The general power of competence in Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 may be utilised to grant fund where there is a good reason to do so. The council is however obliged under the Treaty for the Functioning of the European Union to ensure that all providers seeking grant funding are dealt with in a fair, open and transparent way. The

council has sought to do this by advertising the availability of the funds to include the criteria for grant funding and criteria for the evaluation of bids and assess providers' bids as detailed in paragraphs 3.3 – 3.9.

- 5.3 The proposed grant agreement will include provision for delivery of the project in line with DCLG requirements, including timescales having regard to the implications of failure to comply as set by DCLG. The intention is to grant fund on the basis of payment for outcomes, an approach approved by the DCLG, and therefore robust monitoring requirements will need to be in place.

6.0 Equality Implications

- 6.1 Members are referred to the Equalities Impact Assessment included in the January 2017 Cabinet Report

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)

- 7.1 The staffing requirements for this scheme once up and running are expected to be limited to one officer who will be appointed as part of the Council's Single Pathway review.

8.0 Background Papers

- 8.1 Cabinet Report January 2017.

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