

Meeting of:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 09 January 2025
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Homes and Safe Communities
Report Title:	Supporting People Procurement Exercise
Purpose of Report:	To advise Cabinet of the requirement to accept the most advantageous tender and execute the contract for the Esgyn service.
Report Owner:	Cabinet Member for Public Sector Housing and Tenant Engagement
Responsible Officer:	Miles Punter, Director of Environment and Housing
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Finance – Rachel Williams Committee Reports Mike Ingram, Head of Housing and Building Services Nick Jones, Operational Manager, Housing
Policy Framework:	This report is consistent with the Policy Framework and Budget and is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet.
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Housing Support Grant (HSG) Programme is the policy and funding framework for delivering housing related support to vulnerable people in different types of accommodation and across all tenures. The programme takes forward a number of strategic aims, reflecting community safety and health and social care and wellbeing objectives. It aims to deliver high quality and strategically planned housing-related support services that are cost effective, complement existing services and provide service users with the best possible outcomes. • The programme contributes to meeting the aims of 'Improving Lives and Communities - Homes in Wales', the National Housing Strategy and the ten-year Homelessness Plan, with a strong emphasis on the prevention of homelessness. It is also essential in assisting the local authority to fulfil its duties under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, and the Vale of Glamorgan's Homelessness Prevention Strategy. • There are no direct resource implications associated with this report. All funding requirements identified for resourcing under the Housing Support Grant Programme is financed through grant funding from Welsh Government. • The Esgyn service is a floating support service that delivers housing related support for vulnerable people with learning disabilities and/or autism. The existing contract expires in January 2025. The 	

Supporting People Team has recently completed a procurement exercise to ensure continuity of service.

- This report brings to the attention of Cabinet the outcome of the procurement exercise.
- A request for Cabinet to accept the most advantageous tender bid and to execute the contract for delivery of the Esgyn service is detailed later on this agenda at Part II.

Recommendation

1. That Cabinet notes the contents of the report, with a view to taking decisions on the award of the contract detailed within the Part II report later on in this agenda.

Reason for Recommendation

1. To advise of the current position with this particular contract.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Housing Support Grant (HSG) Programme is the policy and funding framework for delivering housing related support to vulnerable people in different types of accommodation and across all tenures.
- 1.2 The programme contributes to meeting the aims of 'Improving Lives and Communities - Homes in Wales', the National Housing Strategy and the ten-year Homelessness Plan, with a strong emphasis on the prevention of homelessness. It is also essential in assisting the local authority to fulfil its duties under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, and the Vale of Glamorgan's Homelessness Prevention Strategy.
- 1.3 The Esgyn service is a floating support service that provides housing related support to people with learning disabilities and/or autism with the aim to prevent homelessness and maximise independence. The existing contract expires in January 2025. To ensure continuity of the service and to comply with procurement policy the Supporting People Team recently completed a procurement exercise to award a new contract. The outcome of this exercise is addressed in Part II of the report.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 Attached at Appendix 1 is the Supporting People Procurement Exercise Update.
- 2.2 The Supporting People Team has carried out a procurement exercise in line with Vale of Glamorgan Council procurement policy for the Esgyn service.
- 2.3 An invitation to tender was published on Sell2Wales on 28th October 2024 with a closing date of 3rd December 2024. There were three (3) expressions of interest with one (1) tender bids received.
- 2.4 The sole bid passed the pre-qualification questionnaire pass mark of 87. This bid was then assessed on stage two of the process, where scores were based on 40% for price and 60% for quality.
- 2.5 The outcome of the Esgyn service procurement exercise is set out in Part II of the report.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1** Looking to the long term - the Housing Support Grant Programme supports vulnerable people to attain the life skills required to maintain their home, integrate into the community and to live independently in the long term.
- 3.2** Taking an integrated approach - local service decisions are made by the Supporting People Planning Group which includes representatives from Housing, Social Services, Health and the Probation Service. In addition, consultation is carried out with managers of providers of services, front line workers and people who have lived experience of our services.
- 3.3** Involving the population in decisions - not only are the needs of service users monitored to ensure that the correct services are delivered to meet their individual needs, but feedback is collated from them during each service review to inform service improvement and future commissioning decisions. In addition, each service provider is required to work with the service user to enable them to solve problems themselves in the future. A key message delivered by the Housing Support Grant programme is "doing with" rather than "doing for" the service user in order to reduce dependency on services and enable the service user to live independently in the future.
- 3.4** Working in a collaborative way - the Housing Support Grant Programme places collaboration and coproduction at the core and these principles are monitored on a local, regional and national level through regular service reviews.
- 3.5** Understanding the root causes of issues and preventing them - the Supporting People Team is required to collect needs data on clients on an annual basis in order to inform service commissioning and delivery.

4. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 4.1** There are no implications for climate change and nature to consider.

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 5.1** There are no direct resource implications associated with this report. All funding requirement identified for resourcing under the Housing Support Grant Programme is financed through grant funding from Welsh Government.
- 5.2** It should be noted that the Council has not developed an exit strategy for Housing Support Grant funded services, as the effect of a total loss of funding from Welsh Government would affect support services throughout Wales, leading to the closure or severe restrictions to the services of voluntary support organisations that are funded in this way. This is an unlikely scenario given that

Supporting People, which makes up the substantial part of the Housing Support Grant was introduced in 2003 and the number of people requiring the services is continuing to increase across Wales. It is expected that this trend will continue in the future with the introduction of the changes to the Homelessness Legislation in April 2015 from the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 and the continuing roll out of Universal Credit.

Employment

- 5.3** There is also a requirement on the Supporting People Team in the Council to continue on an annual basis to ensure that all projects remain strategically relevant to the Council and to reconfigure them if they are no longer required. In addition, the projects are monitored by the Team to ensure that they continue to provide suitable value for money support to vulnerable people, including where appropriate assistance into training and employment.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 5.4** Conducting a full procurement exercise is a requirement for all contracts that meet the required financial threshold of £300k.

6. Background Papers

None.

Supporting People Procurement Exercise

Esgyn service

The Supporting People Team's Esgyn Service is a floating support service that provides housing related support to people with learning disabilities and/or autism with the aim to prevent homelessness and to maximise independent living skills.

With the Vale of Glamorgan's current Esgyn Service contract due to expire in January, the Supporting People Team carried out a tender exercise on the Sell2Wales website. An upper pricing envelope of £107,500.00 per annum was placed on the tender.

The deadline for submission was the 3rd of December 2024 and the Supporting People Commissioning Panel carried out a tender process which was fully completed on the 10th of December 2024.

The tender exercise required submissions to answer the standard Vale of Glamorgan PQQ, 10 written questions set by the SP Commissioning Panel, and for participants to carry out a presentation and interview before the commission panel. Submissions were also required to include an annual price to deliver the service along with a detailed breakdown of costs.

A single bid was received for this contract, which was submitted by the incumbent provider Hafod. Hafod comfortably exceeded all aspects of the tender evaluation process matrix and their submission was of a high standard.

The price submitted fell within the pricing envelope set for the tender, the price submitted represents a 19% increase on the previous price. However, the Official Bank of England inflation calculator using CPI inflation data estimates that inflation has increased the prices of goods and services by 24% during the same period.

The contract will be funded in full through the Housing Support Grant.

Delegated authority is required from Cabinet to award the new contract to the successful provider which is Hafod.