

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 22 January 2019

TITLE	Somewhere Safe to Stay award – early adopter		
Ward(s)	Citywide		
Author: Hywel Caddy	Job title: Senior Contracts & Commissioning Officer		
Cabinet lead: Councillor Paul Smith	Executive Director lead: Colin Molton		
Proposal origin: <i>Other</i>			
Decision maker: Mayor Decision forum: <i>Cabinet</i>			
<p>Purpose of Report: To gain approval from Cabinet to enhance the Rough Sleeper Service by extending the current contract for the service for a further 6 months in order to incorporate funding from the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) for the Somewhere Safe to Stay service (SStS). Combining the two services will enable a fully integrated and efficient approach to work with people sleeping rough in the city with different needs during 2019/20. Bristol will be one of the eleven ‘early adopters’ to provide this Somewhere Safe to Stay service. A bid was submitted on 7th November 2018 for a total of £648,539 to develop a SStS service in Bristol as part of a Rapid Rehousing Pathway (a structured pathway into settled accommodation for people sleeping rough). MHCLG confirmed the full award of £648,539 on 14th December 2018. It is anticipated that this integrated approach of the Rough Sleeper Service and the SStS will significantly reduce rough sleeping levels in Bristol during 2019-20, recommended in MHCLG’s Rough Sleeping Strategy Action plan and emulating services developed in London.</p>			
<p>Evidence Base: Bristol has seen a massive increase in homelessness and rough sleeping since 2012 as a result of housing supply issues and rents outstripping wages and benefits. Due to the high levels of rough sleeping in Bristol, Bristol City Council has already been successful in bidding for £1.1 million of funding to reduce rough sleeping in the city for 2018-20. In November 2018 the annual rough sleeping count (on a given night) returned to the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) was 82, this is 4 lower than last year but remains high.</p> <p>On the 13th August 2018 the government published their Rough Sleeping Strategy setting out the government’s vision for halving rough sleeping by 2022 and ending it by 2027. Alongside the strategy were additional funding sources to reduce rough sleeping. One of the key funding streams towards reducing rough sleeping was for up to 15 local authorities to be ‘early adopters’ to provide a Somewhere Safe to Stay (SStS) service. This is part of a Rapid Rehousing Pathway for people at risk of rough sleeping and will build on the No Second Night Out model in London, rapidly assessing the needs of people who are sleeping rough or those who are at risk of sleeping rough and supporting them to get the right help.</p> <p>The SStS will also work alongside separate funding streams to source private sector accommodation, provide floating support for those people and to provide additional support to people who have slept rough with more complex needs to maintain supported accommodation. The funding available from the MHCLG for the SStS service will be £648,539 and MHCLG require that the service be operational by mid-March 2019. In order to be effective the SStS service needs to be fully integrated with the Rough Sleeper Service contract provided by St Mungo’s utilising the same staffing, facilities and database that would be very problematic and prohibitive within the timescales if delivered separately. This will go to the Commissioning and Procurement Group for approval before this Cabinet. The core service of the SStS hub (in addition to the existing rough sleeper service provision) will be provided by St</p>			

Mungo's but some SStS elements will be provided by Shelter Programme partners. The finer details are still being finalised, at this stage we anticipate that the value of the core SStS elements run by St Mungo's will be in the region of £600K.

The current Rough Sleeper Service contract (including an approved extension of two years from the original tender process) expires at the end of September 2019 (with no approval in place to further extend the contract) – half way through the SStS funded project. To implement the SStS enhancement, and enable its uninterrupted delivery through 2019/20, the underlying RSS contract needs to align with that timescale. The cost of extending this service until 31st March 2020 is £261K.

A competitive tendering process taking place during the first six months of 2019-20 would significantly impact on the SStS service, with the need to resource engagement and consultation events, TUPE concerns amongst staff and provider resources diverted to developing bid submissions and inevitable reduction in partnership working during in the immediate lead up to bidding.

There is also additional urgency due to the MHCLG requirement to have the SStS hub up and running in March this year. This would be unachievable if the service needed to be delivered from an alternative venue (due to both building alterations required and the higher staffing costs if it is not co-located with the Rough Sleeper Service).

Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:

That Cabinet approves:

- I. A six month extension to the Rough Sleeper Service Contract (from October 2019 – 31st March 2020).
- II. The use of £648,539 provided by MHCLG to implement a Somewhere Safe to Stay pilot in the city which is integrated with the Rough Sleeper Service delivered by St Mungo's.
- III. That Cabinet notes that most of the funding will be integrated with the Rough sleeper contract but that some funding will be applied to elements to be delivered by other providers and that appropriate processes will be followed to procure this.

Corporate Strategy alignment: Key commitment to reduce the overall level of homelessness and rough sleeping, with no-one needing to spend a 'second night out'.

City Benefits: The EQIA for the Housing Strategy and the Preventing Homelessness Strategy provides a useful overview. In brief the proposal will assist many rough sleepers to access accommodation and support improving their health and reducing the physical and mental health impact of living on the streets.

Consultation Details: Provider consultation, member consultation, and consultation with the Rough Sleeping Partnership.

Revenue Cost	£260,777 (cost of contract extension)	Source of Revenue Funding	10504
Capital Cost	£-	Source of Capital Funding	-
One off cost <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/>	Income generation proposal <input type="checkbox"/>

Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:

1. Finance Advice: The extension of the existing contract for 6 months will ensure use of the additional MHCLG grant is maximised. There is no additional revenue cost by extending the existing contract and delaying its recommissioning.

Finance Business Partner: Paul Cook 3 January 2019

2. Legal Advice: The current rough sleepers services (RSS) contract with St Mungo's has provision for extensions, but these have already been exhausted, and the contract is due to expire in September 2019. The contract (originally circa £2.7m) was let following a compliant procurement exercise. The Council have very recently secured extra funding (£648k) for 2019/20 (commencing March 2019) for the national "Somewhere Safe to Stay" programme (SStS) and the delivery of this service has a natural fit with the current RSS contact. Whilst it might be technically possible to

either tender for a new contract for the whole of 2019/20 or use the existing contract whilst it subsists, and tender for a new contract for the period Sept 2019 to March 2020, the preferred solution is to enhance/extend the current RSS contract for the reasons set out in the report (i.e. for very real operational, service and timetabling issues). The anticipated value of the extension is £261k i.e. approx. 10% of the original contract value.

The services fall within Schedule 3 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, and are therefore subject to the “light touch” regime, which affords the Council significant freedom over the procurement approach. In addition the value of the extension is well below the 50% threshold set out in Regulation 72(1)(b), pursuant to which contracts can be modified without the need for a new procurement provided certain conditions are met, including where additional services not included in the initial procurement have become necessary and where a change of Contractor either cannot be made for economic or technical reasons (such as requirements of interoperability with existing services) or would cause significant inconvenience for the contracting authority. These circumstances appear to operate in the current situation.

Legal Team Leader: Eric Andrews, Team Leader, Legal Services 3.1.19

3. Implications on IT: “The full IT implications in this initiative are uncertain at this stage, with references to personnel and accommodation suggesting that there may be IT provision requirements. These can and should be considered further once detailed implementation of a successful bid commences.”

IT Team Leader: Ian Gale 21/12/18

4. HR Advice: ‘No anticipated HR implications’

HR Partner: Celia Williams 31/12/2018

EDM Sign-off	Julian Higson	18-12-18
Cabinet Member sign-off	Paul Smith	21-12-18
CLB Sign-off	Colin Molton	21-12-18
For Key Decisions - Mayor’s Office sign-off	Mayor’s Office	21-12-18

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the bid	YES
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	NO
Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny	NO
Appendix D – Risk assessment	YES
Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal	YES
Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal	NO
Appendix G – Financial Advice	NO
Appendix H – Legal Advice	NO
Appendix I – Combined Background papers <i>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-rough-sleeping-strategy</i>	Rough Sleeping Strategy
Appendix J – Exempt Information	NO
Appendix K – HR advice	NO
Appendix L – ICT	NO