

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 02 November 2021

TITLE	Supported Family Framework and Contracts Extension		
Ward(s)	Citywide		
Author: Karamo Sanyang	Job title: Homeless Contracts & Commissioning Officer		
Cabinet lead: Cllr Tom Renhard, Cabinet Member Housing Delivery and Homes	Executive Director lead: Stephen Peacock, Executive Director Growth and Regeneration		
Proposal origin: BCC Staff			
Decision maker: Cabinet Member Decision forum: Cabinet			
Purpose of Report: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To seek Cabinet approval to extend the current Supported Family Accommodation (SFA), open framework agreement and its contracts for another 4 years and to procure an additional 100 units via the framework. The total commitment for the extended framework for the period 2022/23- 2025/26 is £2,380k.2. This proposal is in alignment with our Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-2024, to reduce costs to the council by reducing the number of temporary emergency accommodation units used and thereby to achieve value for money. Key commitment to reduce the overall level of homelessness and rough sleeping, with no-one needing to spend a 'second night out'.			
Evidence Base: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The supported family accommodation open framework agreement and its contracts was set up in April 2018 and due to expire on 31st March 2022. The request is being made that we extend the open framework and its contracts for a further 4 years to ensure that we can continue to provide accommodation and support to homeless families with support needs. We have carried out research into the support needs of families in emergency accommodation and have found that most households had support needs which aren't being met. These included budgeting, access to benefits, employment/education/training. Our needs analysis has also indicated that there are increasing numbers of families coming through with multiple complex support needs e.g. mental & physical health, domestic violence, sexual violence, child sexual exploitation or trafficking and forced marriage. Meeting these support needs by providing additional supported family accommodation will increase resilience and contribute to future tenancy sustainment.2. Our records show that, between April 2018 and March 2021, we have had 4128 families present at our Customers Service Point of which 1839 were assessed as being eligible for assistance. There is further indication that, following the end of temporary eviction ban, we will see an increase of families becoming homeless and most of these families will end up in costlier emergency accommodation and hence the justification for the additional supported family units. The paper therefore authorises the awarding of contracts of up to 100 additional units, to encourage additional providers to join the framework to help us work towards meeting the demand for this accommodation.3. Extending the current open framework will continue to allow flexibility for new providers to apply and join the framework at any point. The annual average savings and those over the 4-year contract, from both the current arrangement and from the additional 100 units, are shown in the table below.			

Providers	SFA Units No.	Annual Cost for EA £'000	Annual Cost SFA £'000	Annual Savings £'000	EA Cost over contract timeframe £'000	SFA cost over contract timeframe £'000	Savings over contract timeframe £'000
Livewest	47	470	141	329	1,880	564	1,316
Places for People	35	350	105	245	1,400	420	980
St. Mungo's	13	130	39	91	520	156	364
Current Framework 4yrs- 2018/19 to 2021/22	95	950	285	665	3,800	1,140	2,660
From approved providers	100	1,000	310	690	4,000	1,240	2,760
Extended Framework 4yrs-2022/23 to 2025/26	195	1,950	595	1,355	7,800	2,380	5,420

*The average annual costs for a family in an Emergency Accommodation (EA) is £10k

The average annual support cost for a family in SFA in the current framework is £3k The average annual support cost for a family in SFA for the new framework is £3.1k

The funding for the additional units ie £1,240k will come from re-allocating MHCLG prevention grant which is currently being used to pay for Emergency Accommodation. No new revenue funding is needed.

- The principal reason for the large difference between emergency accommodation costs and supported family accommodation costs are due to the HB subsidy loss. Emergency accommodation is not supported accommodation and Housing Benefit (HB) regulations do not allow for the full costs to be claimed from the Government. In supported family accommodation, Bristol City Council only pays for support services. The providers are responsible for the rent & eligible service charge costs for which full Housing Benefit is available.

Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

- Authorises the Executive Director - Growth and Regeneration in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing Delivery and Homes to extend the open framework and the existing contract for 4 years from 1st April 2022 at a cost of £1,140k.
- Authorises the Executive Director - Growth and Regeneration in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing Delivery and Homes to award contracts for additional 100 units of accommodation via the open framework at a cost of £1,240k in line with the procurement routes and maximum budget envelope outlined in this report.

Corporate Strategy alignment:

To reduce costs to the council by reducing the number of temporary emergency accommodation units used and thereby to achieve value for money. Key commitment to reduce the overall level of homelessness and rough sleeping, with no-one needing to spend a 'second night out'.

City Benefits:

This proposal, if approved, will benefit the city as it will help reduce the spend on the Housing Options budget on emergency accommodation costs. Families will be placed in better regulated accommodation where support will be provided to help address their support needs.

In addition, we will assess any new providers applying to join the framework in relation to social value, environmental awareness and sustainability that they will bring to the contract. We have effective contract management processes set up within the team with regular reporting on equalities data of service users and staff. This allows us to challenge refusals and evictions that relate to a protected characteristic e.g. gender or disability, (such as learning difficulty or mental health).

If the approach outlined in this report is not approved, then the current supported family accommodation providers will, at the end of their contract, revert to using the units for emergency provision which will cost the council more money than we are currently paying. Furthermore, homeless families in the emergency accommodation will continue to live in the accommodation with no support.

Consultation Details:
 These plans were described in a draft commissioning plan which was consulted on in autumn 2017.

Background Documents: Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy
[cd7349fe-ea02-7081-08ae-b2fc5bd31bc4 \(bristol.gov.uk\)](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/cd7349fe-ea02-7081-08ae-b2fc5bd31bc4)

Revenue Cost	£ 2,380k over 4 years	Source of Revenue Funding	Housing Options Commissioning: £562,423 MHCLG Prevention Grant: £577,577 MHCLG Prevention Grant Funding: £1,240k
Capital Cost	£ n/a	Source of Capital Funding	n/a
One off cost <input type="checkbox"/>		Ongoing cost <input type="checkbox"/>	
		Saving Proposal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Income generation proposal <input type="checkbox"/>

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

1. Finance Advice: The proposal is fully funded from identified resources and is expected to generate significant savings as set out above. Achievement of the full level of potential savings is dependent upon 100% utilisation of the maximum number of units available, but even should this not be fully achieved, utilisation rates are likely to be close to this and the saving to remain very substantial. This will be a major contribution in addressing the service’s overall budget pressures.

Finance Business Partner: Aisha Bapu – Finance Manager 12 October 2021

2. Legal Advice: Whilst a traditional framework has a maximum duration of four years, other than in exceptional circumstances, this is not applicable to the more flexible arrangements permissible in relation to Schedule 3 services. With the market remaining open, there is no legal reason why the existing arrangement should not be extended for the proposed four years. This extension should be advertised on Contracts Finders in order to put any new providers on notice as to the opportunity.

Legal Team Leader: Husinara Jones – Team Leader -11th October 2021

3. Implications on IT: “No anticipated impact on IT Services”

IT Team Leader: Simon Oliver, Director Digital Transformation-13th July 2021

4. HR Advice: ‘There are no HR implications evident’

HR Partner: Celia Williams, HR Business Partner- 13th July 2021

EDM Sign-off	Donald Graham, Director Housing and Landlord Services	1 September 2021
Cabinet Member sign-off	Councillor Tom Renhard	6 th September 2021
For Key Decisions - Mayor’s Office sign-off	Mayor’s Office	4 th October 2021

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal	NO
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	NO
Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny	NO
Appendix D – Risk assessment	NO
Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal	YES
Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal ‘There are no major environmental impacts linked to this report and a full Eco IA is not required.’	NO
Appendix G – Financial Advice	NO

Appendix H – Legal Advice	NO
Appendix I – Exempt Information	NO
Appendix J – HR advice	NO
Appendix K – ICT	NO
Appendix L – Procurement	NO