

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 06 June 2023

TITLE	Extension of the Home Improvement Agency contract by 12 months		
Ward(s)	Citywide		
Author: Catherine Martin	Job title: Transformation and Commissioning Lead		
Cabinet lead: Councillor Helen Holland, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and the Integrated Care System	Executive Director lead: Hugh Evans, Executive Director Adults and Communities		
Proposal origin: BCC Staff			
Decision maker: Cabinet Member Decision forum: Cabinet			
Purpose of Report: Approve and authorise the variation to the Home Improvement Agency to include a further 12-month extension of a value of up to £887,419, this is to allow for a full re-commissioning process to be achieved			
Evidence Base: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Home Improvement Agency service is delivered by WE Care, an industrial and provident society based in Bristol and working across the West of England. It provides critical services across Bristol and B&NES involving a total of over 16,000 interventions per year including handyman services, technical housing projects, support home from hospital discharge services, home independence and advice and guidance. The Home Improvement Agency has been commissioned deliver the following outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to help residents of Bristol to remain in their own homes either existing or alternative that better meets their needs, to help residents to maximise their independence and improve their wellbeing that Bristol residents using the service feel safer, warmer and healthier to meet the anticipated need for home improvement and adaptation services to avoid medical and/or social care which is the result of unsuitable or unsafe housing to increase the number and success of hospital discharge and to prevent readmission WE care was awarded the Home Improvement Agency contract in 2018 with the contract commencing on 01/10/2018 and which is due to end on 31/03/2022 at an annual cost to the Local Authority of £887,419. Within the contract there is provision for the Authority to extend the contract up to 2 years in total. The original decision to re-commission the Home Improvement Agency service was taken by the Health and Wellbeing Board in 2016 - that decision was to procure the service and award the contract but did not refer to the enactment of contract extensions. This report seeks permission to vary the existing contract by adding a further 12 months onto the contract period, the value of this extension is £887,419 and is below 50% of the original contract value. This extension is required in order to re-commission the contract via competitive tender in 2024/25. 			

4. The service was commissioned in 2017 and has been performing in line with and in some areas exceeding the Key Performance Indicators as set out in the contract. WE Care have provided to date a service that is well regarded. As an organisation they have been prepared to adapt to changing needs and are supportive and integral to the hospital discharge to assess process. They have a good reputation with the public and with professionals (such as equipment prescribers). WE Care have engaged successfully with stakeholders in engagement with the local voluntary sector such as Age UK.
5. WE Care have taken on additional projects through the delivery of the contract. They have continued to deliver the Making Space project that enables people to declutter, clean and repair their homes - there is considerable demand for this support service in the City.
6. WE Care have adapted to the Coronavirus pandemic and managed their finances effectively. They continued to support the wider health and social care system and out of hospital discharge through the pandemic and have now seen demand for the service return to pre-pandemic levels.

Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Authorise the Executive Director of Adult Social Care in consultation with the Cabinet Member Adult Social Care to take all steps required to vary the Home Improvement Agency contract to include a 12-month extension period of the value of £887,419 until 31/03/2025 to be met from the existing Adult Social care budget.

Corporate Strategy alignment:

This proposal aligns with the 'Health, Care and Wellbeing and Homes and Communities' strategic aims in the corporate strategy. Working with partners to empower communities and individuals, increase independence via accessible housing and support those who need it.

City Benefits:

- to help residents of Bristol to remain in their own homes either existing or alternative that better meets their needs
- to help Bristol residents to maximise their independence and improve their wellbeing
- Bristol residents feel safer, warmer and healthier

Consultation Details:

None

Background Documents:

Original Key decision [6 - Key decision - Commissioning HIA and community equipment services.pdf \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)

Revenue Cost	£ 887,419	Source of Revenue Funding	General Fund
Capital Cost	£ 0	Source of Capital Funding	N/A
One off cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing cost <input checked="" 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: If the contract was extended for a further 12 months there would be no adverse financial implications and the cost is estimated to be in the region of c£887,000. This would be met from within exiting ASC resources. The continuation of the present arrangements will secure continuity of service whilst the procurement progresses and will allow time for refreshed commissioning intentions, to be factored into the procurement process as necessary.		
Finance Business Partner: Denise Hunt, Finance Business Partner, 24 April 2023		
2. Legal Advice: The variation of the contract to include an additional 12 months is line with the 2015 Procurement Regulations and the Councils own procurement rules. Legal services will advise and assist officers with regard to the contractual arrangements for the variation.		
Legal Team Leader: Husinara Jones, Team Manager/Solicitor, 11 April 2023		
3. Implications on IT: There are no implications on IT in regard to this activity.		
IT Team Leader: Alex Simpson, Senior Solution Architect, 18 April 2023		
4. HR Advice: The report is seeking approval to extend the Home Improvement Agency contract for a further 12 months . This report does not have any significant HR implications for Bristol City Council employees as a result of this request.		
HR Partner: Lorna Laing, 12 April 2023		
EDM Sign-off	Hugh Evans, Executive Director Adults and Communities	26 April 2023
Cabinet Member sign-off	Councillor Helen Holland, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and the Integrated Care System	3 May 2023
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off	Mayor's Office	5 May 2023

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	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