

# Decision Pathway – Report



**PURPOSE:** Key decision

**MEETING:** Cabinet

**DATE:** 05 March 2024

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Bristol Street Outreach Contract Extension</b>		
<b>Ward(s)</b>	City-wide		
<b>Author:</b> Paul Sylvester	<b>Job title:</b> Head of Housing Options		
<b>Cabinet lead:</b> Councillor Tom Renhard, Cabinet Member for Housing Delivery and Homelessness	<b>Executive Director lead:</b> John Smith, Interim Executive Director, Growth and Regeneration		
<b>Proposal origin:</b> BCC Staff			
<b>Decision maker:</b> Cabinet Member <b>Decision forum:</b> Cabinet			
<b>Purpose of Report:</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To seek approval to take up a permitted contract extension for the Bristol Outreach Service from 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2026 and to approve spend for a further two-year extension from 1 October 2026 to 30 September 2028 (subject to review).</li> </ol>			
<b>Evidence Base:</b>			
<b>Background</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As part of the work in the city to reduce rough sleeping and help people move off the streets, Bristol City Council have funded an Outreach service for the last twenty years. This service works alongside several other services that are designed to prevent and relieve rough sleeping that are funded through the Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).</li> <li>Bristol Street Outreach is the main service engaging with people on the streets and works with people to link with support services and to move into accommodation. The service also: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>manages a multi-agency ‘Hub’ for services that prevent and relieve rough sleeping.</li> <li>coordinates access to 47 supported Outreach access beds.</li> <li>coordinates the Bristol Weather Emergency Protocol (to prevent loss of life).</li> <li>coordinates bi-monthly and annual rough sleeper counts in the city.</li> <li>provides monthly data for returns to DLUHC.</li> <li>takes a lead – with BCC - in ensuring that all services for people who are rough sleeping work coherently and effectively.</li> </ul> </li> <li>The levels of people sleeping rough in the city has increased markedly since 2013 because of the impact of Austerity, the Cost-of-living crisis and the lack of affordable accommodation in the city. Last year 912 people slept rough, a rise of 28% from the year before, average monthly counts are up 26% and there has been a recent increase of people who are new to the streets, despite the work and resources that have been put into preventing and relieving rough sleeping.</li> <li>The contract for the Bristol Street Outreach (BSO) service, was awarded for three years (from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024) with an option to extend the contract for two further periods of two years. The contract value is £559,950 per year (with no uplift during this period).</li> <li>This report is proposing to take up a permitted extension of two years from October 1st, 2024, in line with Clause 3.1 of the contract and the Cabinet report from 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021 and to gain approval for a further permitted two-year extension from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2026 (subject to service review and approval of service director by March 2026). Approval is being sought for this as the original cabinet report only sought approval for spend from October 2021 to September 2024 and not for any extensions beyond this. Following this,</li> </ol>			

Bristol City Council will go out to tender for a new service from October 2028.

6. In addition, this report is also proposing that the council will evaluate prices annually and will apply economic price adjustments where applicable as the funding for street Outreach has had no uplift for the last ten years. This is also a reflection of the need to ensure that the Outreach team maintains the current structure to enable them to work with almost 1,000 people that come onto the streets each year. A recent 'Deep Dive' review of RSI funding highlighted that the service needs more capacity to engage with the number of people coming onto the streets, emphasising the need to at least maintain current funding levels".
7. The trigger for making an economic price adjustment will be if CPI has increased or decreased by more than 2% since the beginning of the contract, or since the last time there was a price adjustment (whichever is more recent). If CPI fluctuates by less than 2% since last time there was a price adjustment, then the prices will remain the same. The price adjustment will be linked to CPI, looking at CPI at the point of price evaluation, and then using this as a guide as to how to adjust the prices for the following 12 months until the next price evaluation. Increases in pricing will be capped at 5%.
8. The service has good outcomes and plays an integral operational role in connecting clients with different services, including specialist services to address needs around mental health, benefits, substance use, physical health, offending and domestic violence. In addition, the service manager plays an important strategic role in leadership of sector-wide approaches to reduce rough sleeping in the city.

**Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:**

**That Cabinet:**

1. Authorises the Executive Director Growth and Regeneration, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing Delivery and Homelessness to approve a two year extension for the Bristol Outreach Service from October 1st 2024 and (subject to service review) a further two year extension from 1st October 2026 with a maximum total budget envelope of up to £2,239,800 (subject to any annual uplift agreed that will be based on CPI and an appropriate Housing index) as outlined in this report.

**Corporate Strategy alignment:**

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

**City Benefits:**

1. In brief, the extension of the Bristol Street Outreach service will mean that people sleeping rough in the city have access to specialist engagement workers providing links to both accommodation and support services, as well as access to Severe Weather Emergency Protocol measures.

**Consultation Details:**

1. There was extensive consultation carried out for the Reducing Rough Sleeping Commissioning Plan published in January 2021.

**Background Documents:**

Ending rough sleeping for good: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ending-rough-sleeping-for-good>  
 Delivery Plan: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rough-sleeping-strategy-delivery-plan>  
 Bristol's Reducing Rough Sleeping Commissioning plan: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/council-and-mayor/policies-plans-and-strategies/housing/commissioning-homelessness-prevention-services>

<b>Revenue Cost</b>	£2,239,800	<b>Source of Revenue Funding</b>	Wraparound Service
<b>Capital Cost</b>	N.A	<b>Source of Capital Funding</b>	N.A.
<b>One off cost</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Ongoing cost</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Saving Proposal</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Income generation proposal</b> <input type="checkbox"/>

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

1. **Finance Advice:** This report seeks approval for the extension of the current contract for services with Bristol Street Outreach for a further four years from 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2028. The contract has a current

annual value of £559,950 so the initial total value over the four years will be £2,239,800.

The new contract extension will allow annual uplifts depending on inflationary movements as measured by CPI. If CPI is above 2% then the annual contract value would be uplifted by the CPI level. If CPI is 2% or below, then there would be no uplift in the annual value. It would make sense to review the CPI level in September and the September 2024 level would determine the uplift for the following year, in this case the first year. The most recent BOE inflation forecast places September 2024 CPI at between 2 and 2.75%. This would trigger an annual uplift in the first year of the contract of between £11,199 and £15,398. This will increase costs in 2024/25 and this will need to be absorbed within the overall Housing Options budget.

If CPI is higher then there would be a higher uplift. A September 2024 CPI of 4% would result in increased annual costs of £22,400. If CPI stayed at 4% throughout the life of the contract, then this would result in potential growth of £185,600 over the life of the contract. Any such increase would require budget growth bid accompanied by a robust business case before any contract extension should be awarded.

**Finance Business Partner:** Martin Johnson – Interim Finance Business Partner Housing & Landlord Services 19 February 2024

**2. Legal Advice:** The extensions being invoked are provided for in the contract and were previously approved by Cabinet. Legal Services will advise and assist in relation to the contractual arrangements for the extensions.

**Legal Team Leader:** Husinara Jones, Team Manager/Solicitor 12 February 2024

**3. Implications on IT:** I am comfortable that there is no implication on IT in regard to this report and its content.

**IT Team Leader:** Gavin Arbuckle 18 January 2023

**4. HR Advice:** There are no HR implications evident

**HR Partner:** Celia Williams – HR Business Partner, G&R 9 January 2024

<b>EDM Sign-off</b>	John Smith, Interim Executive Director Growth and Regeneration	24 January 2024
<b>Cabinet Member sign-off</b>	Councillor Tom Renhard	5 February 2024
<b>For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off</b>	Mayor's Office	5 February 2024

<b>Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix D – Risk assessment</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Appendix G – Financial Advice</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix H – Legal Advice</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix I – Exempt Information</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix J – HR advice</b>	<b>NO</b>

<b>Appendix K – ICT</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix L – Procurement</b>	<b>NO</b>