

9 December 2015

Environment & Housing Management Committee

Papworth Home Improvement Agency

Report of: *Ashley Culverwell, Head of Borough Health, Safety and Localism*

Wards Affected: *All*

This report is: *Public*

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Brentwood Borough Council works in partnership with Papworth Trust to provide a Home Improvement Agency service, giving assistance to elderly and vulnerable residents in obtaining adaptations for disabilities, small repairs, access to funding for housing repairs and other services.
- 1.2 Essex County Council undertook a procurement exercise in 2010 to determine the contractors to provide Home Improvement Agency (HIA) functions throughout the county, funded through Supporting People at Essex.
- 1.3 The original contracts issued by Essex were for a three year period, which has subsequently been extended by them until November 2015. Papworth Trust were awarded the HIA contract for the area covering Brentwood, Basildon Rochford and Castle Point districts.
- 1.4 Brentwood Borough Council entered into a service level agreement with Papworth Trust to provide local services to Brentwood residents, which was for the same time period as the initial contract with Essex.
- 1.5 Essex County Council are reviewing its existing contractual arrangements and has now further extended its contract with Papworth until March 2016 until it has made a decision.
- 1.6 Authority is therefore sought from this Committee to extend the existing SLA contract with Papworth until March 2016. Funding for this financial year has been budgeted for and there is financial provision for this further extension.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1 That Members agree to extend the time period for the service level agreement with Papworth to March 2016.

2.2 Officers are instructed to report back on the outcome of Essex County Council's procurement and the future provision of Home Improvement Agency services for the Borough.

3. Introduction and Background

3.1 Essex County Council undertook a procurement exercise in 2010/11 to determine the contractors to provide Home Improvement Agency (HIA) functions throughout Essex.

3.2 Members authorised officers to negotiate a suitable service level agreement with the HIA provider. Brentwood Borough Council subsequently entered into an agreement with Papworth Trust to provide local services to Brentwood residents, which have included providing advice and assistance for householders to obtain housing grants, gardening work and handy man small repairs.

3.3 The original contracts issued by Essex were for a two year period, which has subsequently been extended by them until the end of October 2015.

3.4 Our service level agreement with Papworth Trust has also been extended until this date.

3.5 Essex have now confirmed that they intend to further extend the contract until March 2016, when they intend to go out to tender.

3.6 Members are requested to consider further extending our contract with Papworth until March 2016 and to authorise officers to report back to Members on the outcome of the further procurement exercise.

4. Issue, Options and Analysis of Options

4.1 Brentwood Council is committed to protecting the needs of vulnerable residents of the community through the valuable services provided on behalf of the Council by Papworth Trust to enable independent living.

5. Reasons for Recommendation

5.1 To ensure continuity of services provided by the HIA in line with the Essex agreements.

6. Consultation

6.1 Not considered necessary at this stage.

7. References to Corporate Plan

- 7.1 Housing, Health and Wellbeing
We will support vulnerable homeowners and responsible landlords to improve housing conditions.

8. Implications

Financial Implications

Name & Title: Chris Leslie, Finance Director

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- 8.1 Funds allowing extension of the existing contract is budgeted for in 2015/16.

Legal Implications

Name & Title: Daniel Toohey, Head of Legal Services

Tel & Email: daniel.toohey@BDTlegal.org.uk

- 8.2 The Council entered in a grant funding agreement/SLA with the Papworth Trust dated 25th August 2011, which has subsequently been extended to 30 November 2015 by a deed of variation and extension dated 9 September 2015.
- 8.3 Delegated authority is required from Members to enable continuation of the existing agreement until March 2016.

Other Implications (where significant) – i.e. Health and Safety, Asset Management, Equality and Diversity, Risk Management, Section 17 – Crime & Disorder, Sustainability, ICT.

- 8.4 Equality and Diversity – access to services for all residents, particularly those most at need who may be elderly and/or disabled and need support to obtain assistance to maintain, repair or adapt their homes to enable them to continue to live independently.

9. Background Papers (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright)

- 9.1 Deed of Variation of SLA between Brentwood BC and Papworth.

10. Appendices to this report

Appendix A - Deed of Variation of SLA between Brentwood BC and Papworth.

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