

**73. Short Term Services for Homeless and Ex-Offender Accommodation and Floating Support (Homeless 25+ and Ex-Offenders 18+ Years of Age)**

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Director of Community Services and the Director of Finance and Legal Services, which sought approval to merge the Homeless and Ex-Offender contracts, scope potential shared contractual opportunities and procure the service via open and competitive tendering.

A corresponding private report detailing financially confidential aspects of the proposal was also submitted to this meeting (Minute 77 below refers).

The Cabinet noted that the Council currently commissioned twenty two separate services across Public Safety and Housing within the Community Services Directorate. These services provided supported accommodation and floating support for the homeless and ex-offenders. The services were commissioned in order to fulfil statutory obligations or were a requirement of City Wide partnership strategies to prevent and reduce instances of homelessness and re-offending.

The Council could continue to commission these services separately. However, this would lead to fragmented services for the individuals and inefficiencies in terms of contract management and service provision. The proposal to merge the contracts would provide a range of services which would respond to the complex needs of the individuals concerned.

Following consultation with providers, service users and examining existing needs analysis data some key high level principles had been established for the re-commissioning of the new Homelessness contract. There should be a single awarded contract rather than the 15 disparate, disjointed contracts that currently existed. Greater efficiencies and customer care would be created through a single assessment process, which would initially capture citizens' details once and should be added to as required. The single assessment process should ideally be administered through a single agreed, shared IT system. The re-commissioned homelessness services should more greatly complement the statutory duties of the Authority around homelessness.

**RESOLVED that, after due consideration of the options and proposals contained in the report and matters referred to at the meeting, the Cabinet recommend that Council:**

- (1) Combine contracted short term homeless and ex-offender services into one procurement process which enables better outcomes for the service users and improvements in operational allocation and value for money.**
- (2) Maintain funding at the current existing budget provision of £1,446,286 per annum for homelessness and to realise efficiencies from the existing budget of £518,612 for ex-offender contracts.**
- (3) Delegate to Cabinet member in consultation with Director of Community Services approval to consider and discharge the duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 following completion of the consultation and approve the specification for the procurement**