

RECORD OF DECISION MADE UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

SERVICE DIRECTORATE: REGULATORY

1. DECISION TAKEN

- 1.1 To enter into a one year contract with Beam Up Ltd for the provision of personalised support for those who are homeless locally, with the aim of assisting service users into private rented accommodation.

2. DECISION TAKER

- 2.1 Ian Fullstone, Service Director – Regulatory*

3. DATE DECISION TAKEN:

- 3.1 28 April 2023

4. REASON FOR DECISION

- 4.1 The Council receives annual Homelessness Prevention Grant (HPG) from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), which is ring-fenced for homelessness prevention and relief work.
- 4.2 Approval for the allocation of HPG funding received for 2022/23 was agreed at Cabinet's meeting of 31 January 2023. This included approval for the allocation of £80k to Beam Up Ltd (Beam) as part of a suite of measures to support and assist homeless people locally.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Beam's services have been procured via the government's G-Cloud framework of suppliers.

6. CONSULTATION (INCLUDING THE EFFECT ON STAKEHOLDERS, PARTNERS AND THE PUBLIC)

- 6.1 The Executive Member for Housing and Environmental Health, Cllr Sean Prendergast, has been consulted and is supportive of this decision.

7. FORWARD PLAN

- 7.1 This decision is a key Executive decision and was first notified to the public in the Forward Plan on 7 June 2022.

8. BACKGROUND/ RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 Beam is a social enterprise that supports individuals experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness, providing them with personalised wrap-around support to help them into private rented housing and employment. Many people face financial barriers to successfully securing accommodation and employment (such as funding a deposit, moving costs, travel costs, acquiring training etc) and Beam also aims to remove

such barriers through crowd funding campaigns for service users, which on average raise £2,500 per household.

- 8.2 Given the challenges in accessing the private rental market in North Herts, the Beam service will provide a valuable additional resource for local households facing homelessness. Beam has been contracted to provide a service in North Herts for an initial one year period, during which time up to 40 households will be able to join the Beam service. All households will be referred by the Council's Housing team and the initial focus will be on those currently in temporary accommodation, single homeless households and homeless clients who do not qualify for social housing.
- 8.3 The service will be reviewed at the one year point to determine whether there is a need for the service beyond this period.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Under the Contract Procurement Rules (11), the Council is not required to undertake a full tendering procedure if it is appropriate to call-off from an approved external Framework Agreement.
- 9.2 Services from Beam Up Ltd have been procured via call-off from the G-Cloud 13 Framework Agreement (Lot 2). This Agreement can be accessed by central government departments and all other public sector bodies, including local authorities. The call-off contract that the Council and Beam have entered into allows for the Council to extend the call-off contract by one period of up to 12 months, should it wish to.
- 9.3 The notification contained in this report follows on from Cabinet's decision on 31 January 2023 to approve the allocation of £80k of HPG to Beam.
- 9.4 The Contract Procurement Rules (7.13) require the publication of a decision notice for any contract with a value over £50,000.
- 9.5 The decision in this report meets the DLUHC requirements for use of the ring-fenced grant and is also consistent with the aims and objectives of the Housing Strategy (2019-2024) that has a specific focus on actions regarding the prevention and management of homelessness and rough sleeping.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The cost of the Beam service is £80,000 for one year, with the contract commencing on 30 March 2023.
- 10.2 The entirety of the funding has been provided by DLUHC and is ringfenced for use in the prevention and relief of homelessness.
- 10.3 There are no specific capital implications.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The Beam service provides a valuable additional housing option for local people facing homelessness. Without this option, there is a risk that clients will not be able to resolve their homelessness, resulting in negative outcomes for individuals as well as putting financial pressure on the Council, which faces continuing costs from having to accommodate clients in hotels due to lack of housing options locally.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

12.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

12.2 This scheme is designed to assist a specific client group – namely those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness - as dictated by the source of funding (HPG). The client group includes vulnerable individuals particularly those with support needs due to poor mental and physical health for example. Minority ethnic groups, LGBTQ+ individuals and young people are more likely to experience homelessness.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

13.1 The Social Value Act and “go local” policy do not apply to this decision.

14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

14.1. There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

15.1 There are no human resource implications.

16. BACKGROUND PAPERS

16.1 None.

17. APPENDICES

17.1 None.

NOTIFICATION DATE: 28 April 2023

*Notification of decision provided by Martin Lawrence, Strategic Housing Manager under delegated authority due to the absence of Ian Fullstone, Director of Regulatory Services

Please Note: that *unless urgency provisions apply* EXECUTIVE decisions cannot be implemented until 5 clear working days have elapsed after the decision has been taken to allow for scrutiny call-in.

Call-in does not apply to NON-EXECUTIVE DECISIONS