

## **RECORD OF DECISION MADE UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

### **\*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

Any interest to declare/ or conflict and any dispensation granted [*if applicable*]

### **SERVICE DIRECTORATE: CUSTOMERS**

#### **1. DECISION TAKEN**

- 1.1 To extend the Doro IP digital assistive technology equipment through the Northern Housing Consortium Framework Agreement- TECS Lot 1 D A - Dec 2020 by 12 months to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024

#### **2. DECISION TAKER**

- 2.1 Jo Dufficy, Service Director - Customers

#### **3. DATE DECISION TAKEN:**

- 3.1 06 September 2023

#### **4. REASON FOR DECISION**

- 4.1 Digital alarms are a core component of assistive technology and the service that Careline provides to support independent living. The market for digital IP alarms is still in its infancy with limited manufacturers involved in this market.
- 4.2 Doro Care has been the supplier of these devices under the Northern Housing Consortium Framework Agreement- TECS Lot 1 D A - Dec 2020. The existing framework agreement offers value for money whilst ensuring the widest catalogue of available products. When the original agreement was set-up, an option to extend the term for 12 months plus 12 months was included.

#### **5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 An open tender exercise was considered but discounted for the following reasons:
- There has been little movement in industry prices so it is unlikely that a financial benefit would be secured.
  - Significant supply issues are present within the industry and our present arrangement has proved resilient.
  - Extending the contract enables us to maintain the current portfolio of stock and avoids significant costs of early replacement of existing alarms.

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

- 6.1 The product range is currently part of the assistive technology offering and we are not proposing to change the options available.

- 6.2 Consultation has been carried out with the Executive Member and Deputy Executive Member for Community and Partnerships, Cllr Alistair Willoughby and Cllr Dominic Griffiths and with the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny, Cllr Adam Crompton.

## **7. FORWARD PLAN**

- 7.1 This decision is not a key Executive decision and has therefore not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

## **8. BACKGROUND / RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 The current framework agreement under which Doro Care equipment was purchased will come to an end in November 2023 and an option to extend for a further 12 months is available. We therefore need to procure this equipment via an extended contract under the current framework agreement.

- 8.2 NHDC are working with Hertfordshire County Council to update and digitise the service provision to meet the December 2025 analogue network switch off. This involves replacement of existing client's equipment which will require physical technology to be installed or replaced as part of the new arrangement. The contract with Northern Housing Consortium allows for the expected increase in stock with the digitised service.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 The Service Director – Customers has delegated authority to enter into contracts to carry out works and/or for the supply of goods and services within approved budgets as per section 14.6.4(a)(ii) of the Constitution.

- 9.2 The Contract Procurement Rules require the publication of a Decision Notice for any contract with a value of above £100,000.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 The cost of the one-year extension is expected to be £50,000.

- 10.2 The expenditure is on behalf of Hertfordshire County Council who have delegated their authority to NHDC to provide assistive technology equipment to Hertfordshire residents. NHDC will draw down the funding through the existing Section 9EA agreement to purchase the equipment.

- 10.3 The overall contract value has been calculated at £1.8m to take into account the increase in client base as a result of the expanded service and digitisation. The majority of costs associated with this will be underwritten by HCC through the Section 9EA, any residual will be funded through the maintenance element of self-funded clients service charge.

## **11. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 Failure to procure a supplier of digital Assistive Technology equipment would put in jeopardy the supply of service to vulnerable residents within Hertfordshire, due to the change of the telecommunications network from analogue to digital. The Council also has to ensure sufficient supplies due to known chip shortages that can result in supply issues.

## **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 The service provides support to vulnerable elderly and disabled residents of Hertfordshire.

12.3 There are no other equalities implications.

### 13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

13.1 The framework Selection Questionnaire during the tender process did include questionnaires on use of apprenticeships for contracts over a certain threshold as well as ensuring compliance with the modern slavery act, but at that time did not go further than that.

### 14. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

14.1 None

### 15. BACKGROUND PAPERS

15.1 None

### 16. NOTIFICATION DATE 15/09/2023

#### Signature of Executive Member Consulted:

Cllr Alistair Willoughby Executive Member for Community and Partnerships.



Date 06/09/23

#### Signature of Decision Taker



**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**