

Cabinet	
Meeting Date	11 July 2018
Report Title	Staying Put Contractor Framework Agreement
Cabinet Member	Cllr Alan Horton, Cabinet Member for Housing and Safer Communities
SMT Lead	Emma Wiggins
Head of Service	Amber Christou
Lead Officer	Rebecca Walker, Strategic Housing & Health Manager
Key Decision	Yes
Classification	Open
Recommendations	1. To approve the extension of the existing Staying Put Contract Framework Agreement for a period of two years from 1 October 2018 until 30 September 2020.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 During the Contractor Framework procurement process undertaken in 2014, the Framework Agreement was presented as a three year contract with a two year extension subject to funding and contract performance.
- 1.2 This report seeks approval to extend the existing Staying Put Contractor Framework Agreement for a period of two years from 1 October 2018 until 30 September 2020.

2 Background

- 1.3 Staying Put is the Council's Home Improvement Agency (HIA) that provides adaptations and repairs within the homes of elderly and vulnerable residents. The service manages a Contractor Framework for the delivery of works funded primarily through Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) which now consists of 10 contractors who complete works across three areas:
- DFG physical adaptation works;
 - Hospital discharge works; and
 - Home repairs.
- 1.4 The Staying Put Contractor Framework was one of the first Frameworks that the Council undertook that includes local suppliers providing the works. The Framework expires on the 30 September 2018, and therefore requires an extension for a further 2 years subject to Cabinet approval.
- 1.5 The contracted builders have expressed a desire to continue to provide services under the existing Framework, are committed to partnership working with the

Staying Put Service, and due to the procurement exercise they went through in 2014 are expecting the procurement to carry on a further 2 year period.

- 1.6 Funding for works under the Contractor Framework is secured through Swale's Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG). DFG's can be used for home adaptations, home repair works and to enable hospital discharges. This is approved within the recently revised Housing Assistance Policy.
- 1.7 Having to retender the Staying Put Contractors Framework at this late stage does not provide enough time to complete the process effectively and would therefore likely cause disruption and delays to DFG applications currently going through the assessment process, and also to cases awaiting agreed works to commence. Therefore, a two year contract extension will provide certainty to Staying Put customers and benefit the Building Contractors by providing a further period of trusted and continuous working relationships with the Staying Put Team.
- 1.8 New documentation will need to be prepared in advance to commence a further Framework Procurement exercise in 2020, for award to be secured from the 1 October 2020.

3 Proposal

- 1.9 To approve the extension of the existing Staying Put Contractors Framework for a period of two years from 1 October 2018 until 30 September 2020.

4 Alternative Options

- 1.10 The Council could decide not to accept the extension of the contract for a further two years, and opt to re-tender the Framework Agreement. This is not recommended at the current time, as it is not likely to result in beneficial changes to the Staying Service, and may jeopardise current existing working relationships with Building Contractors who are expecting the contract to continue for further two years and who are currently delivering works for elderly and vulnerable clients in Swale.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 1.11 None required.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	A Borough to be Proud of The provision of works enables residents to remain safely within their homes. A Community to be Proud of Partnership working with the Building Contractors provides a

	reliable and consistent service to meet the needs of those requiring adaptations or works to enable them to be discharged from hospital in a timely fashion.
Financial, Resource and Property	Works undertaken as part of the Contractor Framework Agreement are provided under the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG). Original Contract Value (2014): £1,075,000 Current Contract Value (2018): £1,806,260
Legal and Statutory	The finalised Staying put Contractor Framework was set up to enable the existing Agreement to be extended for a two year period. Retendering will then be required prior to October 2020.
Crime and Disorder	None
Environmental Sustainability	None
Health and Wellbeing	Staying Put works carried out under the Contractor Framework has a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of elderly, vulnerable and disabled residents across Swale. Works provide adaptations and home improvements that make homes safer and ensure residents are able to remain living in their own homes for longer rather than staying in hospital or moving into residential care.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	The risk level within this proposal is unchanged from the current Framework Agreement. The management of financial and operational risks, including health and safety have been considered. Successful Contractors must comply with minimum health and safety standards and adhere to the Council's Health and Safety policy. Responsibility for health and safety of contractors will remain with the contractor organisation.
Equality and Diversity	There are no changes from the current arrangements. The existing Contractors Framework actively supports elderly, vulnerable and disabled residents within Swale, by enabling them to live in their own homes for longer. As part of the original procurement exercise, each contractor had to demonstrate their commitment to comply with the Equalities Act 2010. The two year variation proposal to extend this Framework does not include any change in the level of service provision to residents with particular protected characteristics (age, disability).
Privacy and Data Protection	Information from customers is held on the Foundations database. All personal information held as part of the DFG application

	process or Staying Put casework is protected from unauthorised access or disclosure as per council policy.
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7 Appendices

None

8 Background Papers

None