

URGENCY ITEM - MINUTE OF DECISION

Delegation arrangements for dealing with matters of urgency

Paragraph 7.2.1 of the Council's Constitution provides that Chief Officers may take urgent decisions if they are of the opinion that circumstances exist which make it necessary for action to be taken by the Council prior to the time when such action could be approved through normal Council Procedures. They shall, where practicable, first consult with the Leader and Chairman (or in their absence the Vice-Chairman) and the Opposition Spokesperson of the appropriate committee.

Subject: NEWARK AND SHERWOOD HOMES – WORK FOR THIRD PARTY

Appropriate Committee: **Policy & Finance Committee**

1.0 Details of Item

- 1.1 Newark and Sherwood Homes Limited's Articles of Association permits the Company to provide services to a third party subject to the Council's consent (Article 4.8).
- 1.2 A request has been received from Newark and Sherwood Homes for the Council's consent for the Company to submit a tender to provide the Handyperson and Adaptation Service (HPAS) in Nottinghamshire. The Nottinghamshire Handyperson and Adaptations Service (HPAS) is a Nottinghamshire County Council service that provides the help and support people need to keep safe and secure in their home at low cost but high quality essential adaptations and small practical jobs.
- 1.3 The HPAS service provides handy person and minor adaptation services to customers regardless of tenure across Nottinghamshire. Due to its nature the service therefore aligns with the services delivered by the Company as part of its management agreement with the Council and in particular the responsive repairs service which undertakes minor repairs and adaptations of a similar nature to that of the scheme for Tenants.
- 1.4 Newark and Sherwood Homes intention is to bid for 2 lots - Newark and Bassetlaw. The length of each contract is an initial term of one year with the option to extend for up to three years in increments of up to 12 months. The Company considers that utilising its experience and capacity in the delivery of works of the nature of the HPAS scheme will assist it in maximising the potential income generation from this opportunity.
- 1.5 The Company has set out its case for bidding for the HPAS work in the document attached to this decision as **Appendix A**. This document sets out the benefits of delivering this contract as:
- i. Contribution to delivery of the Council's Strategic Objectives in relation to Homes, The Economy and Healthiness;

- ii. Supporting the Council in discharging its duties under the Homelessness Reduction Act through providing support to vulnerable people;
- iii. Delivery of housing maintenance services to vulnerable people in Nottinghamshire in line with the Company's growth strategy and the Council's ambitions for the Company to innovate and generate income;
- iv. Delivery of the service to residents of the District by a qualified and reliable organisation;
- v. Filling the gap in the market due to local contractors (to Newark) proving challenging to secure and the scheme therefore not realising the desired outputs and outcomes; and
- vi. Provision of a value for money service through which the impact of the public funds aligned to the HPAS scheme can be maximised.

Record of Decision:

The ability of the Company to be successful in attaining a contract of the relatively small scale and nature of the HPAS contract is considered to be valuable in testing the ability of the Company to provide services to third parties outside the current management agreement with the Council with minimal risk. This evidence could support future bids, where appropriate and approved by the Council, and increase the Company's ability to generate additional income. Therefore, consent is given to Newark and Sherwood Homes Limited tendering for the HPAS work in Newark and Sherwood and Bassetlaw.

Members Consulted:

Councillor Roger Blaney
Councillor David Staples
Councillor Bruce Laughton

Reason for Urgency Decision:

The deadline for tenders to be submitted for the work to Nottinghamshire County Council is 15 January 2018, which is before the next Policy and Finance Committee on 25 January.

Signed

Karen White

Date 10 January 2018