

**Agenda Item (7h)**

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**6 MAY 2014**

**REPORT OF THE ACTING STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF ADULT CARE**

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF STAIRLIFTS AND  
OTHER PROPERTY ADAPTATIONS**

**ADULT CARE**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

To seek approval to renew the Council's membership of the Northern Housing Consortium (NHC) to permit the Council to use the NHC Framework Agreement for the provision of stair lifts and other property adaptations.

**2. Information and Analysis**

**2.1 Background**

In 2006 Adult Care procured a contract for the provision of stair-lifts through membership of the Northern Housing Consortium Framework Agreement. The Consortium tender was on behalf of a number of Local Authorities and established contracts for the provision of a variety of specialist equipment and services. The purchase of stairlifts by the Council by the Framework Agreement has proved to be very successful and it is now proposed that the Council renew its membership of the consortium which will allow it to use the new NHC Framework to purchase other equipment in addition to stairlifts. The Framework Agreement with NCH presents additional opportunities to the Council, as it also encompasses a wide range of other property adaptations, including, moving and handling adaptations, hoists and lifting equipment, bathroom and kitchen adaptations and assisted living technology – which would be available to the Council at no further cost. Being able to purchase other equipment in addition to stair lifts will be of added benefit to the Council as it will simplify the procurement process.

The current NHC contract will end on 30 June 2014 and the intention is that Adult Care procures the future provision of stair-lifts and other property adaptations via the new NHC Framework.

## 2.2 Using the NHC Framework Agreement

NHC undertake the tendering and technical monitoring process on behalf of all Local Authorities who are members of the NHC. This provides a cost effective and robust alternative to the Council undertaking a separate procurement exercise.

The Framework Agreement has been procured by NHC for a period of 4 years, commencing on 1 July 2014. Contracts with the successful provider are managed jointly by the Commissioner (Derbyshire Adult Care) and NHC. Equipment will be purchased via a single supplier who won the NCH framework as the top ranked, most economically advantageous provider.

## 2.3 Information on performance

NHC have provided an excellent contractor for the provision of stair lifts in Derbyshire. The Council is able to specify what is required within the contract and what monitoring and performance measures are required. Feedback from customers and staff has been very positive.

The Adult Care Contracts team hold quarterly contract monitoring meetings with the stairlift contractors representatives and annual meetings with NHC.

Experience of NHC and the current approved provider's efficiency represent best value for the funding parties (DFG, the Council and clients), service delivery and client satisfaction.

## 3. Financial Considerations

During the financial year 2012-2013, Derbyshire Adult Care spent £400,700 on behalf of the District and Borough Councils and clients, for the provision of stair lifts for 168 clients. It is anticipated that a similar amount of expenditure will be incurred through the procurement of stair-lifts via the NHC framework in 2014/15. The amount the Council spent on other lifting equipment ie through floor lifts and ceiling track hoists during financial year 2012-2013 was £415,000 and again it is anticipated that a similar amount will be incurred during 2014/15. It should be noted that the total expenditure will include DFG and client's assessed contributions (both of which are recouped from the Borough or District Council and client respectively).

The amount of DFG and client contribution varies but the Council contribution is likely to be similar to that of 2012-13.

Membership of the NHC will cost the Council £1,200 per annum. This represents best value for money based on the cost of the contract, and the

cost of the Council undertaking the tender and quality monitoring processes itself.

**4. Legal Considerations**

The Council's Membership of NHC will enable it to use the framework procured by NHC for stairlifts and other property adaptations. NHC has procured the framework in accordance with European Procurement Regulations. The framework commences on 1 July 2014 and will run for a period of 4 years.

**5. Other Considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, environmental human resources, health, property and transport considerations.

**6. Key Decision**

Yes.

**7. Call-in**

Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

**8. OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

That approval is given to renewing membership of NHC for a period of 4 years from 1 July 2014 to allow Adult Care to use the Framework for the provision of stairlifts and other property adaptations.

**MARY McELVANEY  
ACTING STRATEGIC DIRECTOR – ADULT CARE  
COUNTY HALL  
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