

Officer Non Key Executive Decision

Relevant Chief Officer (Decision Maker):	Antony Lockley, Director of Strategy and Assistant Chief Executive
Relevant Cabinet Member (for consultation purposes):	Councillor Gillian Campbell, Cabinet Member for Inclusion, Youth, Schools and Transience
Report Author (Officer name and title):	Paul Mullane, Corporate Procurement and Projects Officer
Implementation Date of Decision:	22 November 2022

Contract for the Provision of a Staffing Service for the Temporary Bed Unit

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To seek to approve Blackpool and The Fylde Street Angels as the supplier of a Staffing Service for a Temporary Bed Unit, following the completion of an open tendering exercise.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To approve Blackpool and The Fylde Street Angels of 28-30 Cookson Street, Blackpool, FY1 3EF as the supplier of Staffing Service for a Temporary Bed Unit.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 An open tender exercise was carried out in order to select the most suitable supplier.

Submissions were received from:
Blackpool & the Fylde Street Angels;
Carers in Mind Ltd;
Insparise Ltd;
Lifeline Carers.

Blackpool and The Fylde Street Angels provided the most economically advantageous tender (based on a combination of price, quality and social value) and it is therefore, our intention to enter into a formal agreement with them.

This submission was evaluated by a panel consisting of representatives from the Council's Housing Options Department, and moderated by members of the Council's

Procurement Team

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is: "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience"

5.0 Background Information

5.1 The Council, through Housing Options, has legislative responsibilities toward homeless people (under the Housing Act 1996, as amended), which includes certain duties and powers to provide emergency accommodation.

5.2 Last year (2021/22) Blackpool Housing Options provided emergency accommodation to over 400 single homeless people.

5.3 As a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic, there has been a move away from single night provision for emergency accommodation and a recommendation that units have en-suite bathroom facilities (which the TBU benefits from).

5.4 As part of the Council's Housing Strategy and commitment to the Government's Rough Sleepers Initiative in bringing an end to rough sleeping, Blackpool Council is committed to maintaining low numbers of rough sleepers and preventing repeat pattern homelessness.

5.5 In order to contribute to the solution to this problem Blackpool Council operates a 9 bed Temporary Bed Unit (TBU), located above its Housing Options Offices on Chapel Street, Blackpool.

5.6 The purpose of this unit is to provide single people and couples without children who are homeless short term emergency accommodation while longer-term solutions can be found.

5.7 Access to the TBU offers an opportunity to provide a stabilising environment which will allow other specialist services (including Horizons, Mental Health Services, Lived Experience Team) to work with Service Users.

5.8 The TBU was first developed as a night shelter in December 2019, which was temporary funded pilot with Street Angels. The unit unfortunately had to close in March 2020 due to covid restrictions; but it re-opened shortly after as a covid compliant 24 hour unit, and played a significant role in the Council's response to "Everyone In".

5.9 Once the covid restrictions were removed a second pilot was funded to test the model as a 24 hour provision. Due to the success of the provision, and also in line with latest government guidance, a full procurement exercise has now been undertaken to put the unit on a longer term footing.

5.10 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.11 **List of Appendices:**

None.

6.0 **Legal considerations:**

6.1 The process was undertaken in line with Public Contract Regulations 2015 and is in line with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. Authority has been sought from the Head of Procurement. The Council will enter into a contract with Blackpool & The Fylde Street Angels.

7.0 **Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 **None.**

8.0 **Equalities considerations:**

8.1 In the course of developing this procurement and resulting contract award, we have considered whether there could be unintended adverse impacts on people because of shared characteristics protected by the Equality Act.

9.0 **Financial considerations:**

9.1 Service is paid for from rents accumulated, and has Finance approval

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 Risk of not maintaining the service would be an increase in rough sleeping / homelessness, and/or additional cost pressures in sourcing other forms of accommodation.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 The supplier has already signed Blackpool Council's Supplier Charter

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 The submissions were evaluated by a panel consisting of representatives from the Council's Housing Options Department, and moderated by members of the Council's Procurement Team

The Head of Procurement has remained informed throughout the process.

13.0 Decision of Chief Officer

13.1 To approve Blackpool and The Fylde Street Angels of 28-30 Cookson Street, Blackpool, FY1 3EF as the supplier of Staffing Service for a Temporary Bed Unit.

14.0 Reasons for the Decision of the Chief Officer

14.1 Blackpool and The Fylde Street Angels provided the most economically advantageous tender, which also fully met the requirements of the service.

An open tender process was conducted. Blackpool and the Fylde Street Angels was most economically advantageous tender.