

Officer Non Key Executive Decision

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| Relevant Chief Officer (Decision Maker): | Antony Lockley, Director of Strategy |
| Relevant Cabinet Member (for consultation purposes): | Councillor Jo Farrell, Cabinet Member for Adult Services, and Community Health and Wellbeing |
| Report Author (Officer name and title): | Kylie Molyneux Corporate Procurement and Projects Officer |
| Implementation Date of Decision: | 6 March 2023 |

HDRC Community Co-Researchers

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To confirm the outcome of the recent tender exercise undertaken for the Provision of HDRC Community Co-Researchers:

Lot 1: Adults

Lot 2: Young People

2.0 Recommendation

To approve the appointment of the following 2 providers:

Lot 1: Adults – Empowerment Charity

Lot 2: Young People – BoingBoing Foundation

To approve the Procurement department with the support of Legal Services to draw up an Agreement with the successful applicants.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation:

3.1 A formal tendering exercise was undertaken between January and February 2023. Evaluation activity was undertaken w/c 6th February 2023 and concluded 21st February 2023, involving officers from the HDRC Programme and Procurement teams.

Overall 5 providers submitted a bid:

Lot 1: Adults

Blackpool Citizens Advice Bureau (Blackpool)
Empowerment (Blackpool)
Young Harry (Nottingham)

Lot 2: Young People

Beatfreaks (Birmingham)
Blackpool Citizens Advice Bureau (Blackpool)
BoingBoing Foundation (Brighton)
Empowerment (Blackpool)
Young Harry (Nottingham)

The providers noted in 2.0 above provided the evaluation panel with the greatest confidence of understanding the needs of the contract. These providers provided the most economically advantageous tenders (based on a combination of quality, price and social value) and it is therefore our intention to enter into a formal agreement with them.

3.2

Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council?

No

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

Yes

Other alternative options to be considered: N/A

4.0

Council Priority:

The relevant Council Priorities are

- "The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool"
- "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience"

5.0 Background Information

5.1

Blackpool Council is looking to appoint a provider to recruit, induct, support and manage 10 adult and 10 youth Community Co-researchers. The Community Co-researchers (CCR's) will be part of the newly funded National Institute of Health Research's (NIHR) Health Determinants Research Collaboration (HDRC) team, hosted by Blackpool Council.

For further information please see the following for a link to the NIHR (the funding body): [£50 million awarded to local government to tackle interventions for health inequalities through research | NIHR](#)

The team will support Blackpool Council and its partners to become more research active, utilising research and learning to inform decision making about services and systems that impact on the community's health and wellbeing.

The key objectives of the HDRC will be:

- To work in equal partnership with our local citizens and communities
- Use an asset-based approach to research capacity development
- Strengthen council processes to support research delivery
- Build a strong collaborative partnership
- Work within our Placed Based Partnership to identify priorities
- Disseminate our learning with others

In the initial years of the HDRC, activity will be aligned to the following priorities – housing; the first 1001 days of life; education, employment and skills; and mental health; with healthy lifestyles being a golden thread that runs throughout.

The provider will be a key HDRC partner, working collaboratively to ensure the CCR's are available to support all aspects of the work of the team. The CCR's will be employed strictly for their lived experience of health inequalities, be trained and supported to enable a meaningful role in the team and given the choice of voluntary or paid part time employment.

5.2 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 The tender process has been undertaken in line with Public Contract Regulations 2015 and is in line with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 The Tender activity required consultants to outline their policies as an employer, to comply with the statutory obligations under the key legislative equality acts including but not limited to those listed below:

- Equality Act 2010
- Human Rights Act 1998

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 Any activity procured will be the responsibility of the relevant Council team whom would fund the support through existing budgets or through any government grant funding sourced.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 All contractors will sign the Council's Supplier Charter which includes a commitment to consider how they can make a positive contribution to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of Blackpool in order to help achieve the Council's priorities.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 Key internal stakeholder were engaged on the evaluation panel.

13.0 Decision of Chief Officer

13.1 To approve the appointment of the following 2 providers for the above services.

Lot 1: Adults – Empowerment Charity

Lot 2: Young People – BoingBoing Foundation

14.0 Reasons for the Decision of the Chief Officer

14.1 The 2 providers bids received demonstrated the ability to deliver the required competencies in line with the Council's requirements as detailed in the service specification.