

Decision of: Corporate Director of Adult Social Care
Date of Decision: 1 October 2024
Publication: Open
Council Priority: Greener, Healthier / A Safe Place to Cal Home
Wards: All
Responsible Officer: Jodi Pilling
Report No. 2324-0400

Subject: Procurement Strategy for Housing Related Floating Support Services

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 To approve the procurement strategy for a Housing Related Floating Support Service for a short-term, nine-month contract from 1 July 2025. The contract will have an option to extend for up to twelve months to a maximum end date of 31 March 2027.
- 1.2 Authority to award the contract is delegated to the Corporate Director of Adult Social Care.

2. Report summary

- 2.1 This report seeks pre-tender approval for the procurement of a Housing Related Floating Support Service for nine months, with an option to extend for up to 12 months.
- 2.2 The short-term contract will ensure a continuation of the service beyond the current contract expiration of 30 June 2025. During this time, the council will develop its Housing Related Support Commissioning Intentions, as an action arising from the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy, which is currently in draft. The short-term contract will also facilitate the alignment of the contract dates for the Housing Related Floating Support service with the procurement of the provision of

Supported Housing for those with Multiple Needs. This will allow for a strategic integrated approach from April 2026.

3. Details of the proposal

3.1 Description of the Proposal

- 3.1.1 To enhance the strategic approach to meeting the Housing Related Support (HRS) needs of residents in Islington, the council will develop its Commissioning Intentions, as an action arising from the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy, which is currently in draft. The Commissioning Intentions will focus on the unique needs of individuals who have experienced multiple disadvantage, which impacts on their ability to maintain stable housing. By addressing these needs through a system-wide approach, we aim to improve the quality of life for individuals experiencing multiple disadvantage and support the aim to reduce homelessness in Islington. The Commissioning Intentions are intended to inform the approach to commissioning floating support services from April 2026 onwards.
- 3.1.2 In the meantime, this short-term Housing Related Floating Support contract will enable the continuation of a floating support service from the end of the current contract on 30 June 2025. The initial duration of the contract is nine months, and the maximum length of the contract is 21 months, if the option to extend for up to 12 months is utilised.
- 3.1.3 Engagement with stakeholders as part of the development of the HRS Commissioning Intentions report is planned for early Autumn 2024. This will also be an opportunity to engage with the provider market on the short-term Housing Related Floating Support contract opportunity.

3.2 Relevant Background

- 3.2.1 The council has a contract with Single Homeless Project (SHP) to provide the MDT Floating Support Service from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025. The service is jointly funded by Adult Social Care (ASC) and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). It is intended to rename this service to 'Housing Related Floating Support' under the new contract, to better reflect service delivery and objectives.
- 3.2.2 Within the current contract are three service elements:
- MDT Floating Support (including multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) and justice link)
 - Hospital Discharge
 - Housing First
- 3.2.3 To enable separate decision making, encourage provider competition and achieve better alignment with funding sources, the MDT floating support and hospital discharge contractual arrangements are to be separated from the Housing First service from 1 July 2025.

- 3.2.4 A report setting out the procurement options for the Housing First service will be subject to separate governance processes.
- 3.2.5 Islington Council currently commissions floating support separately from Supported Housing for residents with Multiple Needs. These services are part of a range of services available in Islington to support people to live as independently as possible in the community, including commissioned services, voluntary and community sector services and universal services directly provided by the Council.
- 3.2.6 In line with recommended guidance and good practice, decisions about the re-commissioning of floating support should consider the balance between accommodation-based and floating support services as part of a strategic approach to effectively meeting needs and achieving strategic outcomes¹.
- 3.2.7 There are likely to be significant advantages in taking a more strategic approach to this area of service delivery, as informed by the HRS Commissioning Intentions, in order to improve outcomes for individuals, value for money for the council and an opportunity to explore alignment with the wider voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector (VCFSE) offer as part of this review.

3.3 Legislative and local policy context

- 3.3.1 Islington Together 2030 sets out the plan for a more equal Islington, to ensure residents have a safe, decent place to call home and to enable residents who need extra support to access the right support for them at the right time and in the right place. Floating support helps achieve these ambitions by intervening early to provide vulnerable adults with the support they need to maintain their tenancy and continue living as independently as possible in the community.
- 3.3.2 The Care Act (2014) places an individual's wellbeing at the heart of care and support. The Care Act recognises the importance of housing in supporting the health and wellbeing of individuals. Supporting residents to have access to housing includes offering services such as hospital discharge and floating support, as these help people to return to and sustain their tenancies, and prevent, reduce, or delay an adult social care need.
- 3.3.3 The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, places duties on housing authorities to intervene earlier to prevent homelessness and to take reasonable steps to relieve homelessness.
- 3.3.4 The MDT floating support service plays an essential role in preventing homelessness in Islington. Support is targeted at residents who are most at risk of losing their tenancies, with issues being resolved and support ending within 12 months. The hospital discharge elements of the service support and enables people to be discharged from hospital back to their independent tenancy.

¹ [Research into the effectiveness of floating support services for the Supporting People programme Final Report](#)

- 3.3.5 Key priorities in Islington Council's Housing Strategy (2021 – 2029) include supporting residents to live well in their homes, preventing homelessness and supporting rough sleepers. Islington's draft Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024, which has recently been out to consultation, prioritises early and tailored intervention, helping rough sleepers into settled accommodation, improving housing options and providing accommodation and resettlement services to refugees and migrants. Maintaining a robust floating support offer in the borough will contribute to achieving these priorities
- 3.3.6 Islington Adult Social Care's vision is for Islington to be a place made up of strong, inclusive, and connected communities, where regardless of background, people have fair and equal access to adult social care support that enables residents to live healthy, fulfilling, and independent lives.
- 3.3.7 The floating support service will align with Adult Social Care's principles by taking a strength-based approach towards the delivery of support, ensuring residents are empowered to have as much choice and independence as possible. All support and interventions will be made based on what is important to the person and building on their abilities, knowledge, skills, experience, and social networks, and connecting them to their local.
- 3.3.8 Housing Related Floating Support is considered a 'core plus service' if available to Council tenants and therefore appropriate to be charged to the HRA in part or in full. These functions are provided as ancillary to the primary purpose of housing which may have wider benefit to the overall community, including supporting people services, tenancy support and contributions to corporate anti-social behaviour services.

3.4 Service context

- 3.4.1 The review of current floating support services showed that they deliver positive outcomes for residents, council staff and partners.
- 3.4.2 Contract monitoring information evidences that the primary support needs of the residents accessing floating support in Q4 23/24 were:
- Support to move from housing that is not suitable for the resident (303)
 - Support to make housing applications (255),
 - Income maximisation (211)
- 3.4.3 There is significant overlap between the offender, substance misusing and homeless populations. For example, two thirds of people using homeless services are also either in the criminal justice system or in drug treatment in the same year. Many of the residents accessing the floating support service have a combination of mental health needs (40%), offending history (10%) and drug and alcohol misuse problems (9%). The benefit of commissioning a specialist floating support service is enabling residents to live independently in the community with access to the appropriate support to manage this complexity of need.
- 3.4.4 Floating support services help people to gain independence, sustain a tenancy, and access services such as mental health or drug and alcohol support. Crucially, floating

support can prevent people from returning to rough sleeping once they have begun to build a life away from the street.

3.4.5 At any one time around 10-15% of residents accessing the service are given support to prevent eviction. As a result, no residents accessing floating support were evicted during 2023/24.

3.5 New Floating Support Model

3.5.1 The short-term Housing Related Floating Support contract will enable the continuation of a floating support service from the end of the current contract on 30 June 2025, until 31 March 2026.

3.5.2 Universal services and generic housing support services are available to residents in Islington when their situations are not urgent, and their longer-term needs are understood.

3.5.3 In light of the alternative support provision available in Islington to meet these longer-term needs, the new Housing Related Floating Support service will predominately focus on stabilising residents in housing crisis. There will be a shift from longer term support to a focus on crisis intervention for 60% of those accessing support.

3.5.4 The vision for the new service is to intervene early through the provision of short-term support to help prevent housing crisis. It is also recognised that further improvements can be made by working across the council to ensure support is focused on the most vulnerable residents and reducing duplication in the system.

3.5.5 The current service supports a maximum of 400 residents at any one time, this will reduce to 275 in the new support model, however, the total number of people supported per year will remain similar to the current contract. Modelling of the new service indicates that a change of focus towards short-term tenancy crisis intervention for the most vulnerable residents who are less able to access universal services will still enable approximately 788 residents to access floating support each year. This total capacity is comparable to the current contract.

3.5.6 It is proposed that the new total annual contract value is reduced from £1,002,970.70 to £667,681. This will be achieved by reducing the maximum numbers of residents being supported by the service at any one time and a shift from longer term to support to a focus on crisis intervention.

3.5.7 It is intended to retain a co-located offer in LBI tenancy services to support partnership working and rapid identification of residents who would benefit from a more intensive offer.

Indicative modelling of Housing related Floating Support Service Maximum Caseload

Level of intervention	% of case work	Max period (months)	Case numbers	Casework hours per week	Total caseload per annum
Crisis	60.0%	3	165	1.0	495
Resettlement & Pre-Tenancy	10.0%	3	28	1.5	73
Complex	30.0%	12	83	1.5	220
Total	788				

3.6. Ongoing availability of funding

- 3.6.1 The Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP) and the Rough Sleepers Initiative (RSI) projects commissioned by LBI's Housing department are due to end at the end of March 2025. It is unclear what funding LBI will continue to receive after this date. The RSI programme in Islington receives approximately £1.9m per annum funding for services to enable homeless people to access the private sector, outreach, in-reach services, and emergency accommodation to support street homeless people. The RSAP gives approximately £608,258 of funding for an Intensive Housing Management Service directly provided by the Council.
- 3.6.2 The impact of the potential loss of this funding has not been assessed and it could have a significant adverse impact on those with complex needs in Islington and require a reconfiguration of commissioned services to meet any residual unmet needs.
- 3.6.3 An interrogation of current floating support service data has identified some areas of duplication with the internal housing support offer available to Council tenants. In light of this, the new contract will have more robustly defined service eligibility criteria, ensuring that the specialist offer is available to Council tenants who have the most complex needs and multiple vulnerabilities.

4 Other options considered and the reasons for recommending this proposal

Options	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations
<p>Option 1 Re-procure the service with a refocused service specification on a short-term contract (9 + 12 months).</p> <p>Annual value of £667,681 Total maximum value for 21 months of £1,168,441.75</p> <p>Recommended</p>	<p>Allows time for further clarity around the future of Rough Sleepers Initiative (RSI) and SHAP funded services.</p> <p>Opportunity to commission floating support as part of the supported housing pathway for those with complex and multiple needs for new contracts to start 1 April 2026. Strategic alignment of the services provides value for money and an opportunity to deliver early and targeted support to people, preventing escalation of issues.</p> <p>Opportunity to deliver savings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To ASC: £88,779.25 (£50,731 annually) - To the HRA: £497,976.50 (£284,558 annually) <p>Savings to be delivered through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trialling a new service model aimed at increasing throughput by focusing on 	<p>Short term contract may not be attractive to providers, or may trigger high cost bids.</p> <p>High TUPE costs may limit the ability for the market to produce a competitive bid.</p>	<p>Allocating a 40% price criteria to mitigate risks of high cost bids.</p> <p>Market engagement to advise providers of opportunities to tender for the new service starting April 26 as part of the supported housing re-procurement.</p> <p>A phased approach will be taken to the reduction of numbers of people accessing the service at any one time from 400 to 275, whilst increasing throughput, to ensure there is no impact on existing users.</p>

Options	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations
	<p>tenancy / housing crisis intervention support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reducing the maximum number of people being supported at any one time and the length of time in the service. - Exploring service eligibility criteria and maximising use of universal services already available and so reducing duplication of other services available in the borough <p>Sufficient time to work collaboratively across Housing and Adult Social Care and the wider council to evaluate any elements of the service which could be redesigned to generate efficiencies and reduce duplication with other offers.</p>		<p>Work with the provider to triage the waiting list to ensure cases are prioritised and people are not left at risk. Where appropriate, referrals will be made to universal services, hubs, housing support advisors and the wellbeing service.</p>
<p>Option 2</p> <p>Extend the contract with the current provider until 31 March 2026 for the Floating Support and hospital discharge elements only.</p> <p>Maximum value of the extension period if current value maintained: £752,227.50</p>	<p>Allows time for further clarity around the future of RSI and SHAP funded services.</p> <p>Opportunity to commission floating support as part of the supported housing pathway for those with complex and multiple needs for new contracts to start 1 April 2026. Strategic alignment of the services provides value for money and an opportunity to deliver early and targeted support to people, preventing escalation of issues.</p>	<p>This approach is not advised by legal or procurement colleagues:</p> <p>This modification would exceed the limits permitted by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.</p> <p>Risk of challenge from the market due to the nine-month contract extension not following a competitive tendering process.</p>	<p>Publish a transparency notice of the intention to extend the contract.</p> <p>Market engagement to advise providers of opportunities to tender for the new service starting April 2026 as part of the supported housing re-procurement.</p>

Options	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations
Not recommended	Sufficient time to work collaboratively across Housing and Adult Social Care and the wider council to evaluate any elements of the service which could be redesigned to generate efficiencies and reduce duplication with other offers.	No further savings at this point in time.	
<p>Option 3</p> <p>Re-procure the service on a long-term contract, with funding envelope and level of service to be agreed between housing and ASC:</p> <p>Level 1 - basic offer to meet ASC needs only c.£500k</p> <p>Level 2 – standard offer funded jointly between ASC and housing c.£750k</p> <p>Level 3 – enhanced sustainable housing related support offer for people with complex needs, in partnership with the wider voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise</p>	<p>A long-term contract offers stability to the market and consistency to residents accessing the service. As well as the opportunity for the provider to establish themselves locally.</p> <p>The benefits differ depending on the agreed funding and level of service:</p> <p>Basic offer: support for vulnerable residents with social care needs only, focussed on increasing independence and preventing the need for more expensive social care services.</p> <p>Standard offer: as above, and support hours available to council tenants, focussed on preventing homelessness and the need for more intensive housing support.</p> <p>Enhanced offer: a borough-wide preventative offer, working together with the VCFSE sector and existing resources to create a seamless system for residents to access help. This reduces duplication of effort, saving money,</p>	<p>There remains significant uncertainty about availability of funding, which would prevent the development of a robust procurement strategy.</p> <p>Relationships with the VCFSE may be too embryonic at this time to support a fully borough-wide approach.</p>	<p>Contract length and size could be tied to funding and clauses could be included for scaling back services or renegotiating terms.</p> <p>Any service reductions would need to have robust impact assessments, with a clear understanding of what alternatives are available to support people who are no longer eligible.</p> <p>VCFSE partners could be on-boarded in phases</p>

Options	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations
<p>(VCSFE) sector (Bright Lives Alliance) – c.£800k-£1m</p> <p>Not recommended</p>	<p>and ensures a holistic approach that addresses all aspects of well-being.</p>		
<p>Option 4 Decommission all elements of the contract.</p> <p>Not recommended</p>	<p>Opportunity to maximise cost savings.</p>	<p>Removing any element of the service without evaluation and understanding of the consequences holds a high risk of creating cost pressures in other parts of the system, caused by homelessness, rough sleeping, tenancy breakdown, increased rent arrears, evictions, reoffending, homelessness, crime and ASB.</p> <p>This contradicts council policy around being 'fairer together' and supporting individuals to have 'a safe place to call home'.</p> <p>Withdrawal of funding for this service at the same time as uncertainty around ongoing external funding could lead to a significant gap in support available to those in Islington with multiple and complex needs.</p>	

Options	Benefits	Risks	Mitigations
<p>Option 5 – In Sourcing</p> <p>Not recommended</p>	<p>Enables direct control of the service and helps to align the service with the council's protocols and values.</p>	<p>Many residents require floating support as they have become disengaged with council services. The separation of landlord / support role, the independence and impartiality from the council by an external provider is valued amongst residents and housing staff.</p> <p>The specialist nature of the support provider by an organisation focused on providing housing related support will be lost.</p> <p>In-sourcing options will increase service costs at a time when there are significant budget pressures.</p>	<p>Additional training for in-house staff on the provision of housing related support for vulnerable people would be required.</p> <p>Systems would need to be put in place to avoid conflicts of interest, to ensure impartial support can be given to residents when the council is taking tenancy enforcement action.</p> <p>Savings would need to be made elsewhere to mitigate the impact of the increase budget costs.</p>

5. Key impacts and risks of the proposal

- 5.1 The impact of this decision is to approve the continuity of a floating support service when the existing contract ends on 30 June 2025, ensuring essential support is provided to residents.
- 5.2 There is already a robust approach towards the management of the existing floating support contract, and this will be replicated with the new arrangements.
- 5.3 The main risks attached to this procurement are:

Risks	Mitigation
The short-term nature of the contract may limit market interest, resulting in only one or a few bids. This lack of competition could lead to inflated costs as suppliers may have less incentive to offer competitive pricing.	Award the contract based on a combination of quality (60%) and price (40%).
Contract cost inflation due to cost of living	Engagement with the market in early autumn 2024 to understand cost pressures. Financial modelling of proposals
Lack of market interest due to short term contract	Market engagement and market testing in early autumn 2024
High TUPE costs may limit the ability for the market to produce a competitive bid.	TUPE information will be shared with bidders in the tender process
Reduction in the maximum capacity for floating support provision at any one time from 400 to 275 residents due to the reduced budget envelope, although total capacity per year will remain similar to the current contract	Plans are in development to offer more direct support to council tenants from within council housing teams. Engagement with other local services and the VCSFE sector to ensure adequate support is still available to residents.

6. Key procurement considerations

- 6.1 The social value themes / outcomes to be included in this contract are:

Economic Value	Supporting local organisations	Provide specialist housing advice to local organisations
	Providing employment opportunities for local people	.Employing Islington residents, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds. To ensure residents are linked up with employment services, debt and financial advice etc where appropriate.
Social Value	Promoting equality and diversity	Run or support equalities events for staff and the local community
		Run internal training sessions to improve staff awareness of equalities issues and how to engage with and increase participation of seldom heard from communities.
Environmental Value	Net zero carbon	Require from the provider to show the way in which they are reducing the need for cars, introducing cycle to work schemes, support and promote electric car club schemes. Work with provider to identify contract-specific approaches towards achieving this and report the outcomes to the relevant officer for climate change and environment
	Reducing waste	Require the provider to show the ways in which they are reducing and eliminating single-use plastic from their products, supply chains and their business practices and report all the environmental value outcomes to the relevant officer for climate change and environment.

6.2 Payment of the London Living Wage will be a condition of this contract.

6.3 The Council would like providers contracted through the new service to work with us towards the implementation of 5 days of occupational sick pay.

- 6.4 In the recommissioning of the service, it is expected that TUPE will apply. Officers will obtain essential workforce details from the outgoing provider, including roles and employment terms. This information will be transparently shared with potential providers during the tender stage, aiding informed decision-making for prospective providers.
- 6.5 The provider will work with vulnerable adults with complex needs who have often experienced trauma in their lives. Therefore, safeguarding and the working to trauma informed principles will be a key consideration.
- 6.6 The Employment Relations Act 1999 (Blacklist) Regulations 2010 explicitly prohibit the compilation, use, sale or supply of blacklists containing details of trade union members and their activities. Following a motion to full Council on 26 March 2013, all tenderers will be required to complete an anti-blacklisting declaration. Where an organisation is unable to declare that they have never blacklisted, they will be required to evidence that they have 'self-cleansed'. The Council will not award a contract to organisations found guilty of blacklisting unless they have demonstrated 'self-cleansing' and taken adequate measures to remedy past actions and prevent re-occurrences.

7.0 Procurement award criteria

Criteria	Weighting
Price/ Quality	40% / 60%
Quality breakdown	
Social Value (minimum 20%)	20%
Proposed model of delivery, including proposed approach to early intervention and preventing people from experiencing housing crisis, and plans for mobilisation	10%
Proposed approach to coproduction and quality management of the service to drive continuous improvement, reporting / liaising with council and the control of costs	10%
Proposed approach to safeguarding vulnerable adults and working in a trauma informed way.	10%
Proposed approach to partnership working to provide a holistic offer and achieve best outcomes for people who require support	10%

8. Contribution to the Islington Together 2030 Plan

- 8.1 Islington Together 2030 sets out the plan for a more equal Islington, to ensure residents have a safe, decent place to call home and to enable residents who need extra support to access the right support for them at the right time and in the right place. Floating

support helps achieve these ambitions by intervening early to provide vulnerable adults with the support they need to maintain their tenancy and continue living as independently as possible in the community.

- 8.2 The Council's commitment to tackle inequality through high quality early intervention and prevention is set out in Fairer together – a strategy for early intervention and prevention in Islington. Early intervention and prevention mean identifying and providing effective early support to prevent issues escalating into more complex and costly responses, often with poorer outcomes. Effective early intervention and prevention can prevent problems occurring or reoccurring and thereby reducing the pressure on public services, and instead building resilience in communities.
- 8.3 Floating support services are prevention focussed; they provide short-term support that enables people to develop, improve and maintain the skills and lifestyle choices needed to lead an independent healthy and happy life. This often includes connecting people with other services, work and training opportunities, and social contacts that help make this achievable and sustainable in the long term.

9. Consultation and community engagement

- 9.1 Engagement with stakeholders, including residents, will take place as part of the development of the HRS Commissioning Intentions. This is planned for early autumn 2024.
- 9.2 Residents were invited to give feedback on the service as part of a review in 2023, most residents reported happiness with the service provided by their supported worker (97%) and the support has made a difference to their lives (91%).

10. Implications

10.1 Financial Implications

- 10.1.1 This report seeks approval to establish a bridging contract for the Multi-Disciplinary Floating Support Service, initially for 9 months, with the option to extend for up to 12 months, totalling 21 months. This approach is essential to facilitate the development of new HRS Commissioning Intentions.
- 10.1.2 The Multi-Disciplinary Floating Support Service in Islington is currently provided by the Single Homeless Project (SHP) and is set to expire on June 30, 2025. Since the contract has already been extended previously, further extensions are not permissible under procurement rules. Therefore, a bridging contract is necessary to ensure the continuity of services.
- 10.1.3 This is a revenue funded service commissioned by the Adult Social Care (ASC) department with the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) contributing towards the

main service provision component and Housing First. The Multi-Disciplinary Floating Support Service provides a range of housing related care and support services to our vulnerable residents which includes supporting residents to develop their independent living skills, support to maintain their tenancies and provide sign posting to appropriate services to maximise their opportunities to become more socially included.

10.1.4 The current annual contract values for the service are £1,002,970 (inclusive of 2024/25 inflationary uplifts) and funding sources are allocated as follows:

Service 24/25	24/25 Total Annual Value	ASC Contribution	Housing contribution - HRA
MDT Floating Support including MAPPA, justice link role and hospital discharge	£1,002,970	£511,515	£491,455
Total	£1,002,970	£511,515	£491,455

10.1.5 It is proposed that the new total annual contract value is reduced to £667,681. This will be achieved by reducing the maximum numbers of residents being supported by the service at any one time. The new service model will focus on providing more short-term support to those to prevent housing / tenancy crisis (up to 3 months), which in turn will increase the throughput of residents accessing the service.

10.1.6 The proposed contract values and funding sources are as follows

Services	Department	2025/26 9 months (initial contract term)	2026/27 12 months (extension period)	Total 21 months
Floating Support service – Non LBI tenants - Includes justice link, hospital discharge and MAPPA	ASC (74%)	£345,588	£460,784	£806,372
	HRA (26%)	£121,423	£161,897	£283,320
Total – Floating Support Service		£467,011	£622,681	£1,089,692
Co-location role (HRA)	HRA (100%)	£33,750	£45,000	£78,750
Total by department	ASC	£345,588	£460,784	£806,372
	HRA	£155,173	£206,897	£362,070
Total		£500,761	£667,681	£1,168,442

- 10.1.7 The proposed contract values, set to take effect from July 2025, are anticipated to generate savings for ASC and HRA of £38,048 and £213,418, respectively, over the 9 months leading up to the end of 2025/26. The full-year impact of these savings would be £50,731 for ASC and £284,558 for HRA.
- 10.1.8 For Adult Social Care (ASC), the savings from this contract will contribute to the current Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) savings programme, specifically under savings reference 2425-1, which requires the ASC department to achieve £100,000 in savings in 2025/26 through the review, redesign, and re-procurement of Housing Related Support Services. In the case of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), these savings are not part of the current MTFS savings plan. Any savings realised through this procurement will either be reinvested into the respective service areas or used to address existing shortfalls in savings.
- 10.1.9 Payment of London Living Wage is a requirement of the contract and should not result in any additional cost.

10.2 Legal Implications

- 10.2.1 The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 places various duties on the council in relation to people threatened with homelessness. In addition, the council has power to provide housing related floating support services under the Care Act 2014. The council may enter into contracts for such services under section 1 of the Local Government (Contracts) Act 1997. Corporate Directors have authority to approve procurement strategies in relation to contracts for using revenue money of up to £2,000,000 of Islington Council spend (Procurement Rule 18.1.1).
- 10.2.2 The services being procured are subject to the light touch regime set out in Regulations 74 to 77 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (the Regulations). The threshold for application of this light touch regime is currently £663,540.00. The value of the proposed contract is above this threshold. It will therefore need to be advertised on the Find a Tender Service (FTS). There are no prescribed procurement processes under the light touch regime. Therefore the council may use its discretion as to how it conducts the procurement process provided that it: discharges its duty to comply with the Treaty principles of equal treatment, non-discrimination and fair competition; conducts the procurement in conformance with the information that it provides on the FTS advert; and ensures that the time limits that it imposes on suppliers, such as for responding to adverts is reasonable and proportionate. Following the procurement a contract award notice is required to be published on FTS.
- 10.2.3 In compliance with the requirements of the light touch regime in the Regulations and the council's Procurement Rules the proposal outlined in the report is to advertise a call for competition on FTS and procure the service using a competitive tender process using the Open Procedure. On completion of the procurement the

contract may be awarded as required to the highest scoring tenderer subject to the tender providing value for money for the council.

10.3 Climate Change and Environmental Implications

- 10.3.1 The provision of floating support service has transport-related implications from the floating support staff travelling to / from visits. These can be mitigated by contractual requirements on aspects such as reducing the need for cars, cycle to work schemes, support and promote electric car club schemes.
- 10.3.2 Embracing the council's commitment to being net carbon neutral by 2030, officers will work with providers to identify contract-specific approaches towards achieving this.
- 10.3.3 The council recognises its role as a leader in sustainable practice and has made a commitment to reduce our use of unnecessary single-use plastic. We will require our suppliers to show the ways in which they are reducing and eliminating single-use plastic from their products, supply chains and their business practices.

10.4 Equalities Impact Assessment

- 10.4.1 The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.
- 10.4.2 An Equalities Impact Assessment was completed on 9th August 2024. It was assessed that the re-procurement of a floating support service will have a predominantly positive impact on residents in Islington. The service will continue to support residents with the most complex needs to remain living independently and sustain their tenancies. The new focus on short-term support will reduce the number of people who can be supported at any one time and will require the people to move on from the service quicker. To mitigate the impact of this change, the provider will be expected to work closely with the individual to prepare them for the end of their time with the service, with goals around engaging with universal services to meet longer term needs. The full Equalities Impact Assessment is appended.

11. Timetable for implementation

Activity	Date
Procurement strategy approved	1 October 2024
Decision Published (allowing for call-in)	11 th October 2024
Publish Contract Notice	Mid-October 2024
Evaluation	December 2024

Activity	Date
Award Decision	April 2025
Contract award approved	25 April 2025
Mobilisation period	19 May 2025
Current Contract Ends	30 June 2025
Contract Start Date	1 July 2025

Report authorised by:

Director of Strategic Commissioning and Investment

Date: 15 August 2024

12. Record of the decision

I have today decided to take the decision set out in section 1 of this report for the reasons set out above. My agreement is indicated by the checkbox below.

Decision authorised by: John Everson

Corporate Director of Adult Social Care



Date: 04 October 2024

Appendices:

- Equality Impact Assessment Screening Tool

Relevant decisions / reports:

- N/A

Background papers:

- N/A

Responsible Officer: Ellie Chesterman, Assistant Director, Live Well Commissioning
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