

CONTRACT EXTENSION REQUEST – HOMECARE BLOCK CAR PROVISION

To: **Adults Committee**

Meeting Date: **10 September 2020**

From: **Will Patten, Service Director, Commissioning**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Forward Plan ref: **2020/050** *Key decision:* **Yes**

Outcome: **To outline the case for the approval of a contract exemption for the provision of homecare capacity provided by a block car arrangement across Cambridgeshire.**

Recommendation: **a) To approve the extension and award of homecare block car provision to the current providers for 12 months until 26 November 2021**

<i>Officer contact:</i>		<i>Member contacts:</i>	
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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Cambridgeshire County Council currently has a block contract for 20 cars to deliver 1,771 hours of care provision per week across the county at a value of **£1,919,511**, funded by what was the Winter Pressures Grant, which from 2020/21 forms part of the Improved Better Care Fund grant. The contract is due to expire on 26th November 2020.
- 1.2 This is an addition to the main Transition and Block Car contract which provides approximately 2,310 hours of care per week
- 1.3 The provision delivers domiciliary care to people who are being discharged from hospital. Through block purchasing domiciliary care through this contract the Council are able to ensure support for people to return home as soon as they are able to do so, particularly within areas of Cambridgeshire where mainstream homecare is difficult to source. This provision is intended to be used on a short term basis to ensure the resource and support can be maximised to support as many people as possible. Once discharged from hospital, the service providers focus on transferring people to longer term, mainstream homecare arrangements as they recover. Therefore it is important that provision is maintained to support prompt hospital discharge across the County; whilst we develop a revised care pathway and recommissioning.
- 1.4 It was planned to carry out a review of this contract early this year. However due to the impact of COVID 19 on resources and the need to retain the capacity to meet demand, this has not been possible.
- 1.5 An extension is sought to continue this contract whilst work is undertaken to develop a new care pathway to enable more, older people to return home from hospital. The block cars will be reviewed as part of this work and the commissioning plans developed as a result. The extension period will align with the conclusion of the care pathway commissioning.
- 1.6 The development of the revised care pathway will take into consideration the wider vision for homecare commissioning in the future, the aim of which is to move towards a place-based approach and ethos. There are a number of actions that have been identified to support this within the vision paper which is due to be considered by JCB in August.

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 As noted in 1.2, the current contract ends on the 26th November 2020 which does not allow sufficient time for Officers to carry out the planned relevant research, analysis, engagement and subsequent procurement process required to put in place a new service delivery model within the developing care pathway to support hospital discharge.
- 2.2 The extension is needed to maintain current capacity whilst the contract is reviewed and recommissioned as part of a care pathway to support hospital

discharge and enable more people to return home rather than enter long term bed-based care.

- 2.3 It is anticipated the new care pathway will comprise of a range of short stay beds for step up and step down purposes, along with respite and reablement interventions and in-reach domiciliary care. All of which aim to maximise the independence of individuals and enable them to remain within their own homes for as long as possible. This will also link with the Discharge to Assess Pathway.
- 2.4 This will be developed in line with and taking into consideration the move towards place-based outcomes and commissioning.
- 2.5 Current demand for this provision means there is the need for the Council to retain the current capacity and flexibility that the block cars provide for people being discharged from hospital. The cars supplement quick access to homecare across the County, which will still be required until the new discharge care pathway is in place. It also works in conjunction with the discharge and transition block car contract; particularly supporting areas of Cambridgeshire where mainstream homecare is difficult to source.
- 2.5 Table 1: Projected milestones and completion dates for the development and procurement of the revised service provision supporting hospital discharge.

Milestones	Dates
Extension approval	27 May 2020
Committee approval	10 Sep 2020
Research/evidence/development of care pathway	July – November 2020
Market engagement	December –January 2021
Specification/outcomes/budget development	Feb – Mar 2021
Approvals – SMT/JCB/Adults Committee	Mar – May
Procurement	June – Sep
Implementation	Sep- Nov
Contract starts	27 Nov 2021

3.0. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Report authors should evaluate the proposal(s) in light of their alignment with the following four Corporate Priorities.

- 3.1 A good quality of life for everyone**
There are no significant implications for this priority.
- 3.2 Thriving places for people to live**
There are no significant implications for this priority.
- 3.3 The best start for Cambridgeshire’s children**
There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.4 Net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2050

There are no significant implications for this priority.

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Implications

The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers:

The reviewed care pathway will consider and support:

- 4.1.1 Appropriate, expedited, safe discharge from hospital supporting independence which might include an appropriate stay in a reablement or interim bed (the project to develop the new care pathway will be developed on conjunction with the Interim and Reablement bed transformation).
- 4.1.2 Reducing the risk of inappropriate admission to hospital with the right intervention at the right time, supporting people to stay at home or facilitating a short stay in a respite bed, and regain/retain independence.
- 4.1.3 The annual funding allocated to this contract is **£1,919,511**; this is built into the budget and therefore there are no budget pressures anticipated from the contract extension.

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

The Head of Procurement has highlighted that this is over the EU threshold and therefore the strategy is a breach of the EU Regulations with this proposal however this is the best/ probably only approach now given the effects of COVID-19. If approved by Committee I would recommend a *VEAT notice to mitigate a challenge under these regulations.

*A VEAT notice is a notice for the Official Journal of the EU. Similar to an OJEU notice which you use to advertise tenders of this value to which bidders respond. The VEAT is an advert that highlights to the EU and bidders that you do not intend to advertise for your reasons and the EU community has 10 days to challenge that declaration.

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

There are no significant implications for this priority.

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no significant implications for this priority.

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

There are no significant implications for this priority.

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

There are no significant implications for this priority.

4.7 Public Health Implications

There are no significant implications for this priority.

Implications	Officer Clearance
Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance?	Yes Name of Financial Officer: Stephen Howarth
Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the LGSS Head of Procurement?	Yes Name of Officer: Gus De Silva
Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by the Council's Monitoring Officer or LGSS Law?	Yes Name of Legal Officer: Fiona McMillen
Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact?	Yes Name of Officer: Will Patten
Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?	Yes Name of Officer: Tony Darnell
Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact?	Yes Name of Officer: Will Patten
Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health	Yes Name of Officer: Kate Parker

Source Documents	Location
<i>None</i>	