

**CONTRACT EXTENSION REQUEST – INTERIM BLOCK BEDS IN
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

To: Adults Committee

Meeting Date: 10 September 2020

From: Will Patten, Service Director, Commissioning

Electoral division(s): All

Forward Plan ref: 2020/051 **Key decision:** Yes

Outcome: To outline the case for the approval of a contract exemption for the provision of block interim beds across Cambridgeshire.

Recommendation: To approve the extension and award of interim block bed provision to the current Providers for a further 7 months and 26 days until 26 November 2021

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

- 1.1 The Council currently commissions 18 interim beds through a block contract across Cambridgeshire. The contracts are due to expire on 31st March 2021.
- 1.2 The 18 interim beds comprise of 14 nursing and 4 residential interim beds across 8 Homes in Cambridgeshire. The annual contract value of these beds is £701,615.65.
- 1.3 The purpose of these beds is to provide short-term bed based care for people who require varying degrees of 24-hour care. This can be as part of a planned period of respite, emergency access to 24 hour care, or to facilitate hospital discharge.
- 1.4 An extension is sought to retain the 18 Interim beds beyond March 31st 2021 in order to develop a new care pathway across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to support better hospital discharge. This work is being undertaken in conjunction with a review of the hospital discharge cars which provide domiciliary care on discharge from hospital and the extension period will align with the conclusion of the care pathway commissioning.

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 There is scope to improve our existing interim bed provision in identifying more innovative and outcome focused ways to better meet the needs of our community. We need sufficient beds in the right locations to meet demand and maximise the number of older people returning home after a stay in hospital.
- 2.2 To achieve this by November 2021, the Council will seek to design and commission a new care pathway to support a greater number of older people to return home after hospital discharge and reduce avoidable hospital admission from the community. The care pathway is likely to comprise of a range of short stay beds which can be accessed on discharge from hospital or where someone requires short term support within the community setting, along with consideration of respite and reablement interventions and in-reach domiciliary care.

The indicative timeline for this work is shared below.

Table 1: estimated headline steps and completion dates

Steps required	Dates
Extension approval	03 June 2020
Adults Committee approval	10 Sep 2020
Analysis of bed utilisation and decommissioning as appropriate	Quarterly through to November 2021
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

- 2.4 The extension to the current contract is needed to maintain current capacity whilst this work is undertaken. A detailed analysis of the utilisation of the block Interim beds is needed as well as exploration of different care models. It is necessary to maintain our existing interim bed provision whilst the care pathway is developed and commissioned, particularly to mitigate against the impact of a second wave of COVID.
- 2.5 If the contract is not extended, and the interim beds contracts expire in March 2021, there is likely to be an exponential rise in spot-purchase of short term placements which may be more expensive than the current arrangements. Care homes hold the right to refuse to take clients for a short-term placement on a spot basis, and have the ability to significantly increase the price at which they offer such placements.
- 2.6 Regular monitoring of the utilisation of the interim beds will be undertaken. In the event under-utilised beds are identified we have reserved the right to terminate any of the interim block beds with 28 days' notice. Any beds which are under-utilised and therefore not offering value for money will be decommissioned.

3. ALIGNMENT WITH 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:

4.1.1 The cost of the extension will be £461,335

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 a suitable approach given the strategy. 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

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: Matthew Hall
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: Emily Smith

Source Documents	Location
<i>None</i>	