

# North Tyneside Council

## Report to Cabinet

### Date: 29 July 2019

#### ITEM 5(f)

Title: Stairlift, Through floor lift, Step Lifts & Ceiling Track Term Contract 2020-23

Portfolio(s): Adult Social Care

Cabinet Member(s): Councillor Gary Bell

#### Report from Service

Area:

Adult Social Care

Responsible Officer:

Jacqui Old  
Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding.

Tel: (0191) 643 7317

Wards affected:

All

#### PART 1

##### 1.1 Purpose:

The purpose of the report is to seek approval for the Authority to undertake a procurement exercise in order to appoint a preferred provider to install and maintain stairlifts, through floor lifts, Step Lifts and ceiling track hoists in domestic properties. In accordance with Contract Standing Order 8(4), this report requests approval to proceed with a procurement exercise as the estimated potential contract value is in excess of £500,000.

##### 1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet authorise the Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding in consultation with the Head of Law and Governance, the Head of Resources and the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, to

- (a) undertake a procurement exercise compliant with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 in order to identify a preferred provider for the installation and maintenance of stairlifts, through floor lifts and ceiling track hoists in domestic properties; and
- (b) to award a contract for the installation and maintenance of stairlifts, through floor lifts, Step Lifts and ceiling track hoists in domestic properties for a period of 3 years, commencing April 2020 with an option to extend for one year, on the basis of the most economically advantageous tender.

##### 1.3 Forward Plan:

Twenty eight days notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 3 May 2019.

## 1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report relates to the following priority(ies) in the 2018/21 Our North Tyneside Plan:

Our People will:

- Be listened to so that their experience helps the Council work better for residents.
- Be healthy and well.
- Be cared for, protected and supported if they become vulnerable.
- Be encouraged and enabled to, when ever possible, be more independent.

## 1.5 Information:

### 1.5.1 Background

1.5.2 The Care Act 2014 (the Act) sets out a range of duties and responsibilities on the Authority in relation to this matter and defines 'eligibility criteria' for care and support. Section 13 of the Act includes a duty for the Authority to determine whether an individual's needs meet the eligibility criteria under the Act. Once the Authority has determined that they do, Section 18 of the Act imposes an obligation on the Authority to meet that individual's needs for care and support.

1.5.3 In order to contribute towards its fulfilment of the duty referred to at 1.5.2 above, the Authority has a contract with an external contractor for the installation and maintenance of stairlifts, through floor lifts, Step Lifts and ceiling track hoists in domestic properties. This contract was awarded on 1 April 2016 and expires on the 31 March 2020.

1.5.4 The contract is not tenure specific meaning that it covers installations for council housing tenants and, through the Disabled Facilities Grant process, includes non-council tenants and owner occupiers.

1.5.5 The Authority maximises resources where it can by removing and re-cycling installations when they are no longer required. All of the installations are serviced in accordance with statutory requirements and breakdowns are responded to in accordance with agreed timescales.

## 1.6 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

### Option 1

In accordance with the recommendations at paragraph 1.2 above:

(a) to approve the recommendation to undertake a procurement exercise compliant with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 in order to identify a preferred provider for the installation and maintenance of stairlifts, through floor lifts, Step Lifts and ceiling track hoists in domestic properties; and

(b) award a contract for 3 years, to commence April 2020 with an option to extend for one year, on the basis of the most economically advantageous tender.

## Option 2

Not to approve the recommendation to undertake a procurement exercise in order to identify a preferred provider for the installation and maintenance of stairlifts, through floor lifts and ceiling track hoists in domestic properties.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

### **1.7 Reasons for recommended option:**

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

As identified above, the Authority has a statutory obligation to meet the care and support needs to those individuals within the Borough that meet the various eligibility criteria as defined by the Care Act 2014. The procurement exercise and ultimate contract award recommended by this Report, is aimed at ensuring continuity of service provision so to enable the Authority to award a contract for the provision of this service when the current contract comes to an end on 31 March 2020. This will ensure continuity of statutory provision and is the best way of achieving best value for money for the Authority.

### **1.8 Appendices:**

None.

### **1.9 Contact officers:**

Eleanor Binks, Assistant Director for Service Integration tel. (0191) 643 7076  
Michael Cavagin, Manager of Adaptations, Loan Equipment & Governance, tel. (0191) 643 7947

Cathy Davison, Principal Accountant, Investment (Capital) and Revenue. Tel (0191) 6435727

Darrell Campbell, Senior Business Partner (Interim), Housing Property and Construction & HRA. Tel (0191) 6437052

### **1.10 Background information:**

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

(1) The Care Act 2014  
[http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/pdfs/ukpga\\_20140023\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/pdfs/ukpga_20140023_en.pdf)

(2) Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996  
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/53/section/108>

## **PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING**

### **2.1 Finance and other resources**

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. The costs of undertaking the tender exercise will be met within existing revenue budgets within the relevant service areas.

Delivery of the contract will be funded from several existing budgets: Disabled Facilities Grant Programme, Housing Capital, Housing Revenue Account and Social Services Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Adaptations. It is anticipated that the new contract will be able to be delivered within these existing budgets. If, following the tender process, the contract cannot be delivered within the existing budgets, a further report will be brought to Cabinet or Council, as appropriate, for a decision before the contract is awarded. The proposed contract will seek to secure value for money for the Council.

## **2.2 Legal**

The provisions of the Care Act 2014 and the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 place statutory duties on the Authority to carry out assessments of the needs of the individuals within the Borough. Once needs have been identified, the Authority has a statutory obligation to meet those needs.

As the value of the proposed contract as a whole exceeds £500,000 the Authority's Contract Standing Orders require Cabinet approval for this process. Any procurement process will be undertaken in accordance with the Authority's Contract Standing Orders and EU and UK public procurement requirements. Any award will be based on the most economically advantageous tender and the successful contractor will be appointed on terms and conditions approved by the Head of Law and Governance.

## **2.3 Consultation/community engagement**

### **2.3.1 Internal Consultation**

The proposal to go out to tender has been discussed with and is supported by Councillor Gary Bell, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care.

### **2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement**

The tender exercise will provide the necessary external consultation at this point in line with statutory procurement rules.

## **2.4 Human rights**

There are no human rights implications directly arising from this report.

## **2.5 Equalities and diversity**

There are no equalities and diversity implications directly arising from this report.

## **2.6 Risk management**

There are no significant risks associated with the proposed tender exercise.

## **2.7 Crime and disorder**

There are no crime and disorder implications directly arising from this report.

## **2.8 Environment and sustainability**

There are no environment and sustainability implications arising directly from this report.

### PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive  X
- Head(s) of Service  X
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)  X
- Chief Finance Officer  X
- Monitoring Officer  X
- Head of Corporate Strategy and Customer Service  X