

# North Tyneside Council

## Report to Cabinet

### Date: 30 March 2020

#### Title: Procurement arrangements for the supply of Beach Lifeguarding Services

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<b>Portfolio(s):</b>	<b>Environment, Housing and Leisure</b>	<b>Cabinet Member(s):</b>	<b>Councillor Carl Johnson</b>
<b>Report from Service Area:</b>	<b>Environment, Housing and Leisure</b>		
<b>Report Author:</b>	<b>Phil Scott, Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure</b>	<b>Tel: (0191) 643 7295</b>	
<b>Wards affected:</b>	<b>All</b>		

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#### **PART 1**

##### **1.1 Executive Summary:**

The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval to award a 5 year contract to the Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI) for the provision of a beach lifeguard service in North Tyneside.

The Authority has a duty of care for our visitors in relation to health and safety and water safety issues. The RNLI is a charity who saves lives at sea. They currently have lifeguards patrolling over 240 beaches in the UK and the Channel Islands. The RNLI lifeguard service is therefore important for fulfilling our statutory responsibilities relating to water safety.

The contract period will run from April 2020 to March 2025. The current contract ends on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.

Cabinet approval is sought in accordance with Contract Standing Order 8(6), as the value of the contract will likely exceed £500,000.

##### **1.2 Recommendation(s):**

It is recommended that Cabinet authorise the Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure in consultation with the Cabinet Member and Head of Resources, award a new 5 year contract to the RNLI for the provision of a beach lifeguard service for the period of May 2020 to September 2024 inclusive, on terms and conditions agreed by the Head of Law and Governance.

### **1.3 Forward plan:**

This report has been included in the Forward Plan published on 6 March 2020. It has not been practicable to give twenty-eight days' notice of this item. The service had been awaiting further information and clarification from the RNLI regarding the lifeguarding service. This information has now been provided.

### **1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework:**

This report relates to the following theme in the 2020-2024 Council Plan:

**(1) Our Places** – Be a thriving place of choice for visitors through the promotion of our award-winning parks, beaches, festivals and seasonal activities.

### **1.4 Information:**

- 1.4.1 The Authority currently has a contractual arrangement with the RNLI for the provision of a seasonal beach lifeguard service at beaches in the Borough. The current contract commenced in April 2015 and will end in March 2020.
- 1.4.2 Every year thousands of visitors visit beaches in North Tyneside. Under the Occupiers Liability Act 1957, the Authority has a duty of care for our visitors in relation to health and safety and water safety issues. This service is therefore essential for fulfilling our statutory responsibilities relating to water safety.
- 1.4.3 34 full time lifeguards are employed by the RNLI from May until September every year as part of the contract on the four resort beaches in the Borough; Whitley Bay, Cullercoats, Tynemouth Longsands and King Edward's Bay.
- 1.4.4 Over the past 4 years, the RNLI has successfully provided the service in line with the service specification. They have supervised approximately 350,000 beach visitors during operating times throughout the season and have performed preventative actions to prevent visitors coming to harm. In doing so they have saved 62 lives which may have been lost without their intervention.
- 1.4.5 The RNLI has undertaken substantial investment in their service provision and employee development beyond anything the Authority is currently able to resource. This includes the provision of beach and water safety education throughout the summer months and local safety events during the winter season.
- 1.4.6 In recent years, the variety of water user activity has significantly expanded presenting new challenges. Our beaches have become more popular with surfers, jet skiers, kayakers and bathers. In order to respond to the type of incidents associated with these sports, rescue methods and equipment have needed to develop. During this time the RNLI have continued to provide any necessary equipment, training and infrastructure at their own expense.
- 1.4.7 At the end of every season, a report is produced outlining the performance of the service, which includes statistics relating to lifeguard actions and service provision. An annual report is also produced detailing the previous year's beach lifeguard service operating across approximately 248 beaches in the United Kingdom and Channel Islands.

- 1.4.8 The provision of a beach lifeguard service is a key part of the assessment criteria for the Seaside Awards and Blue Flag awards.
- 1.4.9 The proposal is to provide a complete beach lifeguarding service on a non-commercial basis and at a fixed fee. There is no other organisation that can currently offer this service.

## **1.6 Decision options:**

### **Option 1**

Cabinet may approve the recommendations at paragraph 1.2 above.

### **Option 2**

Cabinet may not approve recommendation at paragraph 1.2 above.

### **Option 3**

Cabinet could decide that the Authority will now deliver this service directly, however additional resourcing beyond that of the current contract costs would need to be secured to deliver the required level of lifeguard provision. The additional resources would be required to cover annual running costs of the service i.e. maintenance and/or replacement of lifeguard equipment, employee uniforms and public protection equipment, along with first aid and general service equipment. An additional investment of approximately £150,000 would be required for the first year and £70,000 per annum thereafter, to deliver the appropriate level of lifeguard service.

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

If Cabinet approves the recommended option, the Authority will be able to award a new contract to the RNLI in preparation for the beach lifeguarding service commencing in May 2020. This would continue for a 5-year term on a seasonal basis until September 2024. This will ensure continuity of service provision.

If the recommended option is not approved, the Authority will need decide if we will no longer provide a beach lifeguarding service, or to deliver the service directly. In doing so, the Authority would be required to secure additional budget resources in the first year of approximately £150,000 and £70,000 thereafter, to provide the required level of service. The budget does currently not exist to support this. This would not achieve the most economically advantageous option for the Authority.

## **1.8 Appendices:**

None.

## **1.9 Contact officers:**

Phil Scott, Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure, tel. (0191) 643 7295  
Samantha Dand, Senior Manager, Local Environmental Services, tel. (0191) 643 7294  
Wendy Brown, Street Cleansing and Enforcement Manager, Local Environmental Services, tel. (0191) 643 7302  
Marcus Jackson, Team Leader - Seafront and Environmental Protection, Local Environmental Services, tel. (0191) 643 7281

Julie Batey, Procurement and Contracts Officer, Procurement Services, tel. 07817 574163  
David Dunford, Senior Business Partner, Finance matters, tel (0191) 643 7027

### **1.10 Background information:**

None.

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

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

The budget for the beach lifeguard service is £0.122m per annum. The current annual RNLI contract attracts inflation of a 2% increase each year. The Authority currently supports the annual inflation increase from within the existing seafront management service budget.

### **2.2 Legal**

It is acknowledged that the provision of the services such as this is a niche area. Value is brought to the contract by the RNLI having a wider involvement in life saving at sea.

Any contract entered into for the provision of the service will be on the terms approved by the Head of Law and Governance.

### **2.3 Consultation/community engagement**

Any procurement process will be undertaken in accordance with the Authority's Contract Standing Orders. Any award will be placed on obtaining best value for money, and improvements to existing services.

### **2.4 Human rights**

There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

### **2.5 Equalities and Diversity**

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

### **2.6 Risk Management**

There are no risks associated arising from this report.

### **2.7 Crime and Disorder**

There are no crime and disorder implications directly arising 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