



ADUR & WORTHING
COUNCILS

Executive Members for
Health & Wellbeing
16 January 2020

Decision to be taken on or after
24 January 2020

Key Decision: Yes

Ward(s) Affected: All

Infrastructure Support Services for the third sector

Report by the Director for Communities

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

- The purpose of this report is to update elected members on the recent procurement exercise undertaken to secure the delivery of the 'Infrastructure Support Services for the third sector'.
- Re-starting in April 2020, this is a key contract and relationship for the Councils in supporting our thriving third sector and delivery of many priorities under 'Platforms for our Places - going further'.

2. Recommendation

- That the Executive Members approve the Officer recommendation to award this new contract to Community Works.

3. Context

The 'third sector' is a term used to describe the group of organisations that are neither the public sector nor the private sector. It includes voluntary and community organisations (both registered charities and other organisations such as associations, self-help groups and community groups), social enterprises, mutuals and cooperatives. These types of organisations are delivering services for social value and not for profit.

The third sector is of equal importance to any other sector in Adur and Worthing, and definitely not third place; it plays a pivotal role in the development and success of the communities which the Council serves.

The Councils commissioned an 'Infrastructure Support Service for the third sector' contract and have done so for a number of years. This role is currently undertaken by Community Works.

The Council needs this strong partner to not only be a 'go-to' for any not-for-profit(s) (nfp) for solid, expert advice and help but who is also a systems leader who can look up and over the horizon and bring people and groups together for the common good. Both of these will help the nfp to flourish as organisations, their staff and volunteers to develop and, in turn, will support the third sector to thrive.

The partner, and the relationships with them, is also key to the delivery of Adur and Worthing Councils' updated corporate plan, 'Platforms for our Places - going further'.

The Councils' current contract with Community Works expires on the 31st March 2020. Therefore, in adherence to the Councils Standing Order procedures, a procurement exercise was undertaken in December 2019 to re-advertise this contract opportunity.

4. Issues for consideration

There was one tender received and it was excellent, scoring 92% on the evaluation. This bid was received from **Community Works**, the current contract holder.

Tendering organisations were asked to answer six questions in relation to the Service Specification and submit a business plan. These were themed under

four service principles: Resource and reach, Relationships, Reflection and relevance, and Resilience.

The tender from Community Works inspired confidence that they know what to do and how to do it. This started with their core organisational values and was cemented in very clear and well-thought out plans for the area based on knowledge, insight and years of experience from both existing work and, the different geographical locations. The panel also commented on the creative approaches, the ability to flex, adapt and learn – with not-for-profit organisations at the heart of the delivery. What was also evident was the networking and relationships that they have already formed, and will continue to build, in order to have the best outcomes for Adur and Worthing's third sector.

It is therefore recommended that this contract is let to Community Works.

5. Engagement and Communication

- The Tender was advertised on InTend and was an open tender.
- Three other organisations expressed interest in the contract but did not submit a Tender - two of the three are known locally.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 The contract value is:

£39,430 for Adur District Council per annum,
£39,180 for Worthing Borough Council per annum, with no inflationary rise

The contract length is three years, with the opportunity to extend for one year. The contract sum can be funded from within the existing budgets for this service.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 Under Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to do anything that is calculated to facilitate, or which is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of their functions.
- 7.2 Section 1 of The Local Government (Contracts) Act 1997 provides that every statutory provision conferring or imposing a function on a local authority confers the powers on the local authority to enter into a

contract with another person for the provision or making available of assets or services, or both (whether or not together with goods) for the purposes of, or in connection with, the discharge of the function by the local authority.

- 7.3 Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 1999 (LGA 1999) contains a general duty on a best value authority to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
- 7.4 S1 of the Localism Act 2011 empowers the Council to do anything an individual can do apart from that which is specifically prohibited by pre-existing legislation
- 7.5 The award of contract to the proposed supplier must be compliant with the Council's Contract Standing Orders found at Part 4 of the Council's constitution.

Background Papers

None

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Sustainability & Risk Assessment

1. Economic

The third sector is of equal importance to any other sector in Adur and Worthing and plays a pivotal role in the development and success of the communities which the Council serves. This contract will support this sector, and the organisations and individuals within it, which in turn enables the local economy to thrive.

2. Social

2.1 Social Value

This contract brings huge social value. Community Works are not-for-profit and their vision is of resilient and happy communities created where people, community organisations, business and the public sector work together solving problems and creating social good.

2.2 Equality Issues

Equality and under-represented people and groups are a priority for Community Works. This contract will build on their existing expertise in this area and will work even harder to ensure they are accessible to those that aren't currently making use of Community Works' excellent skills and services.

2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

Community Works will be working with Officers in the Communities and Wellbeing Team to ensure the third sector is represented and included in these lines of work.

2.4 Human Rights Issues

Considered and no issues identified.

3. Environmental

The climate crisis is a priority for this new contract and Community Works will support not-for-profit groups to address this emergency.

4. Governance

Community Works has excellent self-governance, with robust policies, procedures and risk management. Regular informal meetings take place between Council Officers and Community Works, as well as formal contract management meetings for the duration of the contract.