

## Executive Decision Making by an Officer with Delegated Powers

Decision to be taken by: Chris Spencer, Executive Director of Children's Services

Pursuant to a decision by Cllr Stephen Davies, Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding and Early Years on 12/07/22 (Household Support Fund (HSF) Grant Extension – 1st April 2022 to 30th September 2022) to:

*Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding and Early Years to award a call-off contract for the supply of food vouchers, fuel vouchers, white goods and household emergency support during the period 19th July 2022 to 30th September 2022 under the council's Welfare Support Services Framework Agreement to the preferred tenderer following the conclusion of the procurement process in respect thereof in accordance with the extended HSF funding allocation..*

Report title: Household Support Fund (HSF) Grant Extension – 1st April 2022 to 30th September 2022 – Award of a Call-off Contract to Auriga Services Ltd for Welfare Support Services

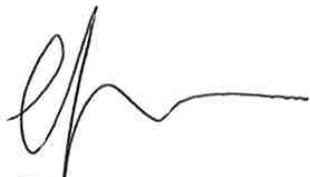
<b>The decision</b>	<p>Following the conclusion of a procurement process under the above-mentioned Welfare Support Services Framework Agreement and having consulted with the Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding and Early Years, in accordance with his decision taken on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022</p> <p><u>DECISION</u></p> <p>To award a Call-Off Contract for the supply of supply of food vouchers, fuel vouchers, white goods and household emergency support under such Framework Agreement to the sole appointed supplier thereunder, namely Auriga Services Ltd. Such Call-Off contract shall commence on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022 and expire on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022</p>
<b>Background documents</b>	<p>ICM Decision (12<sup>th</sup> July 2022): <a href="#">Household Support Fund (HSF) Grant Extension – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022</a></p> <p>ICM Decision (26/11/2021): <a href="#">Household Support Fund (HSF) – 6th October 2021 to 31st March 2022 (Special Urgency Rule)</a></p>
<b>Reasons for the decision</b>	<p>Following a decision by the Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding and Early Years on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021, it was agreed to procure a single provider Framework Agreement for the supply of food vouchers, fuel vouchers, white goods and household emergency support to those most in need under the terms of the Household Support Fund and for any future grants that may be</p>

	provided by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and/or Government in relation to emergency welfare provision.
<b>Resource implications</b>	<p>Resource is available through the current extended Household Support Funding from Government for allocation by the council in the period April 2022 – September 2022 which amounts to £3.692m.</p> <p>The value of the call-off contract to which this report relates (for the period 19<sup>th</sup> July – 30<sup>th</sup> September) is estimated to be £1.53m.</p>
<b>Who has been consulted?</b>	<p>Cllr Stephen Davies, Cabinet Member for Children’s Safeguarding and Early Years</p> <p>Internal support services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Legal Services</li> <li>▪ Strategic Procurement</li> <li>▪ Finance</li> <li>▪ Information Management Service</li> </ul>
<b>What were their comments?</b>	
<p>Cllr Stephen Davies, Cabinet Member for Children’s Safeguarding and Early Years, was happy with the decision and report.</p> <p>Legal Services – Comments and amendments have been incorporated into this paper.</p> <p>Strategic Procurement – No further comments in respect of this paper, as this was covered within the original decision papers.</p> <p>Strategic Finance – No concerns. Following discussion, it is now understood where the total figure is coming from referencing recommendations in the Cabinet decision paper.</p> <p>Information Management Service - We covered off the risks for consideration in the DPIA we completed for this contract recently, however given the short turnaround time needed and the risk of not proceeding, providing the risks are accepted there’s no further input from an IMS perspective at this stage.</p>	
<b>Background/Context</b>	
<p>£3.692m of funding from Central Government has been provided through the extended Household Support Fund (HSF) April 2022 – September 2022. An officer decision was taken by the Executive Director of Children’s Services on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2022 to award the above-mentioned Welfare Support Services Framework Agreement to Auriga Services Ltd, following a competitive tender process. £1.53m from this funding will be allocated to the Call-Off Contract thereunder to which this report relates, in order to support those most in need of welfare support.</p>	
<b>Alternative options considered and why they were rejected</b>	
<p>No alternative options were considered as the previous Individual Cabinet Member decision to award a call-off contract under the above-mentioned framework agreement following the</p>	

<p>conclusion of a procurement process thereunder did not provide for alternative courses of action.</p>	
<p><b>Risk Analysis</b></p> <p>The same/similar risks apply as those highlighted in the recent officer decision to award the contract framework but are highlighted below for consistency:</p> <p>We have seen prices of goods and labour increase over the past 12 months. This means that the grant provided will not go as far in providing support. Further inflation could exacerbate this.</p> <p>In order to reduce this risk as much as possible, we will review with the Provider, which suppliers they use and whether there are other suppliers that become more cost effective.</p> <p>A decision to reject the proposal hereunder to award a call off contract under the above-mentioned Framework Agreement would give rise to (a) the risk of the council receiving legal challenges to any consequent direct contract awards for the supply of food vouchers, fuel vouchers, white goods and household emergency support; and (b) the risk of delaying the delivery of welfare support services caused by lengthy procurement processes for each Welfare Support grant.</p>	
<p><b>Equalities considerations</b></p> <p>The Household Support Grant continues to follow the inclusive qualification criteria as previously described in the assessment carried out under the COVID Local Support Grant &amp; extensions. This has been updated to reflect the new schemes/cohorts of targeted services users within the perimeters of the Household Support Grant. This will continue to be monitored for equality considerations, especially for those with protected characteristics.</p>	
<p><b>Has an Equality Impact Assessment been completed?</b> Yes – <a href="#">published here</a></p>	
<p><b>Has any conflict of interest been declared by any Cabinet Member consulted on the decision?</b></p> <p><i>The council's Monitoring Officer should be consulted, in the first instance, if any conflict of interest is declared by a Cabinet Member.</i></p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>If any conflict of interest declared, was a dispensation granted by the Audit and Governance Committee of the Council?</b></p>	<p>Date of dispensation: N/A</p>
<p><b>Does this decision report form or any supporting papers provided contain confidential or exempt information?</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>Does this decision need to be published on the GCC website?</b></p>	<p>Yes</p>

In coming to this decision I have given due and full regard to the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty contained in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (“the Act”) by reference to the law itself and also the relevant Equality Impact Assessment, which was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

Having fully considered all available information, I have decided to reject any alternative options and take the recommended decision(s), for the reasons set out in this report.



Signed:

Name: Chris Spencer

Title: Executive Director of Children’s Services

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Contact details for further information:

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