

Part A

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: Monday, 8 July 2024

Report author: Housing Services Strategic Lead

Title: New Refugee Resettlement Framework Agreement – Tender evaluation and recommendation

1.0 Summary

1.1 The paper requests a decision to appoint suppliers to provide Refugee Resettlement Services, available to all Hertfordshire Local Authorities, through a Framework Agreement as per Part B set out in Appendix 1. There is a requirement that this is not made publicly available until the standstill period has completed

1.2 On completion of the council's own governance process, a mandatory standstill period of 10 days is required to allow challenge and feedback from those unsuccessful suppliers. An award cannot be made until this standstill period is completed.

2.0 Risks

2.1

Nature of risk	Consequence	Suggested Control Measures	Response (treat, tolerate, terminate or transfer)	Risk Rating (combination of severity and likelihood)
Delay in award of contract	No contract in place or need to extend the current contract by three months	Procurement activity undertaken and aware of contract made in good time	Treat	4
Not having a framework agreement in place	Individual local authorities will have to tender and contract separately with organisations that deliver refugee resettlement services	Put in place a new framework agreement	Treat	1

3.0 **Recommendations**

- 3.1 Accept the recommendation to award contained in Appendix 1 – Part B section of the report.
- 3.2 Agree the council's governance and call-in period to be completed as soon as possible (by 22/07/2024) and allow final contracts to be agreed.

Further information:

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Report approved by: Justine Hoy, Associate Director Housing and Wellbeing

4.0 **Detailed proposal**

- 4.1 Appendix 1 – Part B sets out the recommendation to award the Refugee Resettlement Framework Agreement following an Open Tender process.
- 4.2 The award is recommended following an evaluation completed against the published criteria representing the most economically advantageous tender and best value to the council.
- 4.3 The award is made in accordance with current UK Procurement Regulations.

5.0 **Implications**

5.1 **Financial**

- 5.1.1 The Chief Finance Officer comments that the framework will enable to Council to meet its value for money duties.

5.2 **Legal Issues**

- 5.2.1 The Monitoring Officer comments that a compliant procurement process has been undertaken in relation to this matter. The potential value of the contract requires Cabinet approval prior to entering into contract with approved suppliers.

5.2.2 The Head of Legal Shared Service comments that:

5.2.2.1 The procurement process including the evaluation was carried out in compliance with the UK Law (Public Contracts Regulations 2015) and the WBC Constitution (Contract Procedure Rules).

5.2.2.2 Framework Terms and Call-Off terms were drafted by Legal Shared Services with full consideration and review of legal provisions including data protection necessary for this type of contract.

5.2.2.3 The Framework Agreement does not limit provision of services to the refugees to particular countries. Existence of such Framework Agreement, provision for a direct award of call-offs and an option to extend the Framework Agreement under s.33 CPR 2015, will allow for a most efficient and quick response engaging minimum resources from Hertfordshire local authorities to current and future Government legislation and grant related regulations, covering resettlement needs of refugees from different countries, including urgent and unexpected situations.

5.3 **Equalities, Human Rights and Data Protection**

5.3.1 Under s149 (1) of the Equality Act the council must have due regard, in the exercise of its functions, to the need to –

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share relevant protected characteristics and persons who do not share them
- foster good relations between persons who share relevant protected characteristics and persons who do not share them.

Having had regard to the council's obligations under s149, it is considered there are no impacts.

There are no Human Rights implications.

Having had regard to the council's obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018, it is considered that officers are not required to undertake a Data Processing Impact Assessment (DPIA) for this report.

5.4 **Staffing**

5.4.1 There are no staffing implications

5.5 **Accommodation**

5.5.1 There are no accommodation implications.

5.6 **Community Safety/Crime and Disorder**

5.6.1 There are no Community Safety/Crime and Disorder implications.

5.7 **Sustainability**

5.7.1 The tender assessed contribution towards the councils' sustainability and social value objectives.

Appendices

- Part B - Appendix 1 –Tender Evaluation and Recommendation to Award
The appendix is considered to be exempt in accordance with Paragraph 3, Part 1 Schedule 12A as it contains commercially sensitive information.

Background papers

No papers were used in the preparation of this report.