

Subject: **PROCUREMENT OF SHORT TERM AND EMERGENCY
TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION**

Date of Meeting: **13 November 2019**

Report of: **Executive Director for Housing, Neighbourhoods and
Communities**

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Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

Action Required of the Policy & Resources Committee:

The Housing Committee recommends that Policy & Resources Committee be recommended to:

1. Agree to procure short term and emergency temporary accommodation via a new dynamic purchasing system (DPS);
2. Agree that option 2 as set out in paragraph 3.9 should be used to develop the specification for the DPS. This service level is anticipated to create a minimum budget pressure of £0.300m requiring a funding commitment within the 2020/21 General Fund budget. If this exceeds available resources following announcement of the Local Government Financial Settlement, this would require equivalent savings from elsewhere across General Fund services;
3. Notes the indicative numbers of short term and emergency temporary accommodation units required in each year as shown in the table in Appendix 1;
4. Delegates authority to the Executive Director of Housing, Neighbourhoods and Communities in consultation with the Director of Finance & Resources, to:
 - (i) Procure and award the DPS referred to in 2.1 with a duration of up to four (4) years; and
 - (ii) Award and enter into call-off contracts under the DPS referred to in 2.1.

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

HOUSING COMMITTEE

13 NOVEMBER 2019

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

Present: Councillor Williams (Chair) Brennan (Deputy Chair), Gibson (Opposition Spokesperson), Mears (Group Spokesperson), Atkinson, Barnett, Fowler, Heley, Hugh-Jones and Osborne

MINUTE EXTRACT

PART ONE

33 PROCUREMENT OF SHORT TERM AND EMERGENCY TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

The Committee considered the report presented by Sylvia Peckham.

- 33.1 Over the next five years, the council are planning to change the model of Temporary Accommodation (TA) provision to reduce the ratio of short term and emergency temporary accommodation to longer-term leased accommodation and to provide more council owned short-term accommodation. Overall, the council plan to reduce the use of TA over the next 5 years.
- 33.2 However, there will be a continuing requirement for emergency accommodation for the short to medium term. Officers are therefore proposing to set up a new Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) to provide a compliant route to market for short-term and emergency temporary accommodation, managed on behalf of the council for homeless households under statutory duties. The DPS would be a backup in case it takes longer to reduce down TA and/or buy accommodation, so the council is not exposed to risks of non-provision and have to rely on spot purchasing B&B style accommodation.
- 33.3 In 2012, the Council developed two Framework Agreements and a Dynamic Purchasing System for the provision of short term and emergency temporary accommodation managed on our behalf. This accommodation is for those households that we have an accommodation duty toward, either under the homelessness legislation; the Care Act or Children Act. These procurement systems have now expired and so the Council needs to develop a new mechanism to procure accommodation.
- 33.4 Under the above systems, the Council awarded individual contracts for the provision of 422 units of accommodation. The individual current contracts are due to expire between 2020 and 2022.
- 33.5 The purpose of this report is to provide an update of procurement options and to seek approval for the re-procurement of managed short term and emergency temporary accommodation; and to recommend this re-procurement to Policy & Resources Committee. Members should note that there are significant financial implications to recommending the level of service in Option 2 as outlined in section 7.
- 33.6 Councillor Mary Mears stated that they did not support the report, were nervous about the system and would prefer to see how contracts have worked. Any debate seemed pointless. Councillor Mears was informed that there are two options for DPS at this stage. The second option would allow units to be delivered when needed.
- 33.7 The Chair, Councillor Gill Williams stated they appreciated comments.
- 33.8 Councillor David Gibson was informed that contracts can be flexible, and more funds would result in more units.
- 33.9 Councillor David Gibson noted that the quality of life is very important.

- 33.10 Councillor Siriol Hugh-Jones noted that accommodation needs to be used wisely.
- 33.11 Councillor Amy Heley proposed an amendment to the recommendations seconded by Councillor Nichole Brennan.
- 33.12 Sylvia Peckham confirmed the finance comments on the amendment.
- 33.13 Councillor Mary Mears felt the amendment was bizarre and not thought through.
- 33.14 The amendment was accepted as proposed.

Resolved:

The Recommendations as amended were:

The Housing Committee recommends that Policy & Resources Committee be recommended to:

- 2.1 Agree to procure short term and emergency temporary accommodation via a new dynamic purchasing system (DPS);
- 2.2 Agree that option 2 as set out in paragraph 3.9 should be used to develop the specification for the DPS. This service level is anticipated to create a minimum budget pressure of £0.300m requiring a funding commitment within the 2020/21 General Fund budget. If this exceeds available resources following announcement of the Local Government Financial Settlement, this would require equivalent savings from elsewhere across General Fund services;
- 2.3 Notes the indicative numbers of short term and emergency temporary accommodation units required in each year as shown in the table in Appendix 1;
- 2.4 Delegates authority to the Executive Director of Housing, Neighbourhoods and Communities in consultation with the Director of Finance & Resources, to:
 - (i) Procure and award the DPS referred to in 2.1 with a duration of up to four (4) years; and
 - (ii) Award and enter into call-off contracts under the DPS referred to in 2.1.