

CONTRACT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA



Monday, 1 November 2010

at 11.00 am

**in Committee Room C,
Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

MEMBERS: CONTRACT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

Councillors Aiken, Ingham, Lawton, London, Maness, Richardson, Simmons, Sutheran and Wells.

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
- 3. MINUTES**
 - 3.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2010
- 4. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

No items
- 5. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS ARE URGENT**
- 6. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (VARIATION) ORDER 2006**

EXEMPT ITEMS

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs referred to below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006

7. TENDERS TO BE OPENED

- 7.1 Catcote Road/Truro and Mow bray Junction Improvements Contract
Reference Number 468 (para 3) – *Construction Technician*

8. ANY OTHER CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT

CONTRACT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

18th October 2010

The meeting commenced at 11.00 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

PRESENT: Councillor Frances London (In the Chair);

Councillors Trish Lawton, Chris Simmons and Ray Wells

OFFICERS: Brian Ayre, Commissioned Services Manager
Terry Maley, Commissioning and Contracts Manager
Kate Watchorn, Commercial Solicitor
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

48. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were submitted for Councillors Sarah Maness, Carl Richardson and Lilian Sutheran.

49. Declarations of Interest

None

50. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th October were confirmed as a true record.

51. Exception to Contract Procedure Rules (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

The Commissioned Services Manager advised the committee of the recent agreement by the Portfolio Holder for Adult and Public Health Services to make an exception to the contract procedure rules in relation to a contract held by the Richmond Fellowship. In 2004 it was appointed to provide housing related support to people with mental health conditions at a purpose built housing scheme at Eamont Terrace.. This contract was due to expire on 4th October 2010 however officers were currently undertaking a review of the overnight cover portion of the service and it was felt advisable to extend the current contract until this review was completed. Members queried what might be provided in place of the current overnight cover and were advised that a concierge service, whereby somebody would be available on-site if needed, was being considered. Funding for this would be provided through Housing Benefit and would therefore not impact financially upon

the council. Members indicated their support for the contract extension.

Decision

That the report be noted.

52. Social Care Contracts (MIND, The Artrium & PROP) (Strategic Commissioner – Mental Health)

The Commissioned Services Manager advised the committee of the recent agreement by the Portfolio Holder for Adult and Public Health Services to make an exception to the contract procedure rules in relation to the following contracts, all due to terminate on 30th September:

- i. People's Relief of Pressure – mental health services – contract held since April 2004
- ii. Hartlepool Arts Studio Project – Community Arts Studio – contract held since April 2009
- iii. MIND – Mental Health Recovery Service – contract held since 2004

A day service Commissioning Strategy was originally developed by the Mental Health Local Implementation Team in 2007. However it had recently been agreed that the funding for the 3 existing services would be re-invested in the new 'Moving Forward Day Services' model of delivery. Permission had previously been given by the Portfolio Holder to waive contract procedure rules and extend the existing contracts to 30th September 2010. Tenders had been invited, received and opened in the presence of the committee on 14th June 2010 however on 28th June 2010 a decision had been taken to withdraw the tender process. This decision was the result of a need to review the overall service delivery across the Council and PCT following a change in the strategic direction regionally and nationally with the change in Government.

Decision

That the report be noted

53. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

The Chair ruled that the following items of business should be considered by the Committee as a matter of urgency in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(B) (4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 in order that the matter could be dealt with without delay.

At the meeting on 23rd August 2010 the Commissioned Services

Manager had reported the awarding of a contract for the provision of an advocacy service for adults to the committee. At the time members had queried the number of people using the service and asked that this information be provided to them at a future meeting. The Commissioned Services Manager was in attendance and advised that the average access of the service was 164 per year since 2006 at a total contract price of £109,000. However officers were unable to quantify how many of these visits had been made by the same person. Members suggested that given the nature of the service being provided it was unlikely that users would visit only once.. Members highlighted the large amount previously paid for the contract. The Commissioned Services Manager indicated that bids for the new contract were all in the region of £60,000, a substantial saving. Should the use of the service remain at the average of 164 per year this would equate to £366 per visit. Given these high costs it had been deemed expedient to move from advance payment to a spot contract whereby monthly reports would be provided to the Council giving details of service users. The Commissioned Services Manager would be happy to report back to the committee regarding user levels on a quarterly basis. In response to member concerns he confirmed that nobody would be denied access due to budgetary concerns.

The meeting concluded at 11:15 am

CHAIR