

DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR, PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES



DECISION NO: P&C86

SUBJECT: Vision North Somerset (VNS) Extension Of Contract

DECISION: To extend VNS existing contract from 01.04.16 to 31.03.18

BACKGROUND: In 2012 VNS were awarded the contract to provide registration and rehabilitation services to adults and children with a visual impairment – which are a statutory requirement – and equipment services for people with a hearing impairment. The contract was for three years – 01.01.13 to 31.12.15 - with the possibility of a extension of a further two years subject to satisfactory service delivery.

Reasons: In February / March 2016 the P&C Commissioning team, together with the VNS link officer – undertook a formal review using the agreed VCS review process. This included service user contribution. The outcome of the review was that VNS were considered compliant. There were three areas where some action was needed and Vision have already undertaken what was required. The service user monitoring was extremely positive and supportive of the VNS service. On the basis of the review, and of VNS delivery over the life of the contract, it is recommended that the contract is extended for a further two years.

The original contract was formally awarded to Woodspring Association for the blind as that was the formal charity name of Vision North Somerset. The name has now been formally changed. The contract extension will therefore be awarded to Vision North Somerset.

Options Considered: In 2012 the market was tested through a competitive tendering process. There were only two bidders of whom only one was viable. There is no indication that the market has expanded, and a extension therefore avoids a procurement process in a very small market that could be disruptive to delivery of a effective service. . Vision have also raised significant capital and revenue charitable funds to the sector, and this resource may be lost if the contract is not extended.

Financial Implications: The funding to extend the contract is contained within the budget for 2016-17. The funding for 2016-17 is £173,000.

Implications for Future Years: Funding for 2017-18 will be subject to the council's annual budget setting process.

Reviewed: Gerald Hunt

Gerald Hunt
Assistant Director, Strategy, Commissioning & Quality Assurance

Dated:

Signed: Sheila Smith

Sheila Smith
Director, People and Communities

Dated: 12 / 4 / 16