

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET		
SUBJECT:	*COMMUNITY ALARM / TELECARE MONITORING PROVISION FOR NON SCC CUSTOMERS		
DATE OF DECISION:	18 JUNE 2013		
REPORT OF:	CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND SUSTAINABILITY		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

The confidential appendix contains information deemed to be exempt from general publication pursuant to Category 3 of paragraph 10.4 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules. The appendix includes details of a proposed transaction which, if disclosed prior to entering a legal contract, could put the Council or other parties at a commercial disadvantage. It is considered that it is not in the public interest to disclose this information as to do so may impact on the integrity of the transaction and the Council's ability to agree commercially satisfactory terms in line with its statutory duties.

BRIEF SUMMARY

SCC Housing Services currently provide monitoring of the personal alarm system in all of Portsmouth City Council's Sheltered Housing Schemes through a contract agreement.

This contract has been in place since 1999 and is currently, after agreement from both parties, being updated as part of normal contract and business arrangements.

Neither the contract sums nor the service arrangements are being altered with this updated version. This contract though is time limited until March 2014 with a possible extension for 12 months.

Under SCC financial regulations, any business undertaken for a third party must be approved by Cabinet and it is therefore appropriate that as the existing contract is being refreshed it is brought to Cabinet for approval.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) To approve a time limited extension to the existing service with Portsmouth City Council for the provision of telecare alarm monitoring services, for the maximum period May 2013 to March 2015 and on the terms set out in the contract;
- (ii) To delegate authority to the Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services to do anything necessary to give effect to this decision.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. SCC Housing Services have, for a number of years, been providing a Community Alarm/Telecare Monitoring Service for Portsmouth City Council. In line with normal business, the existing contact is being refreshed with the proposal that it is extended until April 2014 (with the possibility of a further 12 months).
2. This service has been provided by SCC since 1999 and is provided by the SCC Community Alarm Team based at City Depot. The service level is agreed within the terms of the contract specification and will continue to be delivered within the resources of the existing team and structure.
3. The service provided by SCC is a call handling one for Telecare devices and community alarm calls. Calls are monitored and taken by SCC and follow a pre-determined response pathway such as offering remote support and/or contacting professional contacts (e.g. The Ambulance Service) or the customer's nominated personal contacts.
4. SCC is duly equipped to deliver this service and has done so continuously for several years and the continuation of this contract ensures no net income loss to the Council for the duration of the contact.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

5. To give notice on the contract leaving PCC to make alternative arrangements for the provision of their alarm monitoring service. This would result in a net loss of income to the authority and could hinder the service in bidding for future contracts.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

6. Portsmouth City Council have a high number of sheltered housing schemes across the City, all of which have emergency hard wired alarms in the properties- similar to the alarms in Southampton's Supported Accommodation.
7. SCC alarms have been monitored and continue to be by the Community Alarm & Telecare Service based in City Depot, part of SCC's Housing Services Supported Services Section.
8. This is a 24/7 service and is regarded as vital to the successful provision of a supported housing service.
9. Since 1999, SCC have been monitoring all of the Portsmouth alarms under a business arrangement with regular monitoring meetings taking place.
10. A basic contract has always been in place with Portsmouth City Council but has not recently been refreshed with the service being run on an ongoing basis between two neighbouring authorities.
11. Recently, it was felt by both parties that the contract should be refreshed to bring it in line with normal contractual procedures.
12. Although neither the contract sum nor the service level are changing, this needs to be brought to Cabinet under the aforementioned financial procedure rules.

13. The current contract arrangement and service delivery are assumed within the existing Community Alarm staffing provision and the continuance of this contract would not require any change in staffing or resourcing.
14. The new contract would be for the service to be delivered until the end of March 2014 with a further 12 month extension if suitable to the business needs of each City at that point.
15. The service is for SCC Community Alarm Service (CAS) to monitor all specified alarm provision in the Portsmouth area and to alert the PCC responding services accordingly under protocols set down and agreed by both parties.
16. SCC do not provide any type of responding service for Portsmouth City Council and it is only the monitoring provision that this contract refers.
17. This ensures that the liability of SCC is limited to CAS following agreed protocols in ensuring that information is correctly passed on to PCC and that once the information is supplied to PCC, SCC have discharged their responsibility.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

18. The service will continue to be staffed under the existing staffing structure, at no additional cost to the Council, and will continue to generate an income for the Housing Revenue Account.

Property/Other

19. None.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

20. Various statutory powers exist that enable a local authority to contract with a third party in relation to the provision of goods or services including the Local Authority (Goods and Services) Act 1970, the Local Government Act 2003, as well as the general power of competence contained within the Localism Act 2011.

Other Legal Implications:

21. Specific legal advice should be sought in relation to the substance of any contract to provide goods or services to a third party to ensure compliance with relevant statutory charging and trading requirements and restrictions.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

22. None.

KEY DECISION? N/A

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	NONE
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	Contract Details - Confidential
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Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
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Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out.	No
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Other Background Documents

Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s)

Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)

1.	None	
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