

## RECORD OF DECISION MADE UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

### **\*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

Any interest to declare/ or conflict and any dispensation granted *[if applicable]*

### **SERVICE DIRECTORATE: CUSTOMERS**

#### **1. DECISION TAKEN**

- 1.1 To extend the Doro IP digital assistive technology equipment through the Northern Housing Consortium Framework Agreement- TECS Lot 1 D A - Dec 2020 by 12 months to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023

#### **2. DECISION TAKER**

- 2.1 Jo Dufficy, Service Director - Customers

#### **3. DATE DECISION TAKEN:**

- 3.1 24 August 2022

#### **4. REASON FOR DECISION**

- 4.1 Digital alarms are a core component of assistive technology and the service that Careline provides to support independent living. The market for digital IP alarms is still in its infancy with limited manufacturers involved in this market.
- 4.2 Doro Care has been the supplier of these devices under the Northern Housing Consortium Framework Agreement- TECS Lot 1 D A - Dec 2020. The existing framework agreement offers value for money whilst ensuring the widest catalogue of available products. When the original agreement was set-up an option to extend the term for 12 months was included.

#### **5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 An open tender exercise was considered but significant supply issues are present within the industry and our current arrangement has proven resilient to chip shortages, additionally there has been little movement in industry prices so it is unlikely that running a full procurement at the moment would result in any financial benefit.

#### **6. CONSULTATION (INCLUDING THE EFFECT ON STAKEHOLDERS, PARTNERS AND THE PUBLIC)**

- 6.1 The product range is currently part of the assistive technology offering and we are not proposing to change the options available.
- 6.2 Consultation has been carried out with the Leader and Deputy Executive Member for Community Engagement

## **7. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 7.1 The current framework agreement under which Doro Care equipment was purchased came to an end in November 2022 and an option to extend for a further 12 months is available. There have been supply issues within the industry, however our current arrangement has been resilient to this and therefore we wish to continue with this arrangement, in order to do so we need to utilise the option for a 12 month extension.
- 7.2 NHC are working with Hertfordshire County Council to update and digitise the service provision to become meet the December 2025 analogue network switch off. This involves replacement of existing clients equipment which will require physical technology to be installed or replaced as part of the new arrangement. The contract with Northern Housing Consortium allows for the expected increase in stock with the digitised service.

## **8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 Contract Procurement Rule 29.2 state; a Service Director may, following consultation with the Service Director: Resources and the relevant Executive Member authorise an extension of a contract by up to 24 months, up to a value of £200,000.
- 8.2 The Contract Procurement Rules require the publication of a Decision Notice for any procurement with a value of above £50,000.
- 8.3 Contracts must be let in accordance with the Contract Procurement Rules, and extensions to contracts must be obtained in accordance with the rules for use thereof.
- 8.4 The Council must be satisfied that best value is obtained, and that the grounds for an extension to the existing contract have been met.

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 The expenditure is on behalf of Hertfordshire County Council who have delegated their authority to NHDC to provide assistive technology equipment to Hertfordshire residents. NHDC will draw down the funding through the existing Section 9EA agreement to purchase the equipment.
- 9.2 The total contract value has been calculated at £1.8m to take into account the increase in client base as a result of the expanded service and digitisation, which commenced in early 2021/2022. The majority of costs associated with this will be underwritten by HCC through the Section 9EA any residual will be funded through the maintenance element of self-funded clients service charge.

## **10. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 Failure to procure a supplier of digital Assistive Technology equipment would put in jeopardy the supply of service to vulnerable residents within Hertfordshire, due to the change of telecommunications network from analogue to digital. The Council also has to ensure sufficient supplies due to chip shortages causing supply issues.

## **11. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 The service provides support to vulnerable elderly and disabled residents of Hertfordshire.

11.2 There are no other equalities implications.

**12. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 The Social Value Act and Go Local Policy do not apply to this decision

**13. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

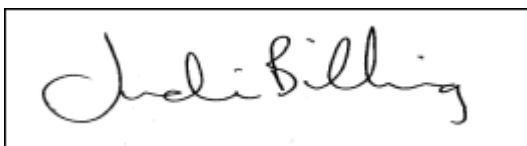
13.1 None

**14. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

14.1 None

**15. NOTIFICATION DATE**

**Signature of Executive Member Consulted**

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judi Billings".

**Date 24 August 2022**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be "A. [unclear]".

**Signature of Decision Taker**

**Please Note:** that *unless urgency provisions apply* EXECUTIVE decisions cannot be implemented until 5 clear working days have elapsed after the decision has been taken to allow for scrutiny call-in.

**Call-in does not apply to NON-EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**