
NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

12 June 2020

Emergency Governance Decisions (Covid-19 Outbreak)

Title: Award of contract for the Provision of an Unpaid Carers and Young Carers Support Service

Purpose: To advise of the outcome of the tendering exercise for the Provision of an Unpaid Carers and Young Carers Support Service and recommend the award of a contract.

Recommendation: That the Chief Executive, following appropriate consultation, agrees on behalf of the Council that the contract be awarded to Unity Enterprise.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 North Ayrshire Council require to establish a replacement contract for the Provision of an Unpaid Carers and Young Carers Support Service. The purpose of this contract is to facilitate support and advice to unpaid carers across the North Ayrshire area. Providing this support is a requirement of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016.
- 1.2 In order to comply with the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts and public procurement legislation a formal tendering exercise was undertaken.
- 1.3 The Contract term is for 3 years with the option to extend for a further 2 years and is awarded Unity Enterprise.

2. Background

- 2.1 In light of the current Covid-19 outbreak, meetings of the Council and its committees have been suspended until 30 June 2020. During this period, the Scheme of Delegation to Officers already allows the Chief Executive to consider and deal with any urgent issues, howsoever arising, subject to reporting back to the Cabinet for information at the first available opportunity. This power is to be exercised in consultation with the relevant Chief Officer and the relevant portfolio holder. Please see Section 5 for further details of the consultation which has been undertaken in the preparation of this report.
- 2.2 A prior information notice was published on 8 November 2019 to notify the market of the forthcoming procurement exercise.

- 2.3 A formal contract notice was advertised on 19 December 2019 under the open procedure on Public Contracts Scotland and the Official Journal of the European Union and the procurement exercise was carried out via the PCS-Tender System. The return date for the tender was 23 January 2020.
- 2.4 The contract notice attracted 18 expressions of interest of which 2 submitted a tender response.
- 2.5 The contract notice attracted 5 expressions of interest from local or Pan Ayrshire bidders, none of which submitted a response.
- 2.6 The tender responses received were evaluated against the stated evaluation criteria of 20% price and 80% quality to determine the most economically advantageous tender.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 The Chief Executive, following appropriate consultation, is invited on behalf of the Council to award the contract to Unity Enterprise.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

- 4.1 The total value of the overall Contract is £1,024,795. An increased budget of £1,024,795 has been made available for this requirement.

Human Resources

- 4.2 None.

Legal

- 4.3 The contract will ensure that the Council satisfy their legislative requirement to provide support to unpaid carers as required by the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016.

Equality/Socio-economic

- 4.4 None.

Environmental and Sustainability

- 4.5 None

Key Priorities

- 4.6 The contract helps work towards the following objectives from the Council plan:

- **Aspiring communities**

- ***North Ayrshire's residents and communities are safe-*** We will work with partners to support our vulnerable residents and communities.

- ***North Ayrshire's children and young people have the best start in life-*** We will work with our young people to build their resilience, supporting their mental and physical well-being.
- **A Council for the future**
 - ***An accessible Council that puts residents and communities at the heart of what we do-*** We will provide joined-up services across the Council and with partner agencies and communities.
 - ***An efficient Council that maximises resources and provides value for money-*** We will use our spending power to drive value, maximising the opportunity to support communities and local businesses

Community Wealth Building

4.7 Award of these contracts contributes to the pillars of community wealth building set out below:

- **Procurement** - Community benefits were a minimum condition of this tender and the successful tenderer will deliver the following community benefits over the duration of the contract:
 - Work placement for a minimum of 5 days for an S4, S5 or S6 pupil
 - Support for a community project agreed in conjunction with NAC Communities department involving local people and reflecting local priorities
- **Employment** – The winning tenderer is a living wage accredited employer
- **Land and Assets** – Not applicable
- **Financial Power** – Not applicable
- **Democratic Ownership** – Not applicable

5. Consultation

5.1 Throughout the tender process there was direct involvement with members of the self-directed support team from the Health and Social Care Partnership.

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For further information please contact **Suzanne Quinn, I Category Manager- Supplies Services and Works**, on **01294 324 039**.

Background Papers

NAC/5008 Tender Outcome Report