

Finance and Resources Committee

10.00 am, Thursday, 15 January 2015

Mediation Services - Request for Contract Extension

Item number	7.17
Report number	
Executive/routine	Executive
Wards	All

Executive summary

This report requests that the Finance and Resources Committee extends the existing Service Level Agreement (SLA), for the Edinburgh Community Mediation Service, provided by SACRO, until 31 March 2015, under Contract Standing Orders (CSO9), which provides that the Council Standing Orders may be waived under certain, prescribed circumstances.

Links

Coalition pledges [P13,P14](#)

Council outcomes [CO15](#)

[CO21](#)

[CO23](#)

Single Outcome Agreement

[SO4](#)

Mediation Service - Request for Contract Extension

Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Finance and Resources Committee extends the existing Service Level Agreement (SLA) for the Edinburgh Community Mediation Service provided by SACRO until 31 March 2015 at a cost of £123,750.

Background

- 2.1 SACRO currently provides mediation services to residents in Edinburgh experiencing antisocial behaviour. The SLA was reviewed in 2010 and the cost of the service was reduced by 20%. An extension to the current SLA at a cost of £123,750 is requested, until 31 March 2015, to allow for examination of alternative service delivery models that will provide best value. This examination will assess bringing the service in-house or procuring a redesigned service.

Main report

- 3.1 The Council is currently consulting on a range of budget options for 2015/16, including developing a different service model for the delivery of mediation services. This will include the options as set out above.
- 3.2 Commercial and Procurement Services has been consulted and advised that it is in the Council's best interest to extend the existing SLA until 31 March 2015, given the proposed service redesign. The period of extension will allow examination of service delivery models, including the possibility of bringing the service in house through training and up-skilling current Council employees, specifically Community Safety Officers to deliver the mediation service. By utilising the Councils' Quick Quote procurement service, work is currently ongoing to secure training for staff, should this option be agreed. This model may also provide future income generation opportunities.
- 3.3 Research has shown that SACRO are the only providers of community mediation in Scotland, although other organisations provide other forms of mediation services.

Measures of success

- 4.1 Agreeing to the extension of this contract will allow the development of alternative service options to achieve best value.

Financial impact

- 5.1 The cost of extending the Service Level Agreement (SLA) until 31 March 2015 is £123,750. This cost can be accommodated within the Community Safety budget.

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 The risks of not extending the SLA with until 31 March 2015 are:
- There will be no antisocial community mediation service available to residents of Edinburgh, which is contrary to the Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) Policy which was approved by Health, Social Care and Housing Committee meeting on 17 June 2014. This sets out that mediation can be used as a tool when tackling ASB.
 - There would be a negative impact on current supported victims.
- 6.2 The risk of extending the SLA are:
- minimal due to the length of the contract extension being provided.
 - minimal as previous research has identified that SACRO are the only provider in Scotland that works with communities, or individuals, experiencing antisocial behaviour.
- 6.3 If the budget option to deliver the mediation service in a different way, including the option to bring the service in house, is not accepted, there would be a need to carry out a further procurement exercise which will require a further extension to the current SLA.

Equalities impact

- 7.1 As this report proposes extending the existing arrangement without change, an ERIA is not required. A full ERIA is being carried out as part of the budget process.

Sustainability impact

- 8.1 None identified.

Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 Commercial and Procurement Services has been consulted with and is in agreement with the proposed approach outlined within this report.

Background reading / external references

N/A

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Links

Coalition pledges	P13 – Enforce tenancy agreements (council and private landlords) with a view to ensuring tenants and landlords fulfil their good conduct responsibilities. P14- Strengthen Council housing allocation policy to give recognition to good tenants and to encourage responsible tenant behaviour and responsibilities. P34 – Work with Police on an antisocial behaviour unit to target persistent offenders
Council outcomes	CO15 – The public are protected CO21 – Residents, visitors and businesses feel that Edinburgh is a safe city CO23 – Well engaged and well informed – Communities and individuals are empowered and supported to improve local outcomes and foster a sense of community
Single Outcome Agreement	SO2 - Edinburgh's citizens experience improved health and wellbeing, with reduced inequalities in health. SO4 – Edinburgh's communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric.
Appendices	N/A