

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

8 MARCH 2022

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE

DISABLED FACILITIES GRANTS (DFGs) FRAMEWORK

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek authority from Cabinet to go out to tender for a Framework to appoint contractors to deliver works required under Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs).

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives/other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:
- **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** – taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.
 - **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** - taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
 - **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

- 3.1 At the meeting of Cabinet on the 19 January 2021, Cabinet approved a new pilot model of service delivery for Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) to be implemented. It was agreed that this service would be brought in-house. As part of this new model, a Framework was to be established to appoint contractors to provide works required under DFGs.
- 3.2 A working group has been established, made up of representatives from Housing, Legal, Procurement and the Corporate Transformation Team. The working group are preparing the required documentation to complete the tender process to establish a Framework.
- 3.3 The key drivers for the implementation of the Framework are:

3.3.1 Accountability - The statutory duty lies with the Council to provide the service. Prior to Cabinet's decision on the 19 January the Council did not have end to end control of the process. The decision now enables the Council the ability to strengthen controls with regards to quality, safeguarding and capacity management.

3.3.2 Responsiveness and person centred approach – the delivery times for DFGs, particularly for complex children's cases, is not consistent with a person centred approach. The Council is in the bottom quartile for Wales in terms of delivery times.

3.4 The benefits of the Framework being in place will result in a more responsive, accountable and compliant outcome as the Council will be able to engage directly with contractors through the Framework.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 Pre-market engagement with interested contractors has taken place. Contractors had the opportunity to attend one-to-one discussions and joint workshops.

4.2 Pre-market engagement opportunities were advertised on Social Media, Sell 2 Wales and through the authority's Local Enterprise Team.

4.3 Workshops held on the 25 & 26 January 2022, included representatives from the DFG Team, Procurement, Business Wales, Sell 2 Wales and Constructionline

The information presented at these workshops included :

- 'Set the scene' of what the Framework is aiming to achieve
- set out a proposal of how the Framework may work
- set out the authority's Procurement procedure
- informed contractors of the support available to them via Business Wales, Sell 2 Wales and Constructionline
- discussed any perceived or actual barriers, about working with the council

4.4 Following this exercise, the information gathered is being used to progress the tender documentation to reflect the findings of these discussions. Work is on-going to finalise the tender documentation and on completion, a procurement process will be commenced in accordance with the Council's Corporate Procurement Rules as soon as possible.

4.5 The Framework will be for a duration of 4 years and the estimated overall value of the Framework over the four (4) year period will be around £7,800,000, however each call-off contract from the Framework will generally be worth no more than £36,000 (maximum grant value). Most call-offs are likely to be significantly under this value as many medium type works tend to be in the region of £7,000 - £12,000.

4.6 The Framework will be divided into lots to cover the range of work that will be expected under the Framework which will include the installation of ramps, low level showers and bathrooms, stairlifts and full extensions etc.

4.7 A further report shall be presented to Cabinet following the conclusion of the tender process to seek permission to award the Tender.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 There is no effect on policy framework and procedure rules.

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

6.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening on the proposals to change service delivery has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh Language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

7.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with five ways of working to guide how the Council should work to deliver well-being outcomes for people. The following is a summary to show how the five ways of working to achieve the well-being goals have been considered in this report:

Long term	Ensuring best use of available accommodation allowing Citizens to live safely in their own homes.
Preventative	Through a person centred approach preventing an individual escalating into hospital services.
Involvement	Providing individuals the choice to remain in their home ensuring they are part of the process from start to finish managed through a single point of engagement.
Integration	Ensure individuals can remain within their communities providing an array of benefits including stability through the maintaining of local support networks.
Collaboration	Developing a Framework Agreement for businesses to support the DFG service. Working in partnership with Social Services to deliver the required adaptations necessary and appropriate to meet the needs of the disabled person.

8. Financial implications

8.1 Based on historic and current information, Bridgend County Borough Council estimate the overall value of the Framework over the four (4) year period to be around £7,800,000. It is anticipated that a call-off contract from the Framework Agreement will generally be worth no more than £36,000. Most Call-offs are likely to be significantly under this value.

8.2 There is an annual capital allocation in the capital programme of £1.95 million for Mandatory DFGs. Future annual allocations are expected to be at the same level.

9. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:-

9.1.1 approve the procurement of a Disabled Facilities Grants Framework of contractors to deliver works

9.1.2 delegates authority to the Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change to tender for the Framework of contractors to deliver works under Disabled Facilities Grants in consultation with the Chief Officer – Legal and Regulatory Services, HR & Corporate Policy; and

9.1.3 notes that a further report shall be presented to Cabinet following the conclusion of the procurement of the Framework for a decision on whether to award the Framework and seek approval to enter into the Framework Agreement with successful bidders.

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CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE
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Background documents:

None