1. Purpose of Report.

1.1 To seek Cabinet approval to award the contract for the provision of a Regional Shared Lives Scheme on behalf of Bridgend County Borough Council, Neath Port Talbot Council and the City and County of Swansea.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority.

2.1 This report links to the following themes in the Corporate Plan:
- Corporate Plan, Priority 4 – Working together to help vulnerable people to stay independent;
- Corporate Plan, Priority 5 – Working together to tackle health issues and encourage healthy lifestyles;
- Corporate Plan, Priority 6 – Working together to make best use of our resources.

2.2 It also has links to:-
- BCBCs Remodeling Adult Social Care Programme;
- BCBCs Medium Term Financial Strategy 2013-2017 (MTFS);
- Western Bay Health and Social Care Programme.

3. Background.

3.1 Shared Lives is a scheme in which eligible adults are offered short term, long term or emergency support by a Shared Lives Carer. This support is delivered in the home of Shared Lives Carers, who are currently recruited, trained and supported by the relevant Local Authority. Shared Lives Carers receive a payment for the services they provide when a person is placed with them and an agreement is made with the Carers to ensure that the national minimum standards for Shared Lives Schemes is complied with.

3.2 Currently Bridgend County Borough Council delivers the Shared Lives Scheme internally, as do Neath Port Talbot Council and the City and County of Swansea. The Western Bay Programme Team identified an opportunity to expand and develop the service by amalgamating the three schemes into a Regional Shared Lives Scheme and, thereby, attract an external partner to deliver it on their behalf

3.3 Bridgend County Borough Council was identified as the lead Authority to take this collaborative project forward and enter into a contract with the provider on behalf of the Western Bay authorities. On 11th November 2014, Cabinet was advised of the
plans for the Regional Shared Lives Scheme and subsequently approved the following recommendations:

- The proposal to combine the three existing Shared Lives Schemes into a collaborative Scheme on behalf of the Western Bay Authorities and to undertake a procurement exercise to identify a partner to manage the Scheme;
- To authorise Bridgend County Borough Council to invite tenders and act as lead authority for the procurement and contracting arrangements on behalf of the Western Bay Authorities;
- To authorise the Council to enter into a collaborative agreement on terms to be agreed by the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Regulatory Services, with the City and County of Swansea and Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, which would set out the finance and governance arrangements for the collaborative Shared Lives Service;
- To delegate authority for the Group Manager, Learning Disability Services (or as his deputy, the Operational Manager of Learning Disability Services) to represent the Council on the Shared Lives Project Board, which, once established, would manage the day to day aspects of the service including monitoring arrangements and financial governance. The appointed officer for the Council would identify if there were any fundamental changes or impact to the agreed contracting arrangements, these will be reported back to Cabinet for approval;
- To note that an update report seeking Cabinet approval to enter into a contract with the successful tender would be submitted once the outcome of the procurement process is known.


4.1 Since this matter was last before Cabinet, officers have developed a service model that will enable the regional Shared Lives Scheme to meet the increased demands for services across the Western Bay area. A robust service specification and contract based on this service model has been produced to ensure continuity of high quality person-centered services that are accessible, flexible, reliable and responsive to need. The tender documents set out the Authorities requirement to work with a partner who would deliver a service that will promote the aims, values, philosophy and vision of the Council.

4.2 A tender process has now been completed. The assessment was based on 100% quality criteria. Bidders were requested to complete a method statement, comprising 70% of the overall evaluation score, which assessed their ability to deliver a high quality service in line with the core requirements. An added value method statement, consisting of 10% of the overall evaluation score assessed the bidder’s ability to expand the current Scheme each year of the Agreement to ensure that the Authorities obtain best value. The final 20% of the quality criteria was to be an assessment of the three highest scoring bidders by way of a presentation and interview.

4.3 In the event, only one bid was received and evaluated. However, despite the limited response to the invitation to tender, the bidder concerned has demonstrated both their ability to deliver a high quality service in line with the Authorities core requirements and that they are able to exceed our minimum expansion
requirements. The procurement strategy and process undertaken will result in us having commissioned a partner that shares our social care values to deliver a high quality Shared Lives Scheme, whilst working within a fixed annual budget, which meets the outcomes of growing numbers of vulnerable people throughout the Western Bay region.

4.4 The tenderer concerned is Ategi Limited. The Council has written to Ategi to inform them of our intention to award the contract to them, subject to there being no challenges received during the mandatory standstill period and subject to the receipt of Cabinet’s approval to award the contract.

4.5 Cabinet should note that an inter-authority agreement (IAA) to underpin this joint commissioning project has been developed with and agreed by both the City and County of Swansea and Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council. The IAA sets out the financial and governance arrangements for the collaboration.

5. **Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.**

5.1 The tender process was undertaken in accordance with the Authorities Contract Procedure Rules.

6. **Equality Impact Assessments.**

6.1 An Equality Impact Screening has been undertaken and it was found that the change would not have a negative impact or discriminate against people with a protected characteristic.

7. **Financial Implications.**

7.1 The full year cost saving to the Authority by transferring the Shared Lives Scheme to Ategi Limited is £30,000. This saving comes from a vacant post and will be used to meet part of the MTFS saving requirement.

8. **Recommendation.**

8.1 Cabinet is requested to approve the award of a contract with Ategi Limited to deliver a Regional Shared Lives Scheme on behalf of Bridgend County Borough Council, Neath Port Talbot Council and the City and County of Swansea.

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10. **Background Documents**  
None