

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE Finance and Resources DATE 17 June 2010

CORPORATE DIRECTOR Stewart Carruth

TITLE OF REPORT Request for Authority to Procure Occupational Therapy Equipment

REPORT NUMBER: CG/10/106

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report seeks the approval of the Committee to conduct tender exercises for the provision of general Occupational Therapy (OT) Equipment, including the provision, servicing and maintenance of Stairlifts and the provision, servicing and maintenance of Ceiling Track, Hoists and Mobile Hoists.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee approve:

- (i) The Central Procurement Unit (CPU) conducting competitive tendering exercises in line with Council Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and EU Legislation for the provision of Occupational Therapy (OT) Equipment.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The annual budget figure for the Council's current provision of OT Equipment is £267,000 per annum. Market research indications are that the provision of these requirements will be met in full within the current budget allocation. Joint tendering with other Councils and the harmonisation of specifications with other Councils will potentially achieve savings if critical economies of scale can be achieved. The duration of the subsequent contracts will be a minimum of 3 years with the Council having the option to extend for at least a further 12 months.

4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

The supply of OT Equipment continues to be required to support individuals in the Community with specific needs, and to allow them to maintain their independence within their home or work environment. Part of this requirement also involves the provision, servicing and maintenance of Stairlifts, Fixed Track Hoists and Mobile Hoists in the homes of Council Tenants and Owner Occupiers who have been assessed by the Authorities Occupational Therapists and who qualify for equipment that enables them to be lifted and moved. Equally, School

staff in consultation with NHS Paediatric Occupational Therapists, identify children who also require this type of equipment – and any contract entered into would be accessible Council-wide.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The spend on OT Equipment is above the threshold set under the Public Contracts Scotland (2006) Regulations – and so tendering must be undertaken in accordance with these regulations.

There are no EHRIA implications, as any Service delivery to accompany the goods will be delivered as it has previously.

6. REPORT

Aberdeen City Council have duties to provide and maintain Occupational Health Equipment, under the following acts:

- **The Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970** – to provide facilities for the “greater safety, comfort and convenience” of individuals with a disability, including the provision of equipment and adaptations.
- **The National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978** – to promote the improvement of physical and mental health and to assess needs, design care packages (including equipment), and secure delivery. This requires the promotion an individual’s capacity for independence and integration.
- **The Children (Scotland) Act 1995** – the duty to support families, and to protect children.
- **The Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968** – to promote social welfare and to assess needs and decide whether those needs call for local provision.
- **The Disabled Persons (Services, Consultation and Representation) Act 1986** – to carry out assessments of need if requested to do so by an individual or their carer.
- Part II of the **Community Care and Health (Scotland) Act 2002** – promotes joint working between local authorities and health boards to make joint community care and health provisions by enabling the delegation of functions, the transfer of resources and pooling of budgets.

The Council’s requirements encompass (but are not exclusive to) the following ranges of OT Equipment:

- Access
- Bathing
- Bed Accessories
- Components
- Domestic & Personal
- Eating & Drinking
- Kitchen Equipment
- Moving & Handling
- Rails
- Seats & Seating

Toilet Equipment

The Council also has a limited requirement for the provision and installation of Stairlifts, Mobile Hoists, Hoists and Ceiling Track (and a significant need for servicing and maintenance of this equipment).

These requirements would be planned to be split into separate tenders, given the specialist nature of supplying, maintaining and servicing different items of equipment.

It would be the Council's intention to utilise both direct contracts and framework contracts to allow the maximum flexibility for the Council in procuring from a number of suppliers; allowing access to those providing specialist niche products, whilst also allowing economies of scale to be generated to gain improved pricing.

It is the Council's intention to pursue collaborative tender exercises with other interested public sector partners in order to maximize buying power and improve value for money.

7. AUTHORISED SIGNATURE

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8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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