

Summary Sheet

Council Report: Cabinet Meeting

Title: Disabled Go – Accessibility and Equality Services

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Graeme Betts Interim Strategic Director of Adult Care and Housing

Report Author(s)

Janine Moorcroft – Change Leader

Ward(s) Affected

All

1. Summary

To progress the suspension of contract procurement standing orders 4.1 to 4.2 to enable the Council to enter into a contract with Disabled Go to develop an Access Service in Rotherham.

It should be noted that Procurement have been engaged in the process and have confirmed that research has been conducted to find a comparable quote, however Disabled Go do provide a unique service.

Therefore procurement is unable to source another quotation as Disabled Go offer such a unique service. This leaves RMBC with no alternative than to contract directly with this provider.

This project is to be undertaken jointly with CYPS and Health to enable a holistic approach to accessibility for all residents of Rotherham.

2. Recommendations

That Commissioners and Cabinet Members:

- 2.1 Approve that pursuant to Standing Order 38, the contracts referred to in the report to be exempt from the provisions of Standing Order 43 that would ordinarily require that tenders for a particular contract are to be obtained by inviting tenders for the contract on the open market.
- 2.2 It should be noted that Procurement have been engaged in the process and have confirmed that research has been conducted to find a comparable quote, however Disabled Go do provide a unique service.

Therefore procurement is unable to source another quotation as Disabled Go offer such a unique service. This leaves RMBC with no alternative than to contract directly with this provider.

List of Appendices Included

None

Background Papers

Adult Social Care Vision

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

No

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Title: Disabled Go – Accessibility and Equality Services

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 Approve that pursuant to Standing Order 38, the contracts referred to in the report to be exempt from the provisions of Standing Order 43 that would ordinarily require that tenders for a particular contract are to be obtained by inviting tenders for the contract on the open market.
- 1.2 Approves that pursuant to Standing Order 38, the contract referred to in paragraph 3.1.2 be exempt from the provisions of Standing Order 47 that would normally require 3 written quotations from the market.
- 1.3 It should be noted that Procurement have been engaged in the process and have confirmed that research has been conducted to find a comparable quote, however Disabled Go do provide a unique service.
- 1.4 Therefore procurement is unable to source another quotation as Disabled Go offer such a unique service. This leaves RMBC with no alternative than to contract directly with this provider.

2. Background and supporting information

- 2.1 The Disabled Go Service is the UK's leading provider of accessibility and equality services. It is unique as it seeks to provide personally assessed, pan disability rather than access information which enables people to make informed, confident choices about the places they like to access. The Service covers all types of venue, regardless of how accessible they are, recognising that people will need to know what is not accessible to them as much as what is. It also appreciates that how accessible somewhere is to someone will be very different depending on their access requirements. The Service seeks to give people the information to make an informed choice, not to make these choices on someone's behalf. There is no other similar provider of the service.
- 2.2 The organisation was set up in 2000 as a result of founder, Gregory Burke's, experiences and frustrations trying to access his local community as a wheelchair user. Disabled Go is an SME and is a not for profit social enterprise.
- 2.3 Disabled Go works with more than 250 public and private sector organisation on its unique Access Guide Service. This includes 90 local authorities, where the project helps achieve objectives across multiple service areas far beyond access and equality.
- 2.4 Disabled Go work with a diverse range of Councils overseeing everything from large cities to rural counties, key tourist destinations and areas of significant economic regeneration.

- 2.5 The information collected by Disabled Go surveyors has been developed in constant consultation with disability organisations to ensure that it meets the needs of people with a wide variety of impairment. The research template is reviewed by 100+ consultation groups a year to ensure it develops and evolves with user requirements. Surveyors use a bespoke online tool which ensures the quality and consistency of data not just across an area but the UK as whole. To date Disabled Go has personally assessed, published and maintained access information to over 125,000 venues.
- 2.6 Disabled Go has worked with many Councils to integrate their accessibility information into area specific websites, information portals and directories. By doing this accessibility is embedded in the offer to residents and visitors rather than being a separate resource enhancing engagement inclusion. Disabled Go has worked with areas which wish to attract an increased number of visitors and improve the information on offer to existing visitors. Disabled Go is committed to engaging and working in partnership with local disability and community organisations. The organisation tailors projects depending on how involved local organisations would like to be.
- 2.8 The Disabled Go Services strongly links to Equality Act obligations, tackling the barriers faced by disabled people to access their community and promoting equality of opportunity. The project involves disabled people, older people and carers as well as assisting authorities promoting equality across their area. However, the benefits of the project extend beyond this assisting in the delivery of key priorities across Council department and local partners.
- 2.9 The provision of comprehensive access information enables people to confidently access venues and services, building personal resilience and independence. This in turn leads to disabled people accessing and contributing to their communities and being in a position to improve their own health and wellbeing. Disabled Go is working with a range of authorities to integrate accessible information into directories being developed as part of the Care Act and local SEND offer provision to enable both children and adults to face less barriers to fulfil their potential.
- 2.10 Disabled Go is equally working with a wide variety of authorities to enable them to promote equality, social inclusion and access to cultural and leisure opportunities whether that be to a resident or visitor. The Disabled Go Service would add value and enhance existing information and be fully integrated into Rotherham current resources.
- 2.11 An Access Guide is just not about enabling people to be part of their community but also ensuring they are able to contribute to it as consumers and employees. With 1 in 4 households having a link to disability and disabled people being accountable for an £200+ billion annual spend in the UK alone promoting accessibility and facilities should be viewed as an essential part of building a vibrant economy and prosperous borough.

- 2.12 From a tourism perspective Disabled Go can assess and publish information on the majority of cultural and leisure venues across the borough. This information can easily be integrated within the Council's website. By integrating this information more thoroughly resources to the Borough would immediately be more inclusive and welcoming to individuals with access requirements. This would encourage disabled people and their families to visit attractions in the borough with confidence, being fully informed of facilities and Rotherham's commitment to inclusion. The Guide can also include information and accessibility of the borough's hotels which would enable disabled people to confidently plan a stay, converting someone's day trip to an overnight or multi-night stay. The need and economic benefit of providing this depth of information is increasingly being recognised by private organisations. Disabled Go recently completed a project for Whitbread to profile all 600+ Premier Inn Hotels and these hotels now display a link to their Access Guide.

3.0 Key Issues

- 3.1 Disabled Go will support the initiatives of the Adult Social Care Programme and will positively benefit the residents of Rotherham. The scheme will enable residents to be informed about their local facilities and more broadly about other facilities they may wish to use. The information will be available on RMBC website and will form part of our offer for customers within the information and advice.
- 3.1 Disabled Go will conduct an annual review to ensure that the access guide is kept up to date.

4.0 Options considered and recommended proposal

- 4.1 It is recommended that to progress the suspension of contract procurement standing orders 4.1 to 4.2 to enable the Council to enter into a contract with Disabled Go to develop an Access Service in Rotherham.
- 4.2 It is proposed that a working group is co-ordinated to keep the project on track. This will consist of officers from Adult Care and Housing, CYPS and Health.

5.0 Consultation

Residents will be engaged with the process and Disabled Go will offer work experience to local people to enable this project. Engagement events will also be held with local disabled people and disability groups.

6.0 Timetable and accountability for implementing this decision

Task	Action	Date
------	--------	------

Establish a working group (Adults CYPS, Health)	Identify lead officers to form working group	May 2016
Identify facilities to survey	To be identified within the working group	May 2016
Plan to carry out surveys and upload information onto RMBC website	To be working through with Disabled Go and the group	

7.0 Financial and Procurement Implications

- 7.1 The Council have finalised a fee with Disabled Go to the value of £35,000 + VAT in April 2016 to fund the establishment of the access guide. Two further invoices for £7,400 + VAT will be raised to fund the maintenance and development of the access guide. These will be raised in April 2017 and April 2018.
- 7.2 It is estimated 1,000 buildings can be surveyed for approximately £35,000 + VAT. The contributions will be split between the Adult Care and Housing for £30,000, with additional contributions from CYPS of £6,000 and Health of £6,000 totalling the value of £42,000

8.0 Legal Implications

- 8.1 None

9.0 Human Resources Implications

- 9.1 The project will require Admin Support which will be undertaken through the project support as part of the Adult Development Board

10.0 Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 10.1 The Service would provide a confidence in access information to enable children and young people to confidently access venues and services, build personal resilience and independence. The integrated accessibility information would feed into the local SEND offer provision.
- 10.2 The Council provides a wider range of sporting and recreational opportunities to residents from participation grass roots level to that of regional and national level to enable individuals to realise their full potential. By improving access information to sports and recreational venues they will encourage greater take up of activities.

11.0 Equalities and Human Rights Implications

- 11.1 The Council is committed to promote the equality of opportunity, promoting good relations celebrating and valuing diversity eliminating unlawful

discrimination. This includes promoting equality for disabled people and progressively making Council buildings accessible to all and encouraging partner/external organisations to do the same where possible.

12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates

- 12.1 The positive effective for the wider council and for the directorates are outlined within this report.

13.0 Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 None

14.0 Accountable Officer(s)

Graeme Betts – interim Strategic Director – Adult Care and Housing
Janine Moorcroft – Interim Senior Change Leader