
Report To:	Environment & Regeneration Committee	Date:	25 October 2018
Report By:	Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources	Report No:	ENV/033/18/DH
Contact Officer:	Drew Hall	Contact No:	01475 714272
Subject:	Care & Repair Saving Update		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the implementation of the Council approved Care & Repair service saving.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 As part of the Budget setting process the Council approved a saving at the March meeting to bring the current Care & Repair (C&R) contract, which includes a subsidised Handyman/ Small Repairs Service operated by Cloch Housing Association (CHA), in-house by establishing a new Grant Adaptations Service managed within the Environmental & Public Protection Service and a new commissioned Handyman/ Small Repairs Service (H/SRS) managed by the HSCP.
- 2.2 The resulting saving to the Scheme of Assistance (SOA) budget is £193k. There are £85k additional staffing costs associated with the new Grant Adaptations Service which will be funded from the remaining SOA budget.
- 2.3 The original proposal for the H/SRS was to provide additional funding from the SOA budget to fund a similar project commissioned by HSCP. However, recent detailed examination of the existing HSCP project concluded that this proposal would be unsuitable. A new H/SRS is currently being explored through the Council's Building Service Unit.
- 2.4 CHA had approached the Council Leader, following the savings decision, to suggest that they may be able to attract additional external funding to continue to run the C&R service including the H/SRS. It was agreed that Officers would work with CHA to positively consider their proposals. Officers have been meeting with CHA monthly during the transition process.
- 2.5 The CHA Board met in August to consider their options regarding the retention of the C&R and H/SRS services. The CHA Board concluded that they were not in a position to continue the service with no guarantee of additional funding. Another interest in Care & Repair as well as a handyman service provision in Inverclyde has been received. This proposal is being explored.
- 2.6 Officers from Housing Strategy and HSCP continue to meet to ensure a smooth transition. Plans have been developed to have the new Adaptations service in place for the beginning of March 2019 to ensure a seamless handover from C&R at Cloch Housing Association. However a further report may come forward if the new proposal merits serious consideration.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the Committee note the current progress on the implementation of the Care & Repair saving.

Martin McNab
Head of Environment & Public Protection

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 As part of the Budget setting process the Council approved a saving at the March 2018 meeting to bring the current Care & Repair (C&R) contract, which includes a subsidised Handyman/ Small Repairs Service operated by Cloch Housing Association (CHA), in-house, by establishing a new Grant Adaptations Service within Environmental & Public Protection Service and a new commissioned Handyman/ Small Repairs Service (H/SRS) managed by the HSCP.
- 4.2 The resulting saving to the SOA budget is £193k. There are £85k additional staffing costs associated with the new Grants Adaptation Service which will be funded from the remaining SOA budget.
- 4.3 CHA C&R contract ended on 1 April this year. One further year's contract was agreed on the same terms as the previous contract.

5.0 UPDATE

- 5.1 The original proposal for the H/SRS was to provide additional funding from the SOA budget to similar projects commissioned by HSCP for a new commissioned service. However recent detailed examination of the existing HSCP project concluded that this proposal would be unsuitable. £40k from the SOA budget has been identified to support the new H/SRS service.
- 5.2 CHA had approached the Council Leader to suggest that they may be able to attract additional external funding to continue to run the C&R service including the SRS. It was agreed that Officers would work with CHA to positively consider their proposals. Officers continue to meet with CHA monthly during the transition process.
- 5.3 The CHA Board met in August to consider their options regarding the retention of the C&R and H/SRS services. The CHA Board concluded that they were not in a position to continue the service with no guarantee of additional funding. Another interest in Care & Repair as well as a Handyman service provision in Inverclyde has been received. This proposal is being explored.
- 5.4 Work continues to develop the in-house adaptations service. Environmental & Public Protection Housing Strategy Officers and HSCP Officers continue to meet to ensure the new service operates well. Job descriptions etc. for the new Adaptations service posts are currently with HR for evaluation.
- 5.5 Officers from Housing Strategy and HSCP continue to meet to ensure a smooth transition. Plans have been developed to have the new Adaptations service in place for the beginning of March 2019 to ensure a seamless handover from C&R at Cloch Housing Association. A new H/SRS is currently being explored through the Council's Building Service unit. However a further report may come forward if the new proposal referred to in 5.3, merits serious consideration.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

6.1 Financial Implications: One off Costs

Nil					
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Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
Scheme of Assistance (SOA)	PTOB	2019/20	£40k		Small repairs/handyman service
	Employee Costs		£85k		Staffing costs for new Grant Adaptations service
Scheme of Assistance (SOA)	PTOB	2019/20	(£193k)		Council approved saving (March 2018)

Legal

6.2 None

Human Resources

6.3 Human Resources are currently dealing with TUPE issues and new service staffing.

Equalities

6.4 None.

Repopulation

6.5 None.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None