Delegated Decision

Report to: Maggie Kufeldt, Executive Director


10th December 2015

Officer Contact: Alan Higgins, Director of Public Health

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Ext. 8489

Reason for Decision
To seek approval to waive the Council’s contract procedure rules to extend the contract of the Get Oldham Growing ‘Growing Ambassadors’ programme with Groundwork Oldham and Rochdale Trust Ltd for three months to enable a full evaluation of the value of the programme.

Recommendations
Option A - to approve a waiver of the Council’s contract procedure rules to extend the contract of the Get Oldham Growing ‘Growing Ambassadors’ programme for three months at a cost of £10,400.
Delegated Decision

1. **Background**

1.1 The Get Oldham Growing programme has been developed to address Public Health priorities in line with Oldham Council's cooperative approach.

1.2 The programme aims to:

- develop employment opportunities through local food production and better establishment of the local food economy
- Increase skills, qualifications and entrepreneurship in food related initiatives
- Reduce barriers to participation in food growing activities through supported access to land, training and advice, materials and infrastructure development

1.3 The Growing Ambassadors programme is a visible 'on the ground' point of contact for the Get Oldham Growing Programme.

1.4 Drawn from the local community, Growing Ambassadors are previously unemployed people recruited to provide grassroots support to enable delivery of the Get Oldham Growing activity in Oldham Districts.

2. **Current Position**

2.1 Oldham Council undertook a procurement exercise and awarded a one year contract for the delivery of the Growing Ambassadors programme to Groundwork Oldham and Rccdhale Trust Ltd., usually known as 'Groundwork.'

2.2 'Groundwork' is a registered charity and local social enterprise.

2.3 'Groundwork' is experienced in supported people to participate in their local community and to build their self-esteem and develop skills, achieve qualifications, leading on to further training and employment.

2.4 Drawn from the local community, the Growing Ambassadors are 5 previously unemployed people recruited to provide grassroots support to enable delivery of the Get Oldham Growing activity in Oldham Districts

2.5 Initial feedback indicates that the Growing Ambassadors programme is achieving the outcomes identified. However, a detailed evaluation of the social value generated by the programme is required.

2.6 The purpose of the proposed contract extension is to enable a full evaluation of the outcomes of the programme both on the Growing Ambassadors themselves (for example development of self-esteem, skills, abilities, and employment prospects) and on the impact of their work in the local communities.
2.7 The evaluation will inform subsequent planning and investment decisions of the overall Get Oldham Growing programme.

2.8 The cost of extending the contract for the three months duration would be £12,500.

2.9 The extension would commence in January 2016 and end on 31st March 2016.

2.10 The Council and provider will need to use the period to identify longer term sustainability options and a potential exit strategy.

3. **Options/Alternatives**

3.1 Option A – to waive the Council’s contract procedure rules to extend the contract of the Get Oldham Growing ‘Growing Ambassadors’ Programme for 3 months to allow evaluation and determine next steps.

3.2 Option B – allow the contract to finish on its current expiry date.

4. **Preferred Option**

4.1 Option A is the preferred option. The existing provider would continue to deliver the Growing Ambassador programme for the three month period and would undertake a review of the achievements of the programme.

4.2 If it was determined that the programme ought to be extended and or expanded a competitive process would be undertaken in line with Contract Procedure Rules.

5. **Consultation**

5.1 The current provider is aware of the potential for a time limited contract extension.

6. **Financial Implications**

6.1 The cost of extending this contract for three months is £10.4K. This was negotiated down from £12.5K and will mean the contractor now carrying a vacancy for the remaining term of the contract.

6.2 Adequate funding exists within the Public Health Development Fund (2015/16) to meet this additional cost. (Nigel Howard x 3250)

7. **Legal Services Comments**

An exemption from the Contract Procedures Rules is required to be requested in the absence of an option in the contract terms to extend the term of the contract. A Deed of Variation would be required to effect an extension of the term. *(Rebecca Boyle)*.
8. Co-operative Agenda

8.1 Get Oldham Growing and this element, Growing Ambassadors in communities is rooted in the Cooperative Council and is a prime example.

9. Human Resources Comments

9.1 N/A

10. Risk Assessments

10.1 N/A

11. I.T. Implications

11.1 N/A

12. Property Implications

12.1 N/A

13. Procurement Implications
The Contract Procedure Rules (CPR's) state that for contract values between £5 - £50k 3 written quotations must be sought.

Therefore an exemption to waive the CPR's would be required. (Nicola Spence x 8105)

14. Environmental and Health & Safety Implications

14.1 N/A

15. Equality, community cohesion and crime implications

15.1 The scheme involves the employment of unemployed people and increases the chance of them finding longer term sustainable work.

16. Equality Impact Assessment Completed?

16.1 N/A

17. Key Decision

17.1 No

18. Key Decision Reference
16.1 N/A

19. Background Papers

19.1 None

20. Appendices

20.1 None

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