

**REPORT TO: HOUSING COMMITTEE - 13 JANUARY 2014**

**REPORT ON: HOUSING REPAIRS PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT EXTENSION**

**REPORT BY: JOINT REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF HOUSING & DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT**

**REPORT NO: 6-2014**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To seek the approval of the Committee for an extension of the Housing Repairs Partnership Agreement 2009-2014 for one year to allow sufficient time for a thorough review and a robust option appraisal of the delivery of these services.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- a notes the success of the Housing Repairs Partnership Agreement in delivering value for money and high levels of customer satisfaction over the period of the current agreement;
- b approves the extension of the current agreement to March 2015.

**3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Costs associated with the proposals set out in this report will be met from existing Housing Revenue Account resources.

**4 MAIN TEXT**

- 4.1 Since 2004, the Housing Repairs Service in Dundee has been delivered by a direct workforce under the terms of a Partnership Agreement between the Construction Division in various guises and the Housing and Finance Departments. Prior to 2004, the repairs service was delivered via a Schedule of Rates contract which was tendered under the Compulsory Competitive Tendering legislation then in force.
- 4.2 In 2002 an option appraisal determined that a partnering approach would be better suited than a contractual basis for delivery of the service and to be the most effective and efficient way to provide Best Value for the tenants who fund the service.
- 4.3 The Repairs Service Partnership Agreement 2004-2009 outlined the aims and objectives of the new repairs service and was the result of extensive discussions with tenants' representatives, notably Dundee Federation of Tenants Associations. Report 147-2004, Housing Committee 16<sup>th</sup> February 2004 refers.
- 4.4 On 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009, report 312-2009 was agreed by Committee. This report demonstrated the continuing success of the Housing Repairs Service Partnership in delivering Value for Money and high levels of customer satisfaction. Therefore the Partnership Agreement was extended to run from 2009-2014.
- 4.5 Scrutiny of the outcomes of the Agreement is undertaken by the Housing Best Value Group. This group is chaired by the Chief Executive and its membership includes:
  - Director of Housing
  - Director of Environment
  - Director of Corporate Services
  - Cross Party Representatives of the Council
  - Tenants Representatives
  - Independent Tenants Advisor
  - Trade Union Representatives
  - Voluntary Sector Representatives

- 4.6 At the meeting of the Housing Best Value Group on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2013, officers were charged with developing a plan for the review of the Partnership Agreement and to develop proposals for the way ahead.
- 4.7 It is intended that the review will be thorough and comprehensive and provide for an informed option appraisal for the delivery of the housing repairs service. The plan also allows for consideration of the scope of the service and consultation with stakeholders.
- 4.8 The time required to complete the planned review will exceed the limit of the current agreement. Therefore, the Directors of Housing and Environment seek the agreement of the Committee to extend the current agreement to March 2015.

**5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.

There are no major issues.

**6 CONSULTATION**

The Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services and Head of Democratic and Legal Services and all other Chief Officers have been consulted on the preparation of this report. No concerns were expressed.

**7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

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**DECEMBER 2013**