

## RECORD OF DECISION MADE UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

### \*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

#### SERVICE DIRECTORATE: HOUSING AND ENVIROMENTAL HEALTH

#### 1. DECISION TAKEN

- 1.1 To enter into a one-year contract with Beam Up Ltd for the provision of a specialist service to support local homeless people into private rented sector accommodation.

#### 2. DECISION TAKER

- 2.1 Jo Doggett, Service Director – Housing and Environmental Health

#### 3. DATE DECISION TAKEN:

- 3.1 4 February 2025

#### 4. REASON FOR DECISION

- 4.1 Demand for Council homelessness services remains high and affordable housing options for homeless clients are extremely limited. A specialist service to assist clients into private rented accommodation will provide a valuable addition to local housing options and ease pressure on temporary accommodation demands.
- 4.2 The Council has received a top-up allocation of £197k of Homelessness Prevention Grant (HPG) for 2024/25, which is ring-fenced for use in delivery of services to prevent and tackle homelessness. Approval for the allocation of up to £80k of HPG to Beam Up Ltd (Beam) was given under delegated authority on 20 November 2024.

#### 5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 None.

#### 6. CONSULTATION (INCLUDING THE EFFECT ON STAKEHOLDERS, PARTNERS AND THE PUBLIC)

- 6.1 The Executive Member for Housing and Environmental Health, Cllr Dave Winstanley, has been consulted and is supportive of this decision.

#### 7. FORWARD PLAN

- 7.1 This decision is not a key Executive decision and has therefore not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

#### 8. BACKGROUND/ RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 As a local housing authority, the Council has legal duties to assist households who are homeless or who are threatened with homelessness, and to provide accommodation for homeless households in 'priority need' – primarily families and vulnerable individuals. The Council also has a duty to provide emergency accommodation for homeless applicants who it has reason to believe may be in priority need whilst inquiries are being conducted. The Council no longer owns or

manages any housing stock, and it therefore works with housing providers to meet local needs.

- 8.2 Beam is a social enterprise that supports individuals experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness, providing them with personalised wrap-around support to help them into private rented housing and employment. Given the challenges in accessing the private rental market in North Herts, the Beam service will provide a valuable additional resource for local households facing homelessness.
- 8.3 Beam has been contracted to deliver 10 private rented sector housing outcomes over a one-year period. They have provided a pilot service in the district for the past 18 months following Cabinet approval for allocation of funding to Beam on 31 January 2023.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Authorisation to procure the Beam service on a Single Supplier basis in accordance with rule 14 of the Contract Procurement Rules was obtained on 14 January 2025.
- 9.2 The notification contained in this report follows on from a delegated decision taken on 20 November 2024 to allocate up to £80k of 2024/25 HPG funding to Beam. The November decision notice was based on the award of this contract being via a framework, but following further advice, it was awarded as a single tender (rule 14).
- 9.3 The Contract Procurement Rules (7.13) require the publication of a decision notice for any contract with a value over £75,000.
- 9.4 The decision in this report meets the MHCLG requirements for use of the ring-fenced grant and is also consistent with the aims and objectives of the Housing Strategy (2024-2029) that has a specific focus on actions regarding the prevention and management of homelessness and rough sleeping.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 The cost of the Beam service is up to £80,000 for one year, with the contract commencing on 10 February 2025.
- 10.2 The cost of the Beam service will be fully funded from HPG, which is ringfenced for use in the prevention and relief of homelessness.
- 10.3 There are no specific capital implications.

## **11. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 The Beam service provides a valuable additional housing option for local people facing homelessness. Without this option, there is a risk that clients will not be able to resolve their homelessness, resulting in negative outcomes for individuals as well as putting financial pressure on the Council, which faces continuing costs from having to accommodate clients in hotels due to lack of housing options locally.

## **12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 12.2 This scheme is designed to assist a specific client group – namely those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness - as dictated by the source of funding (HPG).

The client group includes vulnerable individuals particularly those with support needs due to poor mental and physical health for example. Minority ethnic groups, LGBTQ+ individuals and young people are more likely to experience homelessness.

**13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS**

13.1. As the recommendations in the report relate to a contract below £100,000, the “go local” policy applies. Beam is the only provider of this service and whilst it is not based in the district, its services will be supporting activity in the local housing and jobs markets. The Social Value Act does not apply to this decision.

**14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

14.1. There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report.

**15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

15.1 There are no human resource implications.

**16. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

16.1 None.

**17. APPENDICES**

17.1 None.

**NOTIFICATION DATE: 14 February 2025**

**Signature of Executive Member Consulted:**

N/A

**Signature of Decision Taker:**



**Service Director – Housing and Environmental Health**

**Please Note:** that *unless urgency provisions apply* EXECUTIVE decisions cannot be implemented until 5 clear working days have elapsed after the decision has been taken to allow for scrutiny call-in.

**Call-in does not apply to NON-EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**