

## **Report to Portfolio Holder for Resources & Reputation**

**Subject:** Extension of Contracts for Debt Recovery Services and Enforcement Services for Council Tax, National Non-Domestic Rates and Sundry Debtors

**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> April 2018

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### **Wards Affected**

All.

### **Purpose**

To seek approval to extend the current contracts for Debt Recovery Services and Enforcement Services for Council Tax, National Non-Domestic Rates and Sundry Debtors for a period of one year.

### **Key Decision**

This is not a Key Decision.

### **Background**

- 1.1 The Council currently has three contracts for the provision of Debt Recovery and Enforcement Services. The three suppliers provide the Council with services for the recovery of Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rates by way of taking control of goods as well as providing debt collection services for the collection of Sundry Debts.
- 1.2 The companies which supply the Council via these contracts are Rossendales Ltd, Jacobs and Equita Plc.
- 1.3 The current contracts ran for an initial term of 1<sup>st</sup> August 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2016. All three contracts included a provision to allow the Council at its option to extend the contract annually up to a period not exceeding three years. This

provision therefore allows the Council to extend each contract up to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019.

- 1.4 The original route of access to these contracts was via a framework agreement administered by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council starting in 2012.
- 1.5 The original contracts have already been extended for a period of two years from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018.
- 1.6 It is considered that it is in the interests of the Council to further extend the term of the existing contracts with all suppliers as the service that has been provided under the agreement with the Council has been excellent.

### **Proposal**

- 2.1 It is proposed that the Portfolio Holder for Reputation and Resources authorises the extension to the current enforcement agent contracts for one year, from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019. The extension will be subject to the existing contract terms and conditions.

### **Alternative Options**

- 3.1 An alternative to the proposal would be to not extend the contract for a further year and to undertake a full European tender exercise for enforcement agents' services. It is considered prudent to take advantage of an extension to the current framework agreement as this was arranged under a rigorous EU compliant tender exercise by Rotherham MBC.

### **Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There is no cost involved with this contract in terms of payment for enforcement agents' services by the Council. Costs associated with this service are levied in accordance with statutory regulations and the terms of the contract and are charged directly to the customer.

### **Appendices**

- 5.1 None.

### **Background Papers**

- 6.1 None.

## **Recommendation**

### **7.1 THAT:**

- (a) Authorisation is given for the extension of the current enforcement agents' contracts for a period of one year, from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019 subject to the agreement of all parties to the contracts.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

- 8.1 To ensure that debt recovery action can continue after 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018.
- 8.2 It is considered that it is in the interests of the Council to further extend the term of the existing contracts with all suppliers as the level of service provided has been excellent and it is anticipated that this level of service provision is very likely to continue.