

WIRRAL COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE BOARD – 7 JUNE 2007

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION

## **EXTENSION OF ALLEYGATING CONTRACT**

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### **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1.1 This report is to seek Members approval to extend the current alleygating contract with The Lighthouse Project, who complete all alley gate installations on Wirral for a further year.

### **2.0 BACKGROUND**

2.1 The Alleygating programme on Wirral commenced in 2003 and funding for this programme comes from two sources; the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) provides in excess of £200,000 per year and Council funding of £50,000 per annum is also provided for alley gating in non-NRF areas. Since 2003 we have installed 960 gates throughout Wirral.

2.2 As a result of this alleygating programme and other Safer Wirral Partnership crime prevention initiatives the domestic burglary rate for Wirral has reduced from 19.04 per 1000 household in 2003 to 8.93 burglaries per 1000 household in 2007. This represents a 49.9% drop in the domestic burglary rate or 1,267 fewer offences of burglary per year.

2.3 Following a tendering process since October 2005 the Lighthouse Project (a Liverpool based charity specialising in alleygates) has undertaken the installation of alleygates on Wirral. During the term of the contract the Lighthouse Project has demonstrated that they are a competent supplier who have fulfilled their contractual obligations and have met all targets set by the Alleygating Team.

2.4 Paragraph 4.1 of the original Alleygating Contract 2005 - 2007 agreed by Cabinet at their meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2005 allows for the contract between Wirral MBC and the Lighthouse Project to be extended by one year subject to satisfactory performance on the authority of the Council. By March 2008 all major alley gating projects in parts of the Wirral suitable for alley gates must be completed as NRF funding ends at this time. If Members approve extension of the agreement with the Lighthouse Project Wirral will achieve this target.

### **3.0 FINANCIAL & STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 Utilising the option to extend the contract between Wirral and the Lighthouse Project would avoid the requirement for a new tendering process to be undertaken for the final year of the alley gating programme allowing delivery of the programme to timescales.

#### **4.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no equal opportunities implications attached to this report.

#### **5.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The alleygate programme has an impact on anti-social behaviour and fly tipping in alleyways and improves the quality of life for local residents.

#### **6.0 LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The contents of this report apply to all Wards of the Borough.

#### **7.0 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no Human Rights implications attached to this report.

#### **8.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 Alleygating plays a large part in reducing the domestic burglary rate on Wirral.

#### **9.0 PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no planning implications attached to this report.

#### **10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

10.1 None.

#### **11.0 RECOMMENDATION**

That the extension of the contract for one year with the Lighthouse Project, in accordance with paragraph 4.1 of the Alleygating Contract 2005-07, be approved.

Alan Stennard  
Director of Regeneration

This report was prepared by Steve McGilvray who can be contacted on 606 5485.