

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

Report to: Kim Smith, Chief Executive

Date: 14/04/2021

Subject: Mass Testing Personnel Support – Global Production Squad

Report author: Nadia Jazaerli, Head of covid-19 testing & vaccination operations &
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Responsible Director: Lisa Redfern, Strategic director, social care and public health

Summary

The forecast is that without serious interventions the numbers of positive COVID-19 cases will rise significantly as the lockdown easing plan comes into effect. There is therefore a significant threat to the NHS, further public safety and the Economy.

There is a Public Health England requirement for all Boroughs to continue community testing until end of June 2021. The contract will be required to cover the period from 1st February until 02 July 2021. This report seeks authority to extend the already awarded contract to this date (02 July 2021) so that LBHF can continue to undertake large scale community testing. This will include the set up fixed testing sites and provide the workforce for the testing of asymptomatic key workers and residents within the borough.

Recommendations

1. To extend the contract with both Global Production Squad Ltd and Sportgate International to continue operating fixed testing sites and to supply the workforce at these units at a cost of £1,157,000 for the period 1st February 2021 to 02 July 2021.
 - a. Global Production Squad costs for the period: £1,060,000.00
 - b. Sportgate International costs for the period: £97,000.00
 2. To approve use of the funding expected to be received from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) for the total sum of £1,157,000 in order to fund the mass testing.
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Wards Affected: All

H&F Values	Summary of how this report aligns to
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	the H&F Values
Building shared prosperity	Mass testing sites will allow H&F to return towards lower-level restrictions & thus improve the borough economy
Creating a compassionate council	Mass testing sites allow us to identify and support residents at risk, both directly from Covid-19, but also from potential loss of earnings & isolation
Doing things with residents, not to them	Mass testing sites enable residents to choose to attend & seek confirmation rapidly on whether they are positive
Taking pride in H&F	This allows H&F to provide a level of reassurance to staff and residents that the Borough is reacting appropriately & proportionately to the Covid-19 crisis.

Financial Impact

The extension of the contract award to Global Production Squad and Sportgate International is for £1,060,000.00 to supply the workforce and operational management services over a period commencing 1st February 2021 and ending 02 July 2021.

The cost of this contract will be met by funding provided by the DHSC, following receipt of monthly financial reporting given by the council signed off by the S151 officer. Published guidance has been given that states funding of £14 per completed test will be available for the council ([Community testing: a guide for local delivery - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-testing-a-guide-for-local-delivery)).

A credit check of Sportgate International gives rise to a score of 59/100 which indicates the company to be of low risk.

A credit check of Global Production Squad Ltd gives rise to a score of 70/100 which indicates the company to be of low risk.

However, for both companies, the contract award exceeds the estimated contract limit level. Therefore, the decision maker needs to be satisfied that the terms of the contract can be met by the supplier and suitable contractual provisions have been put in place to mitigate any financial risk.

Social Value

Sportgate International and Global Production Squad focus on recruiting and employment of long-term unemployed or recently transitioned (to civilian life) members of the Armed Forces. This equates within this contract to at least 6 FTE members of staff within the Testing teams, which has value set on it of approximately £113,790.00, which is equivalent to 10.73% of the contract value. Please refer to Appendix A – TOMs GPS SV April 2021, attached to this report.

Legal Implications

This report recommends the extension of the awarded contracts to Global Production Squad Ltd and Sportgate International to continue with providing the operational services as stated within each contract.

The proposed direct award falls under the category of Social and Other Specific Services under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR) where the EU threshold is £663,540. The value of the proposed direct award contract is above the EU threshold under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR), therefore the PCR applies in full. There is a risk of a challenge in making this direct award even for a short-term duration. As it is unknown whether a challenge is likely or not, in order to mitigate any losses arising out of a potential challenge, suitable contractual provisions have been agreed with Global Production Squad Ltd and Sportgate International to allow the Council to terminate the contract immediately in the event of poor performance or a successful procurement challenge, where this direct award is declared to be ineffective.

A waiver of the competition requirements under the Council's Contract Standing Orders (CSOs) CSO 19.1 was granted on 15th December 2020 on the ground that the contract is for these services are required in circumstances of extreme urgency that could not reasonably have foreseen (CSO 22.3.2). The decision maker needs to be satisfied, based on the information set out in this report.

Implications completed by Hannah Ismail, Solicitor at Sharpe Pritchard, email: hismail@sharpreritchard.co.uk, tel: 0207 405 4600

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Background Papers Used in Preparing This Report - none

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Proposals and Analysis of Options

1. The award of a contract to Global Production Squad Ltd and Sportgate International for the continued supply of workforce and operational management for LBHF community testing programme.
2. The community testing programme has been extended by DHSC until 30th June 2021. *Workforce will be required till 02nd July for site break-down*
3. Hammersmith & Fulham does not have resource capacity nor sufficiently capable volunteers to staff and run these sites in accordance with the measures, therefore an outside supplier is necessary.
4. Timelines to extend the community testing programme with other suppliers are not compatible with a formal procurement process, and thus an extension of the contracts is perceived as the expedient option to ensure mass testing sites continue to be operational.
5. Contract performance will be monitored by the Director of Covid-19 through the mass testing team. There is clearly written understanding that payments are made against successful performance on a monthly basis. There is an option to terminate for poor performance included in the contract.
6. The contract extensions should be awarded as the Global Production Squad and Sportgate International has supplied all workforce and expertise at all of LBHF community sites to date, as well as providing this service to other Boroughs. They therefore have the knowledge and experience to undertake and deliver the operational requirements to a high standard.

Reasons for Decision

7. To continue to provide the operational management and associated staffing from 1st February 2021 to 02nd July 2021 in line with DHSC requirements.

Equality Implications

8. Access to mass testing opens great opportunities for access to people from protected characteristics. Allocation of sites have been discussed with community leaders and access to information about the tests and how people access them will be available in various languages.

Risk Management Implications

9. The council is responding swiftly to the Governments lockdown easing plan across the UK. Testing must be facilitated in a safe manner and be done in accordance with Public Health England requirements. The council must therefore be satisfied that the provider acts in accordance within Health and Safety, HM Government and Public Health guidelines. Performance review of the provider will rest with the Director of COVID-19 as an additional assurance. Measures are in place that enable the Chief Executive to sign-off emergency decisions in accordance with the agreed governance arrangements.

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A – TOMs GPS SV April 2021