

13. PROCUREMENT ARRANGEMENTS - DIRECT AWARD TO HOUSING PARTNERSHIP LTD

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Corporate Services seeking approval to make a direct award to Housing Partners Ltd for the provision of mutual exchange services for social rented tenants in West Lothian.

The Council Executive was advised that Homeswapper was a national online platform system used by Housing, Customer and Building Services to enable customers to register their interest in mutually exchanging their council tenancies. Scottish Secure Tenants were entitled to apply to exchange their tenancies (swap homes) with other Scottish Secure Tenancies. The council purchased the system on behalf of tenants to support the mutual exchange process.

Homeswapper was an important part of the mutual exchange process for council tenants and the platform was used by a significant number of tenants. In the past 12 month period 51 properties had been mutually swapped.

The Council Executive continued to be advised that as part of the council-wide digitisation strategy it was proposed to move to an in-house mutual exchange registration platform by March 2020. However until such time the council had developed its own in-house system and to ensure continuity of service to tenants it was being recommended that the Council Executive approve a direct award to Housing Partners Ltd.

It was recommended that the Council Executive approves a direct award to Housing Partners Ltd for a period of one year, commencing on 27 March 2019 to 26 March 2020 with a contract value of £7,100.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report