



Reading
Borough Council
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DECISION BOOK

Issue: 616 Date: 25 NOVEMBER 2020

Decisions set out in the book have been made under delegated powers by the Chief Executive, Executive Directors or the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer, in consultation either with the relevant committee or Lead Councillor.

The Decision Book process has been altered to suspend the current Councillors' call-in arrangements within the 10-day period after its publication and replace it with the ability during that period for three Councillors to request a retrospective review of the decision in writing to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

The decision book can be accessed on the Council's website - <https://democracy.reading.gov.uk/mgListOfficerDecisions.aspx?bcr=1&BAM=0>

The officer reports accompanying the decisions are attached.

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DECISION BOOK - ISSUE 616 - 25 NOVEMBER 2020

1. ADMISSION AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME IN REALTION TO PROVISION OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL BEHAVIOUR CHANGE TREATMENT AND RECOVERY SYSTEM - CHANGE GROW LIVE

<u>DECISION</u>	<u>LEAD COUNCILLOR(S)</u>	<u>WARDS AFFECTED</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
1. ADMISSION AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME IN REALTION TO PROVISION OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL BEHAVIOUR CHANGE TREATMENT AND RECOVERY SYSTEM - CHANGE GROW LIVE	COUNCILLOR HOSKIN	BOROUGHWIDE	1

This report sets out the decision by the Council to enter into an Admission Agreement with Change Grow Live to participate in the Local Government Pension Scheme and for the Council to act as Guarantor to the Admission Agreement by entering into the Guarantor Agreement

It is the decision of the Executive Director - Social Care and Health in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Health Wellbeing and Sport to enter into the Admission Agreement and the Guarantor Agreement.

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH

LEAD COUNCILLOR:	COUNCILLOR GRAEME HOSKIN		
DATE:	25 NOVEMBER 2020		
TITLE:	ADMISSION AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME IN REACTION TO PROVISION OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL BEHAVIOUR CHANGE TREATMENT AND RECOVERY SYSTEM - CHANGE GROW LIVE.		
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out the decision by the Council to enter into an Admission Agreement with Change Grow Live to participate in the Local Government Pension Scheme and for the Council to act as Guarantor to the Admission Agreement by entering into the Guarantor Agreement.

2. DECISION

- 2.1 It is the decision of the Executive Director - Social Care and Health in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Health Wellbeing and Sport to enter into the Admission Agreement and the Guarantor Agreement.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 Drug and Alcohol treatment services are commissioned by Public Health. Good health and wellbeing is an important area of the public's health, and contributes towards achieving the Council's priorities of a stronger community and economic growth. Ensuring there is a responsive service for residents within the borough to access drug and alcohol treatment provision, which support the redesign of the Public Health Drugs and Alcohol draft strategy, underpinning Reading's Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 3.2 A report to Policy Committee of the 24th September 2018 set out the requirements to recommission Reading's Drugs and Alcohol Treatment service, in the form of a competitive tender exercise. The recommissioning of service is in line with the

consultation undertaken on Reading's Drugs and Alcohol Draft Strategy (for 2018 to 2021), working with a wide range of sub regional public health and social care partners, and service users.

3.3 The Policy Committee report explained that the outcome of consultation on the Strategy enabled public health and social care commissioners to design a new service specification for the drug and alcohol treatment service, and it was proposed that Reading work with sub-regional public health and local authority partners to recommission the new contract and specification.

3.4 The Policy Committee resolved:

- (1) That the eight weeks consultation results of the Reading Drug and Alcohol Commissioning Strategy for Young People and Adults 2018-2022 be noted;
- (2) That the Reading Drug and Alcohol Commissioning Strategy for Young People and Adults 2018-2022 be endorsed;
- (3) That the next steps in the production of the action plan for each of the three priorities and development of service specification be noted;
- (4) That the re-procurement of Reading's Drug and Alcohol treatment service from 1 October 2019 be approved;
- (5) That the in-principle agreement to jointly procure services with sub regional pan-Berkshire authorities be approved;
- (6) That the intention to merge a number of smaller public health contracts as detailed in Appendix 2 be noted;
- (7) That the indicative tender timeframe detailed in the report be noted;
- (8) That the Director of Adult & Health Care Services, in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Health, the Director of Resources and the Head of Legal & Democratic Services, be authorised to award the contract for the Drug and Alcohol Recovery and Treatment System to the successful Contractor following completion of the tendering exercise in 2019;
- (9) That the Council enter into a contract with the successful bidder for a period of three years, with the option to extend for a further four years, to be agreed at the end of year three and year five (3 +2+2);
- (10) That the Head of Planning, Development and Regulatory Services, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Lead Councillor for Health, the Director of Finance and the Head of Legal & Democratic Services be authorised to grant a further lease of 4 Waylen Street to the successful bidder for the term of the treatment contract on the terms set out in the report;
- (11) That the current contract with Cranstoun be extended for 12 months, from 1 October 2018 to 30 September 2019.

3.5 A procurement exercise was carried out in 2019 prior to awarding the contract on 1st October 2020.

3.6 The contract with Change Grow Live was completed on 1st October 2020 for an initial term of 3 years from the 1st October 2019 with the ability to extend it for a further 4 years; being 2 years from October 2022 and then a further 2 years from October 2024.

4. THE DECISION

4.1 Change Grow Live (the New Employer) is seeking to join the Royal Berkshire Pension Fund (the Pension Fund) as an Admission Body which will enable the eligible employees who have transferred to the employment of the new employer to join the Pension Fund.

4.2 The Council as scheme employer has agreed to enter into an Admission Agreement with the Administering Authority (The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead).

4.3 The terms of the Admission Agreement require either the New Employer to offer a bond, or the Council as Scheme Employer, to act as Guarantor. The Council is willing to enter into the Guarantor Agreement which is annexed to the Admission Agreement.

4.4 The recommendation is for the Council to enter into the Admission Agreement and the Guarantor Agreement.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

5.1 Change Grow Live providing the above contractual services contributes to the following Corporate Plan priorities:

1. Safeguarding and protecting those that are most vulnerable;
2. Providing the best start in life through education, early help and healthy living;
3. Keeping the town clean, safe, green and active;

5.2 Change Grow Live as contractor contributes to the Council's strategic aims:

- To promote equality, social inclusion and a safe and healthy environment for all;
- And also contributes to the following:
 - Tackling drugs and alcohol in Reading contributes towards Reading Borough Council's aim to 'Protect; to protect and enhance the lives of vulnerable adults and children' and 'Environment; Keeping Reading's environment clean, green and safe. Tackling drugs and alcohol also promotes Community Safety; by encouraging harm reduction messages and reducing health risks to the community. Drug and alcohol treatment services makes communities safer by reducing crime, less drug litter and street prostitution, and troubled families can become stabilised. Drug and alcohol treatment services will support the delivery of the Reading Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017-2020 priorities; reducing the amount of alcohol people drink to C8;
 - Safer levels, as well as the Reading Drug and Alcohol Commissioning Strategy for Young People and Adults 2018-2022; and
 - Drug and alcohol treatment services protect Public Health by preventing drug-related deaths, restricting blood-borne viruses (HIV, hepatitis C), and reducing the burden on the NHS.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Council declared a Climate Emergency at its meeting on 26 February 2019 (Minute 48 refers). There are no climate related implications in this report.

7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 7.1 Section 138 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 places a duty on local authorities to involve local representatives when carrying out "any of its functions" by providing information, consulting or "involving in another way".

- 7.2 A public consultation exercise was carried out between 21 February 2018 to 23 April 2018 on the drug and alcohol strategy, asking whether people agreed with the strategic priorities for Reading and to suggest what was needed to achieve each one. The outcome of the consultation was reported to Policy Committee in the report of 24th September 2018.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, Section 149, a public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to—

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

- 8.2 An Equality Impact Assessment was completed and reported to the Policy Committee meeting of 24th September 2018. The new service model promotes more opportunities to fully recover from the ill health and damage caused from drug and alcohol use.

- 8.3 Accessibility - A greater focus on outreach is deemed necessary and will enable easier access to specialist services for more vulnerable people, especially people who rely more on public transport. Outreach work is already limited and will reduce further as capacity and funding reduces.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The Council is required to enter into the Admission Agreement and act as Guarantor in respect of the new employer (Change Grow Live) becoming an Admission body to provide protection against costs rising in respect of underfunding, strain costs and unpaid contributions or expenses on the cessation of the new employer within the Fund.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The report from the actuary sets out that either the New Employer is required to put in place a bond or an alternative guarantee arrangement in order to mitigate the risk to the administering authority that the New Employer is not able to meet its pension contribution obligations in the future.
- 10.2 The report recommends a bond level of £0.054m, which is the maximum potential risk calculated at the time of the report. The associated costs incurred by CGL of arranging the bond would be recharged to the Council.
- 10.3 As the scheme is a closed scheme no new employees are eligible to join the scheme, the alternative guarantee arrangement would require the Council to effectively underwrite the financial obligations should CGL default, only in respect of the employees who TUPE transferred from the Council to CGL (two employees).
- 10.4 As any potential risk to the Council is small, the guarantee option via a passthrough arrangement is therefore recommended in this instance without taking out a bond.
- 10.5 The Council will only be affected financially if CGL are unable to meet their financial obligations in respect of the two TUPE'd employees.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 Report by the actuaries Barnett Waddingham LLP dated 1st October 2019.