

OFFICER DECISION NOTICE



Reading
Borough Council
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This notice is to be used for the following types of officer decisions. (Select one option).

A. Decisions taken by officers under a specific express delegation from Council or a Committee.

B. Decisions taken by officers under a general delegation from Council or a Committee, which relates to (i) a permission or a licence, or (ii) the rights of an individual, or (iii) a contract or expenditure over £100,000.

1. Title of decision:	To enter into the Buckinghamshire Framework for the Berkshire Community Equipment Contract
2. Date of the decision:	15 May 2023
3. The decision maker:	Commissioning & Procurement Board with approval from the Lead member and Executive Interim Director of DACHS and Christopher Greenway, Assistant Director DACHS

4. Decision details:

The decision is to accept the proposal by West Berkshire Council for Reading Borough Council to participate in the procurement of the Buckinghamshire Framework for the Berkshire Community Equipment Service for a 5-year period from 1/4/24 to 31/3/29

5. Reasons for the decision:

The reason for the decision to enter into a joint partnership with West Berkshire was agreed by the RBC Chief Executive on 22/7/22 and Policy Committee on 21 September 2022

West Berkshire had offered the assurance that the decision to join the Buckinghamshire Framework is compliant' as the Buckinghamshire Framework was competitively procured in June 2022 and included the option of other LAs joining the framework. RBC Commissioning & Procurement Board approved this route.

6. Alternative options considered (if any) and rejected:

Background and policy context

Local authorities have a statutory duty under the Care Act 2014 and the Children and Families Act 2014, to meet the assessed Adult Social Care eligible needs of residents. This includes children, older people, people with physical or learning disabilities, mental health issues, sensory impairment, and other groups. The provision of equipment, disability aids, and adaptations is a recognised way of supporting people to meet these needs. An equipment service supports the delivery of the Care Act 2014 outcomes through the supply of community equipment for long- and short-term care in the community, and for the prevention of hospital admission and timely discharge of hospital admissions. It supports rehabilitation and reablement patient pathways.

Outcomes are achieved by providing equipment and tech solutions and/or minor adaptations to individual's so that they can remain in a familiar, safe and secure home environment. This enables individuals to stay at home and to live independently and prevent potentially more expensive long-term care in care home settings.

The options considered were

1. Do nothing - not an option as the equipment service will result in there being no contract as of 1/4/24 which in turn will not align with the Care Act 2014 compliance
2. Provide a stand-alone equipment service for Reading - not a practical or financially viable option
3. A joint procurement in the open market with other Berkshire LAs-and health partners option of the framework was recommended by West Berkshire

7. List of open Background Papers:

DACHS Policy 21 September 2022 (approved by the Chief Executive and Executive Director)

8. List of confidential or exempt Background Papers: N/A

9. Any other matters taken into consideration: N/A

<input type="checkbox"/> Legitimate expectation of consultation	<input type="checkbox"/> Procedural requirements
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Health implications	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental or Climate Change
<input type="checkbox"/> Health and Safety	<input type="checkbox"/> Risk Management implications
<input type="checkbox"/> Transparency of Information (FOI etc)	<input type="checkbox"/> Privacy Impact Assessments
<input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights Act Duties	<input type="checkbox"/> Equality Impact Assessment
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Parenting	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Safety
<input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory duties	<input type="checkbox"/> EU withdrawal
<input type="checkbox"/> Armed Forces Covenant	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Details of the matters taken into account:

10. Legal considerations

West Berkshire legal team approved the Buckinghamshire Framework route and this was agreed by the Commissioning & Procurement Board for Reading on 15/5/23

11. Financial considerations

Contract financial envelope approved with DMT DACHS, Chief Executive and Policy Committee for the life of the new 7-year contract. Included in DMT paper.

12. Internal consultations

Consultations with DACHS DMT (includes finance); corporate procurement; service delivery teams including occupational therapist lead and tec team and tec lead

Sections 13- 18: To be completed only for Decision A (express delegation from a Committee)

13. The name of the Committee:	Policy Committee 21 September 2022
14. Date of the meeting:	21 September 2022
15. Minute number:	28
16. The delegation given by the Committee:	That the Executive Director of Social Care and Health, in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Adult Social Care, Director of Finance and Assistant Director of Legal & Democratic Services, be authorised to enter into a contract with West Berkshire Council for the provision of Equipment services post Procurement.
17. The name of any member of the committee who declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision:	None
18. Any councillor or officer required to be consulted prior to the exercise of this delegation and details of their response.	See section 16 above - Lead Councillor for Adult Social Care, Director of Finance and AD of Legal & Democratic Services