

# OFFICER DECISION NOTICE



**Reading**  
Borough Council  
Working better with you

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.

<b>1. Title of decision:</b>	Better Care Fund Section 75 Framework Agreement 2023/24
<b>2. Date of the decision:</b>	30 January 2024
<b>3. The decision maker:</b>	The Executive Director of Communities and Adult Social Care in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Education & Public Health

#### 4. Decision details:

Agreement to enter into a Joint framework agreement for pooling of funds aligned to the Better Care Fund Plan and the addition of the Inequalities Funding to support delivery of the Community Wellness Outreach Project.

#### 5. Reasons for the decision:

To ensure compliance with the Better Care Fund Grant National Conditions for a shared agreement in relation to the management of the Better Care Fund, including agreed funding distribution, risk share and reporting.

Due to the timings of the Health and Wellbeing Board, a Delegated Authority agreement was sought from the Health & Wellbeing Board on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023 to enable the BCF Plan, Quarterly Returns and the Section 75 Framework Agreement to be signed off through consultation between the Executive Director of Communities and Adult Social Care and the Lead Councillor for Education & Public Health, in order to meet National reporting and submission deadlines.

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

Not applicable as this is a statutory requirement under the National Conditions of the Better Care Fund 2023-25.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/better-care-fund-policy-framework-2023-to-2025>

#### 7. List of open Background Papers:

Reading's Better Care Fund Plan 2023/25, agreed via Delegated Authority with the Executive Director of Communities and Adult Social Care in consultation with the Lead

Councillor for Education & Public Health and submitted as an Appendix to the BCF Update Report to the Health and Wellbeing Board held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

**8. List of confidential or exempt Background Papers:**

Section 75 Framework Agreement 2023-24 between Reading Borough Council and Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB) Integrated Care Board (ICB) – not published.

**9. Any other matters taken into consideration:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legitimate expectation of consultation	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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:**

The Section 75 Framework Agreement is a regulatory requirement under the Better Care Fund policy framework and this Officer Decision Notice is drawn up in compliance with Reading Borough Council’s procedural requirements.

**10. Legal considerations**

The Section 75 Framework Agreement has been reviewed by the Legal Team, queries have been addressed and feedback incorporated. It is a requirement that the Section 75 be agreed by both main parties, Reading Borough Council and the Integrated Care Board.

**11. Financial considerations**

The total Better Care Fund for 2023/24 is £18.7M supporting out of hospital services and adult social care services. The delegation is from the Reading Health and Wellbeing Board held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023, to the Executive Director of Communities & Adult Social Care to be authorised to enter into the Section 75 Framework Agreement in relation to the BCF Plan for 2023-25. The BCF Plan spans a two-year period but parties have been requested by the Better Care Fund team to submit their Section 75 Framework Agreements for the period of 2023/24. Budget and performance activity is reported through the Reading Integration Board and up to the Reading Health and Wellbeing Board. The budgets were agreed in advance of submitting the BCF Plan and are incorporated into the Section 75 Framework Agreement. The funding is split between the two parties to the Agreement; the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB) Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Reading Borough Council (RBC), for commissioned services in Reading and across Berkshire West for “Place” based services and projects to support delivery against the Better Care Fund Metrics.

**12. Internal consultations**

The Better Care Fund Plan is shared with Directorate Management Team, Corporate Management Team, Lead Members, Committee Briefing, Reading Integration Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board for consultation prior to final agreement and submission.

The Section 75 Framework Agreement has input from the Finance Lead, Programme Manager and Legal.

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

<b>13. The name of the Committee:</b>	Health and Wellbeing Board
<b>14. Date of the meeting:</b>	06 October 2023
<b>15. Minute number:</b>	14 (5)
<b>16. The delegation given by the Committee:</b>	That the Executive Director of Communities & Adult Social Care be authorised to enter into the Section 75 Framework Agreement in relation to the BCF Plan for 2023-25
<b>17. The name of any member of the committee who declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision:</b>	None
<b>18. Any councillor or officer required to be consulted prior to the exercise of this delegation and details of their response.</b>	Councillor Ruth McEwan, Lead Councillor for Education and Public Health – agreed to delegated authority for matters related to the Better Care Fund Plans and Section 75 Agreement.