

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 a contract with West Berkshire Council for the Provision of the Joint Berkshire Community Equipment Contract with Services Provided by Nottingham Rehab Supplies (NRS)
2. Date of the decision:	01 April 2024
3. The decision maker:	Melissa Wise, Executive Director, Communities & Adult Social Care (DCASC)

4. Decision details:

The decision is to enter a contract with West Berkshire Council for the provision of Community Equipment Services. The contract will run for a 5-year period from 1/4/24 to 31/3/29, with a 2-year extension to 31/3/31. The value for the whole life contract is £6.486m. Services will be provided by Nottingham Rehab Supplies (NRS).

5. Reasons for the decision:

To secure the provision of Equipment services for Residents as a key statutory requirement outlined in the Care Act 2014.

To facilitate this Reading has decided to enter a joint partnership with West Berkshire (as lead authority) as agreed by Policy Committee on 21 September 2022.

West Berkshire as Lead Commissioner have determined that the best way to procure the services was via the Buckinghamshire Procurement Framework which is deemed 'compliant' as the Buckinghamshire Framework was competitively procured in June 2022 and included the option of other LAs joining the framework. RBC's Commissioning & Procurement Board approved this route with advice from legal. All Berkshire local authorities have agreed to join the framework and enter the new contract.

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

The options considered were:

1. Do nothing - not an option as providing equipment is a statutory requirement in the Care Act and doing nothing would result in a lapse in contract as of 1/4/24

2. Provide a stand-alone equipment service for Reading - this proved to be neither a practical or financially viable option.
3. A joint procurement in the open market with other Berkshire LAs-and health partners - the option of going via the Buckinghamshire framework was recommended by West Berkshire and endorsed by partners.

7. List of open Background Papers:

N/A

8. List of confidential or exempt Background Papers:

N/A

9. Any other matters taken into consideration:

<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 and also by corporate procurement and the Lead Member.

11. Financial considerations

Contract financial envelope approved by Policy Committee for the life of the new 7-year contract - whole contract value £6.486m

12. Internal consultations

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

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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 (2)
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.	Lead Councillor for Adult Social Care, Director of Finance and AD of Legal & Democratic Services