

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:	Academic Collaboration Agreement for Independent Living Care Technology Solutions Project
2. Date of the decision:	11 October 2024
3. The decision maker:	Melissa Wise, Executive Director – Communities and Adult Social Care

4. Decision details:

- Award of an Academic Collaboration Agreement for the Independent Living Care Technology Solutions Project to Reading University at a cost of £217,104 from 19 January 2024 to 30 September 2025.

5. Reasons for the decision:

- Reading Borough Council was awarded £1,085,505.00 in October 2023 to deliver the Independent Living Care Technology Solutions Project.
- The Independent Living Care Technology Solutions Project is being funded by NHS England via the Adult Social Care Digital Transformation Fund (ASC DTF) which is part of the broader Adult Social Care Technology Fund from the Department of Health's Digitising Social Care (DiSC) programme.
- It is a condition of the grant funding that Reading Borough Council works with an Evaluation Partner that will be paid via the grant. At least 20% of the funding needed to be directed to local evaluation and benefits mapping.
- The Council carried out a market survey to understand options.
- The Council has an established partnership with Reading University and are already working with the University to evaluate, explore and learn about care technology solutions. The University had the necessary skills and capacity to complete the evaluation within the project timescale and deliver the required outcomes which include the following:
 - Assume responsibility for developing and delivering the evaluation itself.
 - Support the identification of knowledge gaps to be able to design interventions to improve literacy of the care technology solutions.
 - A multi-method approach to assess the outcomes and benefits of the interventions.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-depth interviews with participants to understand the barriers and enablers that they have identified when using these care technology solutions. • Produce individual data reports, case studies, adoption and training materials a research evaluation report, project closedown / lessons learned report and recommendations for transition to BAU. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to arrange direct award of a Partnership Agreement to Reading University, the Council needed to satisfy <i>Contract Procurement Rule 12 - Exceptions to the Requirements for Competition (12.7)</i>. <i>The Possible justifiable reasons for waving the requirement for competition (and pending the undertaking of a compliant solution) includes point (vii) which states that 'Where the Council wishes to obtain goods, services or works from another public sector body (including another local authority or NHS Trust)'</i>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the proposed Partnership Agreement is therefore between two public bodies. On 31 January 2024 the Council's legal team confirmed that they are satisfied that Reading University is governed by public law with charitable status and therefore an appropriate commercial entity. With this Partnership Agreement, RBC is fulfilling the obligations with the evaluation partner as determined by that grant condition.
<p>6. Alternative options considered (if any) and rejected: No other options were considered as Reading University were the most suitable organisation to partner on the Independent Living Care Technology Solutions Project within the timescales and in accordance with the grant conditions.</p>
<p>7. List of open Background Papers: N/A</p>
<p>8. List of confidential or exempt Background Papers: N/A</p>

9. Any other matters taken into consideration:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Legitimate expectation of consultation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Procedural requirements
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Health implications	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental or Climate Change
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health and Safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Risk Management implications
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transparency of Information (FOI etc)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Privacy Impact Assessments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights Act Duties	<input checked="" 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:	

<p>10. Legal considerations Legal and Contracts advice was taken to arrange academic collaboration with Reading University for the for Independent Living Care Technology Solutions Project. DCASC, Delivery and ICT have confirmed that are satisfied that Reading University can deliver the Care Technology Solutions evaluation required.</p>
<p>11. Financial considerations The Independent Living Care Technology Solutions Project is being funded by NHS England via the Adult Social Care Digital Transformation Fund (ASC DTF) part of the broader Adult Social Care Technology Fund from the Department of Health's Digitising Social Care (DiSC) programme.</p>
<p>12. Internal consultations N/A</p>

Sections 13- 18: To be completed only for Decision A (express delegation from a Committee)	
13. The name of the Committee:	N/A
14. Date of the meeting:	Click or tap to enter a date.
15. Minute number:	
16. The delegation given by the Committee:	
17. The name of any member of the committee who declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision:	
18. Any councillor or officer required to be consulted prior to the exercise of this delegation and details of their response.	