

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:	Reading Integration Board, BCF Project Funding - Award of Grants
2. Date of the decision:	24 September 2025
3. The decision maker:	Assistant Director – Commissioning, Transformation and Performance in consultation with Deputy Director of Place, Integrated Care Board.

4. Decision details:

To award 10 grants from a funding envelope of £150,000 in total, from the Better Care Fund (BCF). These grants were awarded to support activities that prevent crisis; support people to avoid hospital admissions or, where an admission occurs, support a timely hospital discharge back to their normal place of residence. Collectively, the grants support the Reading Integration Board programme of work, including activities to meet Priorities 1 and 2 of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Award of the grants followed a competitive selection process.

5. Reasons for the decision:

- As part of the Better Care Fund (BCF) 2025/26 a project fund was agreed within the BCF Budget to support delivery of small projects to achieve outcomes against:
 - The Reading Integration Board (RIB) priorities
 - Berkshire West Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategic Priorities
 - The aims of the Better Care Fund (BCF) Objectives
 - This Fund is available as a one-off payment from the BCF in 2025/26.
- Monitoring - Successful applicants are expected to provide a quarterly report to the Reading Integration Board on their projects and a full report at the end of the project. An activity template and project plan templates will be provided to Project Delivery Teams.
- Project funding was provided via the Better Care Fund and bids were invited through the Reading Integration Board membership and Voluntary Care Sector, and the funding information was placed on the Reading Borough Council (RBC) website.
- The Application Form, Application Guidance, Monitoring Form and Scoring criteria were provided to all applicants expressing interest in submitting a bid for this funding.
- A rigorous scoring process was applied by a multi-disciplinary panel which included colleagues from the Council and NHS Integrated Care Board (ICB).
- Recommendation to award was based on the outcome of the scoring process and moderation.

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

N/A

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Procedural requirements
<input checked="" 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**

In accordance with the Constitution of Reading Borough Council – 16 October 2018 - Contract Procedure Rules 18.1 provides authority for Assistant Directors to award individual contracts with a value of up to £100k. As this is a non-key decision. The following authority is required:

Section 18 - Tender Acceptance

(4) Acceptance of quotes or tenders with a value less than £100,000 may be authorised by the relevant Head of Service or Director

11. Financial considerations

- The Project Fund is included within the Section 75 Framework Agreement for pooled funds with the Integrated Care Board (ICB) for Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB) for 2025/26.
- 32 bids were received from 30 organisations this was in line with last year when we received 32 bids from 20 organisations.
- All applications were received by the deadline of 23rd July 2025
- The total value of bids received was £491,275 against a fund pot of £150,000.

12. Internal consultations

A panel, with representation from Reading Borough Council (RBC) Commissioning and Integration, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB) Integration Care Board (ICB) and the joint Chairpersons from the Reading Integration Board.

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

13. The name of the Committee:	
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.	