

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:	BFfC Transition – IFA and Ofsted
2. Date of the decision:	01 October 2025
3. The decision maker:	Executive Director of Children’s Services

4. Decision details:

On 1 October 2025, the delivery of children’s services was brought back in house to the Council. As part of this transition, the Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) and Voluntary Adoption Agency (VAA) which were previously separately registered, were deregistered with Ofsted and therefore closed. With children’s services now under RBC as a local authority, separate registrations for the Fostering Service and Adoption Service are not required – they continue in-house. In addition, all Ofsted registrations for BFfC Children’s Homes and Nurseries/Children’s Centre Creches were changed from a BFfC registration to a RBC registration.

5. Reasons for the decision:

Council approved (inter alia) the following resolution in relation to the Brighter Futures for Children Ltd transition:

5. That the Executive Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Lead Councillors for Children and Education, is authorised to:

- i. Close the Independent Fostering Agency and transition this to a Local Authority Fostering Service.*
- ii. Make all relevant changes to all Ofsted registrations.*

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

None.

7. List of open Background Papers:

None.

8. List of confidential or exempt Background Papers:

None.

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:

None.

10. Legal considerations

Legal advice was taken through the Programme Board.

11. Financial considerations

Financial advice was taken through the Programme Board.

12. Internal consultations

All relevant services were consulted via the Programme Board.

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

13. The name of the Committee:	Council
14. Date of the meeting:	28 January 2025
15. Minute number:	32(5)
16. The delegation given by the Committee:	That the Executive Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Lead Councillors for Children and Education is authorised to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Close the Independent Fostering Agency and transition this to a Local Authority Fostering Service. ii. Make all relevant changes to all Ofsted registrations.
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	None

this delegation and details of their response.	
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