

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 which materially affects that relevant local government body's financial position.

1. Title of decision:	Home Care Framework 2026 – Contract Award
2. Date of the decision:	17 April 2026
3. The decision maker:	Executive Director - Communities and Adult Social Care

4. Decision details:

To authorise the award of positions on the Home Care Framework for a period of 5 years plus up to 5 further years of extension, commencing 1 April 2026 for a total of 12 suppliers.

The Home Care Framework will be used to purchase home care for people who have eligible needs under the Care Act. It will support the Council in delivering its strategic intention of supporting people with care needs, to live at home.

Following a competitive procurement process advertised on 20 October 2025 for 30 days, 84 bids were received by the Council and evaluated based on quality (100%) and a fixed hourly rate of £23.56 pro rata. This framework does not utilise lots; all 12 suppliers are able to bid and be awarded support packages, and this helps ensure service user choice.

Contracts to be awarded to the following suppliers:

Absolute Care (UK) Limited

Bright Future Care Limited

Calvary Care Limited

Cardinal Care Limited

Care at Home Reading Limited

Eager Health Limited

Embrace Community Care Services Limited

Kcare Nursing Agency Limited

New Beginnings Healthcare Services Limited

People Matter Support Services Limited

Priority Services 4U Limited

VJ Carers Limited

5. Reasons for the decision:

The Procurement Evaluation Report (PER) outlines the procurement approach undertaken which resulted in the above providers successfully meeting the evaluation criteria. The suppliers to be awarded a position on the framework were found to have ranked with a top 12 score (a maximum of 12 positions were available on the framework).

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

Not to award. The existing Home Care Framework ends on 31/03/26 having exhausted all opportunities for contract extension, so the Council would be required to spot purchase home care. This option is not recommended as it would impact the sustainability of the care market in Reading, and cost control would be reduced without a fixed hourly rate.

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:

☐ Legitimate expectation of consultation	☐ Procedural requirements
☐ Public Health implications	☐ Environmental or Climate Change
☐ Health and Safety	☐ Risk Management implications
☐ Transparency of Information (FOI etc)	☐ Privacy Impact Assessments
☐ Human Rights Act Duties	☒ Equality Impact Assessment
☐ Corporate Parenting	☐ Community Safety
☐ Regulatory duties	☐ EU withdrawal
☐ Armed Forces Covenant	☐ Other

Details of the matters taken into account:

Equality Impact Assessment carried out as part of the procurement process

10. Legal considerations

A competitive procurement exercise was carried out in compliance with the Council's contract procedure rules and the Procurement Act 2023.

The Council's Legal Team have provided advice throughout the process.

11. Financial considerations

Bids were evaluated 100% on quality, with one fixed hourly rate of £23.56 which was set by the Council. Estimated annual contract value = £10m.

12. Internal consultations

Home Care Framework Working Group comprising of colleagues from DCASC (Operational and Commissioning) up to Director level, as well as Corporate Procurement and Legal Services.

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

13. The name of the Committee:	Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Education Committee (ACE)
14. Date of the meeting:	02/07/2025
15. Minute number:	9
16. The delegation given by the Committee:	That the Executive Director of Communities and Adult Social Care be given delegated authority to: - Procure and enter into a contract with successful tenderer(s) for the support/care services to be provided. The contract will be for up to 10 years (5 initial years and then up to 5 further years). - Negotiate with the successful tenderer(s) to mobilise the contract, vary the contract, extend the contract at the appropriate time and otherwise contract manage the contract throughout its lifecycle
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.	None