

# **EXECUTIVE**

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON**

### **THURSDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2019**

**Councillors Present:** Steve Ardagh-Walter, Dominic Boeck, Graham Bridgman, Hilary Cole, Lynne Doherty, Rick Jones, Ross Mackinnon, Richard Somner and Howard Woollaston

**Also Present:** John Ashworth (Corporate Director - Environment), Mandip Bilkhu (Communications and Marketing Officer), Zoe Campbell (Public Health Category Manager), Nick Carter (Chief Executive), Martin Dunscombe (Communications Manager), Tess Ethelston (Group Executive (Cons)), Karen Felgate (Contracts and Commissioning Manager), Joseph Holmes (Executive Director - Resources), Andy Sharp (Executive Director (People)), Shiraz Sheikh (Principal Solicitor), Stephen Chard (Principal Policy Officer), Councillor Carolyne Culver, Councillor Alan Macro, Councillor David Marsh and Councillor Steve Masters

**Apologies for inability to attend the meeting:** Councillor Lee Dillon and Councillor Erik Pattenden

## **PART I**

### **52. Minutes**

Councillor Lynne Doherty opened the meeting and formally welcomed Councillor Ross Mackinnon onto the Executive as the new Portfolio Holder for Finance. She gave thanks to the former Finance Portfolio Holder, Councillor Jeff Cant, for his service in the role.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2019 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Leader.

Councillor Carolyne Culver advised of contact she had received from a member of the public who felt that a correction was needed to the transcription of the questions and answers from the last meeting. She questioned the route to challenge this when this detail was contained within the verbatim question and answer document and not the minutes.

Shiraz Sheikh, Deputy Monitoring Officer, advised that this would need to be challenged by contacting the Monitoring Officer directly and not via a correction to the previous minutes.

### **53. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Richard Somner declared an interest in Agenda Item 6 by virtue of the fact that he worked as a Contract Manager for the Royal Berkshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (the current service provider for sexual and reproductive health services), but reported that, as his interest was a personal or an other registrable interest, but not a disclosable pecuniary interest, he determined to remain in the meeting, but would not participate in the debate or vote on the matter.

Councillor Graham Bridgman declared an interest in Agenda Items 5 and 6 by virtue of the fact that was a Governor of the Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and the Royal Berkshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, and either organisation could bid for the two contracts, although he would not be involved personally. He determined therefore, that as his interest was a personal or an other registrable interest, but not a disclosable pecuniary interest, that he would take part in the debate and vote on the matter.

### **54. Petitions**

There were no petitions presented to the Executive.

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### 55. **0-19 (up to 25 for those with special educational needs and disabilities) Public Health Nursing Service Contract Award (EX3816)**

The Executive considered the report (Agenda Item 5) which sought to inform Members of the tender process and which sought delegated authority for the Head of Public Health and Wellbeing, in consultation with the Executive Director of Resources and the Portfolio Holder for Public Health and Community Wellbeing, to award the contract for the provision of 0-19 (up to 25 years for young people with special educational needs and disabilities) Public Health Nursing Services.

Councillor Rick Jones made comments in relation to this report and the subsequent agenda item (Sexual and Reproductive Health Contract Award). He explained that a large aspect of Public Health Services were statutory and this included prevention services.

The strategic direction for Public Health was a move to joint commissioning with Reading and Wokingham Councils, in liaison with the appropriate Clinical Commissioning Groups, with the aims of achieving economies of scale and best value.

Councillor Jones gave thanks to the Public Health Team for their work in developing this joint commissioning approach.

Returning specifically to this report (Agenda Item 5), Councillor Jones explained that it was necessary for West Berkshire to tender a one year contract from 1 April 2020. This would allow for commissioning timescales to be aligned with Wokingham and Reading Councils, and for the procurement of a joint contract from 1 April 2021. This would also align with the emerging Integrated Care Partnership.

The proposals outlined in the report were supported by officers in Legal and Procurement who advised against an extension of the current contract.

Councillor Graham Bridgman commended the use of the joint commissioning approach across the healthcare system. This should be the approach wherever possible.

Councillor Alan Macro referred to the point made in paragraph 5.4 of the report which stated that the results of the evaluation process would be finalised by the end of October 2019. He queried whether this process had been finalised. Councillor Jones confirmed that it had and therefore the report's proposals were recommended for approval.

Councillor Macro felt that it would have been preferable to clarify this point within the report.

*(Councillor Steve Masters joined the meeting at 5.07pm).*

**RESOLVED that** authority be delegated to the Head of Public Health & Wellbeing, in consultation with the Executive Director of Resources and the Portfolio Holder for Public Health & Community Wellbeing, to award the contract to the successful bidder, following the evaluation process, for the provision of 0-19 (up to 25 years for young people with special educational needs and disabilities) Public Health Nursing Services from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020. This procurement had been carried out to align commissioning timescales for a joint contract with Wokingham Borough Council and Reading Borough Council from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 and align with the emerging Integrated Care Partnership.

#### **Other options considered:**

- Commission a joint contract from 2020. This would not be possible due to Reading and Wokingham's commissioning timescales.

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- Extend the current contract. This was explored but the legal risk of challenge was deemed too high as there was no further provision for extension within the contract.
- Do nothing – this is not an option as it is a mandated service.

### 56. **Sexual and Reproductive Health Contract Award (EX3817)**

The Executive considered the report (Agenda Item 6) which sought to inform Members of the outcome of the tender process for sexual and reproductive health services in Berkshire West, and which sought approval to award the contract. The joint procurement of this service was conducted by the Berkshire Public Health Shared Service on behalf of West Berkshire, Reading and Wokingham Councils.

Councillor Rick Jones explained that the current contract would expire in March 2020. As already outlined, this joint procurement with Reading and Wokingham Councils would secure greater cost efficiencies as well as aiming for an improved service. He commended the report to the Executive.

Councillor Alan Macro had two points of clarity on the supporting information. He firstly requested clarification on the duration of the contract and the potential for it to be extended. Councillor Jones advised that it was a three year contract with the potential to extend it to five years (subject to a satisfactory review in the third year).

Secondly, Councillor Macro questioned if paragraph 1.3 was correct in stating that the new service would incorporate additional sexual health services including online chlamydia and HIV testing. He queried the online reference for what were personal tests. As Councillor Jones was only able to provide a written response to this query, Councillor Richard Somner was able to clarify that the online aspect was to confirm whether or not the potential patient was eligible to receive a test and, if so, obtain their information online. A test kit would then be sent out to the patient if necessary. He clarified that the test itself could not be undertaken online. This approach was to help manage patient footfall in and out of hospitals.

**RESOLVED that** authority be delegated to the Head of Public Health & Wellbeing, in consultation with the Executive Director of Resources and the Portfolio Holder for Public Health & Community Wellbeing, to award the contract for the provision of an integrated sexual and reproductive health service to the winning provider, following the evaluation process, from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 aligning with the emerging Integrated Care Partnership. The contract would be ten years in length.

#### **Other options considered:**

- Tender for a West Berkshire only sexual health service. This decision was not taken due to disadvantages in relation to the value and attractiveness to providers of a smaller contract. Costs would be higher for a West Berkshire only service due to duplication of senior management, clinical costs and facilities across Berkshire West.
- Doing nothing is not an option as this is a mandated service.

### 57. **Exclusion of Press and Public**

**RESOLVED that** members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the under-mentioned item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as contained in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) Order 2006. Rule 8.10.4 of the Constitution also refers.

### 58. **1A Bath Road Asset Proposal (EX3589)**

*(Paragraph 3 – information relating to financial/business affairs of a particular person)*

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The Executive considered an exempt report (Agenda Item 8) which sought approval for the disposal of the freehold of 1A Bath Road, Calcot.

**RESOLVED that** the recommendations in the exempt report be agreed.

**Other options considered:** as outlined in the exempt report.

*(The meeting commenced at 5.00pm and closed at 5.18pm)*

**CHAIRMAN** .....

**Date of Signature** .....