

# Decision Pathway – Report



**PURPOSE:** For noting

**MEETING:** Cabinet

**DATE:** 14 September 2021

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| <b>TITLE</b>   | <b>Integrated Community Equipment Services (ICES) Contract Extension</b> |  |
| <b>Ward(s)</b>   | <b>City Wide</b>   |  |
| <b>Author: Tim Rabone</b>  | <b>Job title: Commissioning Manager</b>                                  |  |
| <b>Cabinet lead: Helen Holland, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care</b>   | <b>Executive Director lead: Hugh Evans, Executive Director- People</b>   |  |
| <b>Proposal origin:</b> BCC Staff  |  |  |
| <b>Decision maker:</b> For noting<br><b>Decision forum:</b> For noting   |  |  |
| <b>Purpose of Report:</b>  |  |  |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To notify Cabinet of an Emergency Key Decision taken on 20 August 2021 to extend the existing Integrated Community Equipment Services (ICES) contract for 6 months until 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022, to accommodate a re-evaluation process in respect of the current tendering exercise. The Executive Director – People to award the extension through an Emergency Key Decision.</li> <li>Additional information is contained in Appendix I – Exempt Information. The information is exempt from publication on the basis that it contains information that relates to the financial or business affairs of the Council and others and which is subject to legal professional privilege.</li> </ol>   |  |  |
| <b>Evidence Base:</b>  |  |  |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This contract relates to the re- procurement of the Integrated Community Equipment Services (ICES) contract, in partnership with NHS Bristol North Somerset &amp; South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (BNSSG CCG), South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) and North Somerset Council (NSC).</li> <li>Community equipment provision is a statutory duty. It is a vital element in enabling more people to live independently as possible, maximising their mobility and ability to live at home, and reducing the impact of frailty or disability in short and long term. It covers the provision of a wide range of mobility and homecare equipment to enable people with health and social care needs to live, manage, and be safely cared for in their homes. Equipment ranges from bathing and toileting aids, to beds, mattresses, and hoists.</li> <li>The current contract with Medequip expires on 30 September 2021. Cabinet previously approved a 12-month extension on 2nd June 2020 until 30 September 2021 due to exceptional circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic.</li> <li>The procurement exercise concluded on 27 January 2021 and resulted in an award but the outcome of the procurement exercise has been challenged.</li> <li>The commissioners have decided to re-evaluate the bids with a fresh team and the various bidders have accepted this. The process of re-evaluation will take several months and will inevitably extend beyond the date the current contract expires.</li> <li>The parties have agreed that, to give time to do this and still allow sufficient implementation time for the provider who is selected, the existing contract will need to be extended. It was proposed that this be for a further period of 6 months, from 1 October 2021 to 1st April 2022. The estimated cost of the extension was up to £600,000 which necessitated an</li> </ol> |  |  |

emergency key decision.

7. Whilst that extension of six months was agreed with a view to it being sufficient to complete the re-evaluation, it has become apparent that a further extension may be required. Any decision in this regard will be taken in accordance with the decision pathway process.
8. The decision to extend the contract was taken by the Executive Director – People in conjunction with the Chief Executive on 20 August 2021 following consultation with the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Finance Officer, the Mayor, the relevant Cabinet Member and the relevant scrutiny chair. This decision was taken as an emergency key decision on the basis that there was a clear and pressing need and it was not reasonably practicable to wait for the decision to be taken at the next Cabinet meeting.

#### Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the current position with the re-tendering exercise.
2. Notes the decision of the Executive Director – People to extend the existing ICES contract for 6 months to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 at a cost of up to £600,000.

#### Corporate Strategy alignment:

1. BCC Corporate Strategy 2018 – 23: The aim to create healthier and more resilient communities will be enhanced by the provision of Community Equipment Services, which supports people to remain independent in their own homes and communities.

#### City Benefits:

1. The Bristol Community Equipment Service is a key enabler to support system flow through prevention of hospital admission, support for hospital discharge, prevention of admission to care homes, supporting people to live independently and/or with care packages in their own homes. The contract offers local employment, and opportunities for apprenticeships.

#### Consultation Details:

1. Plans to extend the consultation to accommodate a re-evaluation process in respect of the current tendering exercise have taken place with NHS Bristol North Somerset & South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (BNSSG CCG), South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) and North Somerset Council (NSC).

#### Background Documents:

1. **Care Act (2014): The Care Act (2014)** places a duty on local authorities to facilitate and shape our market for care and support; to ensure sustainability, diversity and continuously improving and innovative services. It includes the promotion of strength Based Approaches and a focus on Prevention and Wellbeing.  
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents/enacted>

|                                       |  |  |   |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Revenue Cost                          | £600,000   | Source of Revenue Funding                | General Fund  |
| Capital Cost                          | £  | Source of Capital Funding                | e.g. grant/ prudential borrowing etc.               |
| One off cost <input type="checkbox"/> | Ongoing cost <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/> | Income generation proposal <input type="checkbox"/> |

Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:

**1. Finance Advice:** This report seeks to approve the extension of the current ICES contract for a period of up to 6 months, at an estimated cost of £600,000 for both Adult Social Care (ASC) and Children’s Services. It should be noted that the combined budget for 2021/22 is £0.957m with a period 3 forecast spend of £1.24m. This in year cost pressure of £0.283m will need to be met from within existing People Directorate resources during 2021/22.

Since all services are expected to manage within its annually approved budget and to ensure sustainability, the ICES budget will need to be considered as part of the medium-term financial planning and budget setting process for 2022/23, to ensure alternative budget capacity for the additional spend and to meet future demand.

**Finance Business Partner:** Denise Hunt, Finance Business Partner, 23 August 2021

**2. Legal Advice:**

Exempt legal advice is contained in Appendix I.

**Legal Team Leader:** Eric Andrews, Team Leader, 15 July 2021

**3. Implications on IT:** No anticipated impact on IT/Digital Services

**IT Team Leader:** Simon Oliver, Director – Digital Transformation, 20.07.21

**4. HR Advice:** The report presents no significant HR implications for Bristol City Council employees.

**HR Partner:** Lorna Laing, HR Business Partner – People, 16 July 2021

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|--|--------------------|------------|
| <b>EDM Sign-off</b>                                | Hugh Evans         | 28/07/2021 |
| <b>Cabinet Member sign-off</b>                     | Cllr Helen Holland | 02/08/2021 |
| <b>For Key Decisions - Mayor’s Office sign-off</b> | Mayor’s office     | 16/08/2021 |

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| <b>Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal</b>        | <b>NO</b>  |
| <b>Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external</b>  | <b>NO</b>  |
| <b>Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny</b>                      | <b>NO</b>  |
| <b>Appendix D – Risk assessment</b>  | <b>NO</b>  |
| <b>Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal</b>         | <b>YES</b> |
| Appendix F – <a href="#">Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal</a> | <b>NO</b>  |
| <b>Appendix G – Financial Advice</b>   | <b>NO</b>  |
| <b>Appendix H – Legal Advice</b>   | <b>NO</b>  |
| <b>Appendix I – Exempt Information</b>   | <b>YES</b> |
| <b>Appendix J – HR advice</b>  | <b>NO</b>  |
| <b>Appendix K – ICT</b>  | <b>NO</b>  |
| <b>Appendix L – Procurement</b>  | <b>NO</b>  |