

**EXECUTIVE
19 SEPTEMBER 2023
5.30 - 6.20 PM**



Present:

Councillors Temperton (Chair), Neil (Vice-Chair), Bailey, Bidwell, Jefferies, Purnell and Wright

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillors Gillbe

18. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Bidwell and Neil declared affected interests in relation to item 11 being the Council's representatives on the Board overseeing the joint venture and would leave the meeting for the item.

19. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive on 18 July 2023 together with the accompanying decision records be confirmed as a correct record.

20. Urgent Items of Business

There were no urgent items of business.

Executive Decisions and Decision Records

The Executive considered the following items. The decisions are recorded in the decision sheets attached to these minutes and summarised below:

21. Membership of the Joint Public Protection Committee

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- i. Agrees to authorise the appropriate amendment to the inter Authority Agreement to reflect the change to the membership of the Joint Public Protection Committee.
- ii. Agrees to the proposed changes to the Joint Public Protection Committee's Terms of Reference as set out in paragraph 5.5 of the report.
- iii. Delegates authority to the Assistant Director: Contract Services in consultation with the Borough Solicitor to implement amendments to the Inter Authority Agreement dated 6th January 2017 as well as the Committee's Terms of Reference in accordance with the recommendations above.

22. Quarter one Council Plan Overview Report

RESOLVED that the performance of the council over the period from April-June 2023 highlighted in the Overview Report in Annex A is noted, this includes any

recommendations made by Overview and Scrutiny in Annex B.

23. **SEND Written Statement of Action**

RESOLVED that

- i. the progress made on implementing the SEND Written Statement of Action to improve services to children and families and the feedback from the DfE and NHS England since the end of June 2023 is noted.
- ii. the invitation from the DfE to participate in the Safety Valve intervention programme 2024-25 for local authorities with high Designated Schools Grant (DSG) deficits is noted.

24. **Agree site for new Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) School**

RESOLVED that

- i. the Executive agree Bucklers Park as the site for the new special school.
- ii. the Executive delegate authority to the Executive Director – People, and the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning, to agree any minor amendments that may be further required.

25. **Approval of the draft All-Age Integrated Carers Strategy 2024-2029, as the basis for public consultation**

RESOLVED that

- i. the draft All-Age Integrated Carers Strategy 2024-2029 is approved, as the basis for public consultation over a period of 12 weeks.
- ii. approval be delegated to the Executive Director: People in consultation with the Executive Member for Adult Services, Health and Housing and the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning to endorse and sign off the consultation process.
- iii. The Executive receives a revised draft of the strategy following consideration of consultation feedback.

26. **Updated Sexual and Reproductive Health Recommissioning**

RESOLVED that

- i. a two-year direct award be approved to an eligible provider to ensure continuity of Specialist, Integrated SRH service provision beyond the 30 June 2024 across Berkshire East ((RBWM), Bracknell Forest Council (BFC) and Slough Borough Council).
- ii. the contract award be delivered as the Lead Authority for the procurement. The decision will be taken at RBWM's Cabinet on the 27th September and SBC's Cabinet on the 18 September 2023. The final decision will therefore be confirmed by the 28th September 2023 when all 3 meetings will have met to take their decisions.

- iii. Bracknell Forest Council work with the market and NHS commissioning bodies to develop a life course response to sexual and reproductive health needs that offers better services for local communities. This process will result in initiation of a procurement of the Specialist Integrated SRH service during the lifetime of the 2-year contract to ensure longer term provision.

27. **Depot - Surplus land**

RESOLVED that

- i. the outline Initial Site Development Plan for surplus land at the Depot site be approved.
- ii. should recommendation 2.1 be approved, detailed proposals will be developed including design, submission of a planning application and the commercial arrangements including development funding finalised in a further Settled Site Development Plan that the Council will need to approve in around 12 months' time.
- iii. the JV will engage with registered social landlords to investigate the viability of increasing the level of affordable housing in the development above the minimum policy compliant level (currently 25%) up to potentially 100%, prior to submission of Settled Site Development Plan.
- iv. the Borough Solicitor be authorised to appropriate the land at edged red on the plan attached as Annex 1 for planning purposes under Section 122(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, when a planning consent is in place.

28. **Approval of the Strategic Procurement Plan for Integrated Therapies Service and associated contract extensions**

RESOLVED that

- i. the Executive approve the Strategic Procurement Plan for the provision of an Integrated Therapies Service as a jointly commissioned service with NHS Frimley Integrated Care Board, the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and Slough Borough Council. NHS Frimley Integrated Care Board will be the lead commissioner.
- ii. the Executive agree the proposed contractual term of 7 years, starting with an initial period of three years and two further optional extension terms of 2 years (3+2+2 years).
- iii. the Executive delegate authority for the contract award decision to the Executive Director: People in consultation with Executive member for Children, Young People & Learning.
- iv. the Executive approve an extension via waiver of the current Children and Young People's Occupational Therapy Service Level Agreement for one year to cover the dates 02/09/23-01/09/24 and, if required, to cover the dates 02/09/24-01/09/25.
- v. the Executive approve an extension via waiver of the current Children and Young People's Speech and Language Therapy contract for one year to cover the dates 03/09/23-02/09/24 and, if required, to cover the dates 03/09/24-02/09/25.

CHAIRMAN

Bracknell Forest Council Record of Decision

Work Programme Reference	I116711
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1. **TITLE:** Membership of the Joint Public Protection Committee

2. **SERVICE AREA:** Delivery

3. **PURPOSE OF DECISION**

To review membership of the Joint Public Protection committee with a view of increasing from 4 members to 6 members (3 members from each participating authority)

4. **IS KEY DECISION** Yes

5. **DECISION MADE BY:** Executive

6. **DECISION:**

That the Executive:

- i. Agrees to authorise the appropriate amendment to the inter Authority Agreement to reflect the change to the membership of the Joint Public Protection Committee.
- ii. Agrees to the proposed changes to the Joint Public Protection Committee's Terms of Reference as set out in paragraph 5.5 of the report.
- iii. Delegates authority to the Assistant Director: Contract Services in consultation with the Borough Solicitor to implement amendments to the Inter Authority Agreement dated 6th January 2017 as well as the Committee's Terms of Reference in accordance with the recommendations above.

7. **REASON FOR DECISION**

At the 12 June 2023 Joint Public Protection Committee meeting the Members resolved to recommend to each of the partner authorities that the membership of the Committee be amended to include three Members from each authority, namely the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Public Protection, and two Council representatives. They also recommended that West Berkshire Council's Constitution, as the host authority, be amended to reflect this decision.

8. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

Not to amend the membership of the Committee.

9. **DOCUMENT CONSIDERED:** Report of the Executive Director: Delivery

10. **DECLARED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:**

Date Decision Made	Final Day of Call-in Period
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19 September 2023

26 September 2023

**Bracknell Forest Council
Record of Decision**

Work Programme Reference	I114713
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1. **TITLE:** Quarter one Council Plan Overview Report

2. **SERVICE AREA:** Chief Executive's Office

3. **PURPOSE OF DECISION**

To provide the Executive an update on the delivery of the objectives set out in the Council Plan.

4. **IS KEY DECISION** Yes

5. **DECISION MADE BY:** Executive

6. **DECISION:**

RESOLVED that the performance of the council over the period from April-June 2023 highlighted in the Overview Report in Annex A is noted, this includes any recommendations made by Overview and Scrutiny in Annex B.

7. **REASON FOR DECISION**

To brief the Executive on the council's performance, highlighting key areas, so that appropriate action can be taken if needed.

8. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

None applicable.

9. **DOCUMENT CONSIDERED:** Report of the Chief Executive

10. **DECLARED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** None

Date Decision Made	Final Day of Call-in Period
19 September 2023	26 September 2023

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**Bracknell Forest Council
Record of Decision**

Work Programme Reference	I114982
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1. **TITLE:** SEND Written Statement of Action

2. **SERVICE AREA:** People

3. **PURPOSE OF DECISION**

To provide the Executive with an update on progress that has been made on delivery the WSOA action plan since the last Executive report in June 2023.

4. **IS KEY DECISION** Yes

5. **DECISION MADE BY:** Executive

6. **DECISION:**

RESOLVED that

- i. the progress made on implementing the SEND Written Statement of Action to improve services to children and families and the feedback from the DfE and NHS England since the end of June 2023 is noted.
- ii. the invitation from the DfE to participate in the Safety Valve intervention programme 2024-25 for local authorities with high Designated Schools Grant (DSG) deficits is noted.

7. **REASON FOR DECISION**

When the WSOA was produced it was agreed that the executive would have updates on progress made on implementation of the plan, following the DfE and NHS England reviews.

8. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

None

9. **DOCUMENT CONSIDERED:** Report of the Executive Director: People

10. **DECLARED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** None

Date Decision Made	Final Day of Call-in Period
19 September 2023	26 September 2023

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**Bracknell Forest Council
Record of Decision**

Work Programme Reference	I115756
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1. **TITLE:** Agree site for new Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) School

2. **SERVICE AREA:** People

3. **PURPOSE OF DECISION**

To seek agreement to nominate Bucklers Park site as the proposed site for the new Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) School.

4 **IS KEY DECISION** Yes

5. **DECISION MADE BY:** Executive

6. **DECISION:**

RESOLVED that

- i. the Executive agree Bucklers Park as the site for the new special school.
- ii. the Executive delegate authority to the Executive Director – People, and the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning, to agree any minor amendments that may be further required.

7. **REASON FOR DECISION**

- i. The Council needs to provide new places for future SEND provision since it currently pays for a high number of pupils to be educated out of the borough which is expensive and is projected to increase in terms of demand and cost. Part of the emerging SEND strategy is to provide more places within the borough which includes the provision of new schools. The opportunity to utilise the land at the Bucklers Park site at a cost of a nominal £1 purchase price from the developers and for the DfE to fund the design and build of a new school, is an opportunity for the Council which it is recommended should be pursued.
- ii. Therefore, it is considered that the Bucklers Park land is an excellent opportunity to deliver a new SEND school and should be progressed.

8. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- i. That the Council purchases land on alternative sites such as the former Warfield School site (which is smaller in area and will incur the cost of a purchase price) or other sites likely to be at full residential market value which will be expensive, uncertain and with an unknown time scale likely to be outside of the terms and conditions for a successful DfE funding bid.
- ii. The potential alternative sites considered:

- Warfield School Site (All Saints Rise) which is much smaller in area (1.24 hectares verses 2.35 hectares at Bucklers Park); has a number of buildings which would need to be demolished; and involves a negotiated purchase price from the owner. The time scale remains uncertain.
- Amen Corner South site – which may be needed for a primary school and will not be available for a number of years which does not meet the timescale for the DfE to fund the school due to the site developer needing to use it as a compound for materials during construction. If eventually available for SEND purposes it may also require to be purchased at full market value as the site will also have a residential value which means it would be very expensive compared to the nominal £1 purchase price of the Bucklers Park site. Negotiations would be required with the developer/landowner.
- Warfield east site – which is secured for a primary school but will not be available for a number of years and depends on an associated planning permission being implemented, which again does not meet the timescales for the funding bid. If eventually available for SEND purposes, half of the site for a 1-form of entry primary school potentially has to be purchased at full market value as the permission relates to a primary school not a SEND school. Further, the other half of the site (to make a 2 FE school) will be required to be purchased at full market value because the planning permission permits housing on this part should the second form of entry part of the primary school not be required. This means the purchase of the site would be very expensive compared to the nominal £1 purchase price of the Bucklers Park site. Negotiations would be required with the developer/landowner.

9. **DOCUMENT CONSIDERED:** Report of the Executive Director: People

10. **DECLARED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** None

Date Decision Made	Final Day of Call-in Period
19 September 2023	26 September 2023

**Bracknell Forest Council
Record of Decision**

Work Programme Reference	I114642
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1. **TITLE:** Approval of the draft All-Age Integrated Carers Strategy 2024-2029, as the basis for public consultation

2. **SERVICE AREA:** People

3. **PURPOSE OF DECISION**

To seek approval of the Co-produced draft All-Age Integrated Carers Strategy 2024-2029 for Bracknell Forest as a basis for undertaking a public consultation over a 12 week period to inform the identified priorities, final strategy and local delivery plan

4 **IS KEY DECISION** Yes

5. **DECISION MADE BY:** Executive

6. **DECISION:**

RESOLVED that

- i. the draft All-Age Integrated Carers Strategy 2024-2029 is approved, as the basis for public consultation over a period of 12 weeks.
- ii. approval be delegated to the Executive Director: People in consultation with the Executive Member for Adult Services, Health and Housing and the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning to endorse and sign off the consultation process.
- iii. The Executive receives a revised draft of the strategy following consideration of consultation feedback.

7. **REASON FOR DECISION**

- i. The All-Age Integrated Carers Strategy will support the Council in meeting their statutory responsibilities to carers and young carers as determined under the Care Act 2014 and Children and Families Act 2014.
- ii. The All-Age Integrated Carers Strategy will support us in achieving our key objectives as determined in the Council Plan.
- iii. The strategy will support a number of Bracknell-Forest Place Health and Care Plan 2022-2025 priority areas.
- iv. Public consultation of the co-produced strategy will ensure residents of Bracknell Forest have an opportunity to understand the proposed partnership approach to supporting carers and the associated priorities. Residents will be able to provide feedback which will be taken into consideration when drafting the final strategy for publication.

8. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

Understanding carers' needs and providing appropriate advice and support to carers are statutory obligations under relevant legislations. Therefore, it is essential we identify and outline how we intend to support carers in Bracknell Forest as a partnership. For this reason, no other alternatives were considered other than the development of this strategy.

9. **DOCUMENT CONSIDERED:** Report of the Executive Director: People

10. **DECLARED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** None

Date Decision Made	Final Day of Call-in Period
19 September 2023	26 September 2023

**Bracknell Forest Council
Record of Decision**

Work Programme Reference	I115490
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1. **TITLE:** Updated Sexual and Reproductive Health Recommissioning

2. **SERVICE AREA:** Place, Planning & Regeneration

3. **PURPOSE OF DECISION**

To update the committee on the progress and next steps for the Sexual and Reproductive Health mandatory service provision.

4. **IS KEY DECISION** Yes

5. **DECISION MADE BY:** Executive

6. **DECISION:**

RESOLVED that

- i. a two-year direct award be approved to an eligible provider to ensure continuity of Specialist, Integrated SRH service provision beyond the 30 June 2024 across Berkshire East ((RBWM), Bracknell Forest Council (BFC) and Slough Borough Council).
- ii. the contract award be delivered as the Lead Authority for the procurement. The decision will be taken at RBWM's Cabinet on the 27th September and SBC's Cabinet on the 18 September 2023. The final decision will therefore be confirmed by the 28th September 2023 when all 3 meetings will have met to take their decisions.
- iii. Bracknell Forest Council work with the market and NHS commissioning bodies to develop a life course response to sexual and reproductive health needs that offers better services for local communities. This process will result in initiation of a procurement of the Specialist Integrated SRH service during the lifetime of the 2-year contract to ensure longer term provision.

7. **REASON FOR DECISION**

- i. The contract for the Specialist Integrated SRH service for residents in the local authorities across Berkshire East (Bracknell Forest Council; (RBWM) and Slough Borough Council) is due to expire on 30 June 2024.
- ii. The recommended approach agreed by all local authorities was to retender under the light touch regime of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (the Regulations). The maximum financial envelope for BFC and Slough Borough Council was also agreed; for RBWM this occurs at award stage so had not yet taken place.
- iii. In March 2023 the Director of Public Health gained approval for BFC to go out to tender for the Berkshire East Specialist Integrated SRH Service.
- iv. This included a recommendation to continue joint commissioning arrangements

across Berkshire East to continue funding the total contract value jointly with BFC to lead the procurement process to tender under the light touch regime

8. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

Detailed within the report.

9. **DOCUMENT CONSIDERED:** Report of the Director of Public Health

10. **DECLARED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** None

Date Decision Made	Final Day of Call-in Period
19 September 2023	26 September 2023

**Bracknell Forest Council
Record of Decision**

Work Programme Reference	I114754
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1. **TITLE:** Depot - Surplus land

2. **SERVICE AREA:** Resources

3. **PURPOSE OF DECISION**

To approve the initial site development plan for surplus land at the Depot site.

4 **IS KEY DECISION** Yes

5. **DECISION MADE BY:** Executive

6. **DECISION:**

RESOLVED that

- i. the outline Initial Site Development Plan for surplus land at the Depot site be approved.
- ii. should recommendation 2.1 be approved, detailed proposals will be developed including design, submission of a planning application and the commercial arrangements including development funding finalised in a further Settled Site Development Plan that the Council will need to approve in around 12 months' time.
- iii. the JV will engage with registered social landlords to investigate the viability of increasing the level of affordable housing in the development above the minimum policy compliant level (currently 25%) up to potentially 100%, prior to submission of Settled Site Development Plan.
- iv. the Borough Solicitor be authorised to appropriate the land at edged red on the plan attached as Annex 1 for planning purposes under Section 122(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, when a planning consent is in place.

7. **REASON FOR DECISION**

- i. The proposed ISDP is an outline proposal for development of the Council-owned Depot site. This will become surplus to the functioning of the Depot site itself once the redevelopment of the site is completed. If approved, this outline proposal will be refined during the coming months and will be subject to several conditions being fulfilled, including securing planning permission and fulfilling best consideration requirements for the land value.
- ii. The proposal uses a parcel of land which would otherwise be left vacant or sold to a third-party developer. Its proposed development via the JV allows the Council retain a high level of control over what is to be built on the site.
- iii. The development would provide c40 new houses and flats close to the town centre, with a proposed 25% policy compliant scheme as a minimum. The opportunity to

deliver an increased number of affordable units on site will be explored in the coming months, before a final proposal is brought before the Council for consideration in a Settled Site Development Plan, in around 12 months.

- iv. The proposed development links to the Bracknell Forest Housing Strategy 2023 to 2028. This strategy sets out four priorities:
 1. Prevent homelessness & increase housing options and support for households in need.
 2. Deliver new homes in sustainable communities that meet the needs of residents.
 3. Make the best use of existing homes and improve housing quality.
 4. Provide a range of housing options for people with care and support needs.

This development will align with this strategy by:

- Providing housing with varying unit sizes, including larger units suitable for family occupancy.
 - Exceeding the strategy requirements by providing 10% of housing as wheelchair adapted (strategy 5%).
 - Capping the rent for affordable homes at Local Housing Allowance rates
 - Delivering a high-quality development, indistinguishable from private for sale homes in the neighbourhood.
- v. The scheme development will be closely monitored through the detailed design, planning and construction stages and will include opportunities such as apprenticeships and work experience. Following completion this development will enhance town centre living in the centre of Bracknell, helping support an 18-hour economy by creating a lively mixed-use destination with residential and potential commercial uses close to the town centre.
 - vi. In order to ensure that the redevelopment can come forward, its benefits be realised and that the Council can meet its obligations under the JV legal agreement, it is proposed that the Council appropriates its land at the Depot site for planning purposes under S122 Local Government Act 1972 and utilises the statutory powers under s.203 Housing & Planning Act 2016 to facilitate the works without risk of injunction once planning permission has been obtained. This report seeks that this is delegated to Borough Solicitor who will ensure that all legal tests are complied with before Appropriation is undertaken.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The Executive could decide not to endorse the recommendations made in this report. This would mean that the Council may need to consider an alternative approach to development for the Surplus land at the Depot, including disposing of the surplus land to a third party. In that situation, the Council would achieve a guaranteed capital receipt (the level of which would depend on market interest) but would lose control over the nature and scale of development on the site. A commercial as opposed to residential development has been investigated, but was found not to be viable, as has previously been reported to the Executive.

9. DOCUMENT CONSIDERED: Report of the Executive Director: Resources

10. **DECLARED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** Councillors Bidwell and Neil declared affected interests in relation to being the Council's representatives on the Board overseeing the joint venture and would leave the meeting for the item.

Date Decision Made	Final Day of Call-in Period
19 September 2023	26 September 2023

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**Bracknell Forest Council
Record of Decision**

Work Programme Reference	I115811
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1. **TITLE:** Approval of the Strategic Procurement Plan for Integrated Therapies Service and associated contract extensions

2. **SERVICE AREA:** People

3. **PURPOSE OF DECISION**

To seek approval for the procurement of an Integrated Therapies Service, to include Occupational Therapy (OT) and Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) and to extend the current contracts with Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust for SALT and OT services for children and young people in Bracknell Forest to allow for the procurement to be undertaken. Approval is sought to extend the contracts for one year initially with the option to extend for up to a further one year'.

4 **IS KEY DECISION** Yes

5. **DECISION MADE BY:** Executive

6. **DECISION:**

RESOLVED that

- i. the Executive approve the Strategic Procurement Plan for the provision of an Integrated Therapies Service as a jointly commissioned service with NHS Frimley Integrated Care Board, the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and Slough Borough Council. NHS Frimley Integrated Care Board will be the lead commissioner.
- ii. the Executive agree the proposed contractual term of 7 years, starting with an initial period of three years and two further optional extension terms of 2 years (3+2+2 years).
- iii. the Executive delegate authority for the contract award decision to the Executive Director: People in consultation with Executive member for Children, Young People & Learning.
- iv. the Executive approve an extension via waiver of the current Children and Young People's Occupational Therapy Service Level Agreement for one year to cover the dates 02/09/23-01/09/24 and, if required, to cover the dates 02/09/24-01/09/25.
- v. the Executive approve an extension via waiver of the current Children and Young People's Speech and Language Therapy contract for one year to cover the dates 03/09/23-02/09/24 and, if required, to cover the dates 03/09/24-02/09/25.

7. **REASON FOR DECISION**

1. The procurement of the Integrated Therapies Service is required to meet the needs of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

2. The proposal for jointly commissioning an Integrated Therapies Service will include a core clinical service. The core clinical offer includes SALT, OT and Physiotherapy. This core element of the integrated service will provide services where there is a clinical need such as intervention when a child or young person has experienced an accident or where there is a specific clinical need such as Dysphagia. Physiotherapy services are included in the core health service and are commissioned to provide assessment and intervention to children and young people who present with a nonacute condition affecting their physical development and/or function and where specialist physiotherapy support is required. Clinical pathways for this cohort of Children and Young People will predominantly be through community health services such as health visiting, community paediatrics and primary care and Acute pathways.
3. The proposed joint commissioning model will ensure the best use is made of resources. Currently, there are four different contracts with different specifications, eligible populations/schools and monitoring arrangements. This results in inequitable provision and outcomes, service gaps, and disputes. A joint arrangement across East Berkshire would ensure a consistent service model is delivered across the area. A single provider ensures reduced variation in practice, more standardisation and a reduction in variation of access and outcomes. Impact measures would be monitored in a consistent way, the inequality of outcomes is reduced and there would be an increase in children who can access the service. A single needs assessment ensures the pooling of public health input, clinical expertise, schools' feedback, data and informatics and community insights. An aligned strategy means an at scale approach to tackling issues such as recruitment and retention, quicker resolution of disputes, and a single contract management approach.
4. The service model and specification will be jointly developed by NHS Frimley ICB, BFC, RBWM and Slough Borough Council to include the learning that took place during the pandemic, use of technology, and a contract monitoring and performance management framework with clear key performance indicators. Regular and robust contract monitoring will be undertaken throughout the life of the contract. A joint contract will clearly outline the costs of the service and the funding contribution of each Commissioning Partner. Key data sets will be presented in a dashboard at the SEND Improvement Partnership Board to provide the required system oversight.
5. Engagement will take place in the autumn term 2023 with key stakeholders including schools forum, service users, schools, health professionals, parents and the parent carer forums across East Berkshire to support the development of the new service model and specification. Workshops led by NHS Frimley ICB are taking place throughout July and August with multi-agency professionals at the three Local Authorities to progress this work. The Bracknell Forest Council (BFC) workshop took place on 24th July 2023.
6. Bracknell Forest Council wants all children and young people in the borough to be safe, to learn, to gain confidence, be happy and be supported to reach their full potential. Ensuring all children and young people with SEND are supported in achieving their aspirations is of paramount importance to us.
7. In November 2021, BFC's SEND services were inspected by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and nine significant areas for improvement were identified. The fifth area for improvement is 'the lack of support available to children and young people while waiting excessive amounts of time to access occupational therapy services. Also, the lack of capacity in the occupational therapy team, resulting in delays to their contributions to education health and care plans (EHCPs).

Improving OT wait times is a key improvement that needs to be delivered, as set out in our Written Statement of Action (WSOA).

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

1. Do nothing: The current contract and associated obligations will lapse, therefore there would be no provision for an Integrated Therapies Service. This would leave us unable to meet our statutory duty to provide OT, SALT and physiotherapy to children and young people in Bracknell Forest. It would also leave us unable to fulfil our duty to ensure all EHCP assessments are completed within the 20-week timeframe, including the necessary input from SALT and OT therapists.
2. Extending beyond the requested period: There is no further provision within the current contract for this to be extended. Additionally, the service specifications have not been reviewed for several years and are no longer fit for purpose.
3. A competitive tender as the sole commissioner: The Integrated Therapies Service must be commissioned jointly by BFC and NHS Frimley ICB, as stated in the SEND Code of practice (2015). BFC and NHS Frimley ICB could commission this service jointly without RBWM and Slough Borough Council. However, the same provider currently provides the same services across Berkshire. Under Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 and Section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006 local authorities and NHS Frimley ICB have a statutory duty to consider the extent to which children and young people's needs could be met more effectively through integrating services and aligning or pooling budgets in order to offer greater value for money, improve outcomes and/or better integrate services for children and young people with SEN or disabilities.
4. A joint commissioning exercise with a Local Authority partner as the lead commissioner: NHS Frimley ICB is the largest financial contributor to the service. The three Local Authorities are much smaller partners and due to resourcing challenges, neither BFC, RBWM or Slough Borough Council can act as lead commissioner for this project.
5. Spot purchasing without a contractual arrangement: Best value for money is unlikely to be achieved. The SEND Code of practice states that BFC and NHS Frimley ICB must jointly commission a service and publish

9. **DOCUMENT CONSIDERED:** Report of the Executive Director: People

10. **DECLARED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** None

Date Decision Made	Final Day of Call-in Period
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