

**Bracknell Forest Council  
Record of Decision**

<b>Work Programme Reference</b>	<b>I121770</b>
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1. **TITLE:** Neutral Agency Vendor Procurement

2. **SERVICE AREA:** Resources

3. **PURPOSE OF DECISION**

This has previously been agreed through Executive on 12 December 2023. This report recommends a change in the procurement method. We now propose for approval to utilise the Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO) framework for Managed Services for Temporary Agency Resources (MSTAR). The current contract expires on 31st March 2025 and the new contract will be effective from 1st April 2025. (A previous decision in December 2023 indicated that the intention was for Bracknell to conduct its own standalone process).

4. **IS KEY DECISION** Yes

5. **DECISION MADE BY:** Executive

6. **DECISION:**

**RESOLVED** that the procurement of a neutral agency vendor to provide the Council with agency staff is approved in accordance with the strategic procurement plan attached as Appendix A to this report.

7. **REASON FOR DECISION**

The Council spends in excess of £8M a year on agency staff, of which on-contract spend through Matrix currently has averaged 67% over the last financial year. It is recommended a neutral agency vendor supplier is procured to fulfil our agency worker requirements. However, as part of the procurement process there will be explicit questions for suppliers to determine exactly how they will fulfil our social care recruitment requirements to address our level of on-contract agency spend in this area.

8. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

1. Procure software but manage the service internally. This is a significant change, though it has been done elsewhere, and would require additional resource.
2. Collaboration with neighbouring authorities to create greater economies of scale, but this would require neighbouring authorities to be undertaking procurement at the same time as Bracknell.
3. Procuring a supplier through a master vendor or hybrid model.

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

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

<b>Date Decision Made</b>	<b>Final Day of Call-in Period</b>
16 July 2024	24 July 2024