



Officer Decision Record – Key Decision

Key decisions taken by an officer are subject to the 5 day call in period from circulation to Members, and therefore the decision will be released for implementation following the call-in period and no call in being received

1. Cabinet date and copy resolution this key decision relates to

Cabinet approved the following recommendations on the 14th June 2023 (DN.14 Procurement of Childrens Service Case Management Platform)

1. That the commencement of a procurement exercise for a Children’s Services Platform as set out in the report be approved.
2. That the Executive Director Place and Resources, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets jointly with the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education be authorised to implement.
3. That the Executive Director Place and Resources in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets jointly with the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education be delegated authority to deal with all ancillary matters reasonably arising leading to and including the award of the contract for the Children’s Services Platform.
4. That the Assistant Director Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer) be authorised to complete and execute all legal documentation in connection with the award.

2. Subject and details of the matter (to include reasons for the decision)

Approval to award the contract for the Childrens Service Platform.

The system will cover the following service areas:

Education

Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

IYSS

Childrens Social Care

Youth Offending Service

Finance

The whole life value of the contract is £2,147,829.18

The maximum length of the contract is 110 months.

A further competition was run under the Crown Commercial Service Vertical Application Solutions (RM6259) Framework – Lot 2 Education, Community Health and Social Care Solutions.

Following conclusion of the evaluation process, Liquidlogic Ltd has been identified as the most economically advantageous tenderer, and so approval is sought to award the contract for the Childrens Service Platform to Liquidlogic Ltd.

3. Decision being taken

That the Executive Director Place and Resource in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets jointly with the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education approves award of the contract for the Childrens Service Platform to Liquidlogic Ltd for a maximum 110 months.

4. Is it an Urgent Decision? If yes, specify the reasons for urgency. Urgent decisions will require sign off by the relevant scrutiny chair(s) as not subject to call in.

No

5. Anticipated outcome(s)/benefits

The contract for the Childrens Service platform is awarded via a further competition under the Crown Commercial Service framework to Liquidlogic Ltd for a maximum of 110 months.

6. Details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the officer when making the decision (this should be similar to original cabinet decision)

Procure individual applications:

This option would mean continuing with our current approach to procuring and implementing applications and we would hinder the chance to integrate working practices and consolidate information in a single place.

This option would hinder the achievement of the Children's Services improvement and transformation journey.

Retain the current systems and migrate to the Cloud:

This option would mean entering into a new contract with the current provider, which would leave the Council non-compliant with the requirements of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

This option would hinder the achievement of the Children's Services improvement and transformation journey.

Do nothing:

This option would leave the Council non-compliant with the requirements of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

It would also mean that the Council would not achieve the aims for service improvement and transformation, such as:

The Council's ICT and Digital strategy to move our technology to the Cloud to support carbon reduction (Scope 1 emissions), improve our overall resilience, cyber security controls and availability (24 x 7)

The Council's ambitions for becoming a data led organisation. This equates to consolidating our data in as fewer places as possible and being confident it is an accurate picture of a child, a family and their associated journeys in life and through Council services.

It would hinder the achievement of the Children's Services improvement and transformation journey.

7. Background documents considered (web links to be included and copies of documents provided for publishing)

Cabinet Decision (DN.14) Procurement of Childrens Service Case Management Platform Cabinet Report.

8. Does the taking of the decision include consideration of Exempt information? If yes, specify the relevant paragraph of Schedule 12A and the reasons

No

9. Details of any conflict of interest declared by any Cabinet Member who was consulted by the officer which relates to the decision (in respect of any declared conflict of interest, please provide a note of dispensation granted by the Council's Chief Executive)

None

10. Monitoring Officer Comments (Monitoring Officer or nominee)

The above is consistent with the will and expectation of Cabinet.

11. Section 151 Officer Comments (Deputy S151 Officer or nominee)

The implementation costs of the scheme are to be managed from within the budget approved as part of the Council's Capital Investment Programme.

12. Human Resource Comments (Head of People and Culture or nominee)

There are no direct HR implications arising from the contents of this report.

13. Risk Assessment (in accordance with the Report Writing Guide)

We have an ongoing challenge in delivering an efficient and effective approach for processes that support Children's Services functions. If we do not implement a more integrated platform, we will stifle our ability to improve, and we will continue to rely upon manual and labour-intensive processes that introduce the risks identified through recent internal working groups and our 2022 OFSTED inspection.

There is a risk of disruption to services during the transition from the incumbent solutions to the newly procured solution. Appropriate change management will take place to ensure that disruption is avoided or reduced, and relevant communications will take place using agreed change management approaches.

The Councils current contracts are due to expire so a replacement solution needs to be procured to avoid a loss of service. It is envisaged that we may need to extend existing contracts beyond their current term to support the implementation of the single platform. These extensions will be carried out in accordance with contract procedure rules.

An integrated platform would give the Council the capability to integrate business activity across teams in a profound way. It would allow the Council to effectively develop links between teams to understand the needs of its young people and the subsequent impacts to social care.

14. Has the Cabinet Tracker been updated with details of this decision?

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15. Decision Maker(s):

Name: Sharon Wroot

Title: Executive Director Place and Resource

Signed: REDACTED

Dated: **29.11.23**

16. Consultation carried out with Portfolio Holder(s):

Name: Cllr Philip Jackson

Title: Leader

Signed: REDACTED

Dated: 4th December 2023

**17. If the decision is urgent then
consultation should be carried out
with the relevant Scrutiny
Chair/Mayor/Deputy Mayor**

Name:

Title:

Signed:

Dated: