

Record of Decisions

Cabinet decision to award new contract for the Torbay Joint Community Equipment Service (JCES)

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 30 August 2022.

Decision

1. That, subject to ratification by parallel governance processes in Plymouth City Council and the NHS Devon integrated care board, the contract for (Lot 2 Torbay Community Equipment Service) be awarded to the highest scoring tenderer as set out in Exempt Appendix 1 to the submitted report; and
2. The contract be awarded on Torbay Council Services Terms & Conditions, which were published in the invitation to tender documents.

Reason for the Decision

The Council's existing JCES contract ends in February 2023, and therefore the Council needed to undertake an open and transparent procurement process to ensure a new contract/service was in place from March 2023.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 12 September 2022 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

Community equipment includes complex items such as mattresses, lifting equipment and beds, to small products such as commodes. It helps both family and paid carers (such as domiciliary care workers) to support people with complex physical disabilities in their own home, in a safe and effective manner. It enables the safe delivery of a number of services e.g., providing support with personal care, a return home for someone at the end of life, intermediate care and replacement care. Having community equipment in place was an important element in timely hospital discharge, helping to avoid hospital and residential care admissions, preventing falls and supporting reablement. Equipment was needed to maintain independence and reduce risk of injury, which was seen to increase with age.

There were a number of strategic and operational drivers to review the community equipment service, including the increase in demand on services with Torbay's growing and aging population and the increase in number of young people with complex disabilities reaching adulthood and living in the community. In the future more people with increasingly complex needs are likely to need to be enabled to live in their own homes for a longer period of time.

The new contract in Torbay would be for a jointly commissioned service with the NHS Devon integrated care board, with Torbay Council being the contracting authority on behalf of the commissioning organisations. The proposal was to award a contract for three years (2023 to 2026), with three further one-year extension options of 1+1+1 (potentially to 2029).

At the meeting Councillor Stockman proposed and Councillor Long seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

The Care Act 2014 states that “local authorities must provide or arrange services, resources or facilities that maximise independence for those already with such needs, for example, interventions such as rehabilitation/reablement services, e.g., community equipment services and adaptations.” In Torbay (as in Devon and Plymouth) the Council has historically chosen to commission this service via a contract with an external provider, who specialise in the management of this function in terms of the procurement, delivery, maintenance and collection of community equipment and minor adaptations.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None.

Published

2 September 2022

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet