

## Cabinet (Resources) Panel

28 July 2021

<b>Report title</b>	Procurement – Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services	
<b>Decision designation</b>	AMBER	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Ian Brookfield Leader of the Council	
<b>Key decision</b>	Yes	
<b>In forward plan</b>	Yes	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards	
<b>Accountable Director</b>	Claire Nye, Director of Finance	
<b>Originating service</b>	Procurement	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	John Thompson Tel Email	Head of Procurement 01902 554503 John.thompson@wolverhampton.gov.uk
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	Directorate Leadership Team	

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### Recommendation for decision:

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is recommended to:

1. Approve a variation to the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Partnership Agreement to deliver Public Health Services to incorporate Covid-19 Infection Prevention and Control Service from 1 November 2020 to 31 October 2023 with a variation value of £785,237.00.

## **1.0 Councillor Jasbir Jaspal, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing**

### **1.1 Contract Variation - Partnership Agreement to deliver PH Services**

<b>Ref no:</b>		<b>CWC19115</b>
Provider	Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust	
Decision Type	Contract Variation	
Corporate Plan Aim	Strong, resilient, and healthy communities	
Originating service	Public Health	
Accountable officer	Neeraj Malhotra, Consultant in Public Health (01902) 558667	
Directorate Leadership Team approval	13 July 2021	
Accountable Lead Cabinet Member	Cllr Jasbir Jaspal, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing	
Date Lead Cabinet Member briefed	15 July 2021	
Procurement Advisor	Ellen Wilkinson, Procurement Business Partner	
Original Contract Commencement date	1 June 2019	
Original Contract duration	10 years	
Original Contract value	£79,218,361	

## **1.2 Background**

- 1.3 Cabinet (Resources) Panel have previously granted approval on 23 July 2019 to enter into a partnership with Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust to secure the delivery of the 0-19 Healthy Child Programme and Sexual Health services for a period of up to ten years from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2029 at a total maximum contract value of £77,488,750.
- 1.4 On 21 April 2021 Cabinet (Resources) Panel approved additional, three-year investment of £1,729,611 into the successful partnership with the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust (RWT) to strengthen support for children, young people and their families, reduce health inequalities and support those who need us most.

- 1.5 Alongside the delivery of these services, there is an ambition to align all healthcare provision delivered by RWT into the partnership arrangement to maximise efficiencies and resource capacity across the City of Wolverhampton Council (CWC) and RWT partnership.
- 1.6 From 1 April 2019, the Local Authority have separately commissioned an Infection Prevention and Control Service with a combined contract arrangement including Tuberculosis Services provided by Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust.
- 1.7 The Infection Prevention Service ensures high standards of infection prevention and control are set up and maintained in care home settings. The aim is to reduce the severity of infectious disease outbreaks thus protecting the elderly and often vulnerable individuals in these settings. The service focuses on the following outcomes:
  - Care home outbreak management and control
  - Infection prevention support to manage flu outbreaks in care homes
  - Review of care home audit and inspection regimes
- 1.8 During 2020, in the height of the Covid-19 pandemic it was vital to ensure adequate levels of provision were in place to enable a flexible and local response to infection prevention and outbreak management across all high-risk settings in Wolverhampton.
- 1.9 Local Authorities have a responsibility to support the response of complex local incidents and outbreaks to safeguard and protect the health of our local population.
- 1.10 The capacity of the existing Infection Prevention and control provision was not sufficient to respond to the emerging and fast paced demand of Covid-19 and cater to the wider range of settings affected by Covid.
- 1.11 A service proposal was developed to incorporate the creation of a dedicated Infection Prevention and Control clinical team based within New Cross Hospital to provide specialist provision to the following settings:
  - Care Homes
  - Educational settings (including early years, colleges and University)
  - Hospitals
  - Workplaces considered high risk (e.g. meat processing plants)
  - Hostels/Homeless accommodation/ sheltered accommodation and supported living
  - Faith settings
- 1.12 Key elements of service provision included:
  - Education and Training: proactive engagement to minimise the occurrence of outbreaks by providing infection prevention and control advice.
  - Surveillance and audit: ongoing surveillance in high-risk settings to ensure practices are in place to minimise transmission.

- Outbreak Management: development of a flexible and mobile
- emergency response service to respond to outbreaks across high-risk settings (where alternative provision is not available).

1.13 As a result of the fast-paced nature of Covid-19, service provision was required immediately to support the Local Authority to reduce the spread of infections and effectively respond to the management of outbreaks. Following a recruitment process to aid the creation of a new dedicated team, the Covid-19 Infection Prevention and Control service became operational on 1 November 2020.

1.14 This additional investment is aligned with the fifth strategic outcome of the Council Plan: that we will build strong, resilient, and healthy communities. Additionally, taking account of the impacts of the pandemic, these funds address the 'Relighting our City' priority of supporting the most vulnerable.

1.15 The activity will also support delivery against the Local Outbreak Engagement Plan – Theme 1: Care homes and educational settings and Theme 2: Higher-risk settings, communities and locations.

#### 1.16 Contract Variation

Proposed Contract Variation	
Contract Variation duration	Two years
Contract Variation Commencement date	1 November 2020
Total value	£785,237

#### 1.17 Evaluation of alternative options

1.18 Option 1: Do nothing – no additional provision would be arranged to support Covid-19 outbreaks and infection prevention. This would mean limited infection prevention support was available to respond to and control outbreaks in settings other than care homes which would adversely impact the local population and infection rates. Additionally, local authorities have a responsibility to support the response of complex local incidents and outbreaks to safeguard and protect the health of our local population.

1.19 Option 2: Commission an outbreak prevention and control service – this would involve varying the current partnership agreement with RWT to include the provision of a hospital grade infection prevention service. Negotiations were held with RWT to reach agreement on the level of service required and the costs associated. The provision requested meant that the capacity of the existing infection prevention and control provision was not sufficient to respond to the emerging and fast paced demand of Covid-19 and cater to the wider range of settings affected by Covid-19. Recruitment of staff to resource the new team was required.

## 1.20 Justification for Variation

1.21 The contract is being varied for the following reasons;

- The original contract had clauses within it that allow it to be varied.
- The variation will align all commissioned healthcare provision delivered by RWT allowing for efficiencies and flexible use of resources across the partnership arrangement.

## 1.22 Financial implications

1.23 The costs of the service per financial year are shown in the table below.

Year	Total Cost (£)
2020-2021 (Nov – Mar)	199,750
2021-2022 (Apr – Mar)	367,561
2022 – 2023 (Apr – Oct)	217,926
<b>Total</b>	<b>785,237</b>

1.24 The 2020-2021 costs were met from the Covid Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) and the Covid Clinically Extremely Vulnerable grant. In 2021-2022 the full cost will be met from the COMF. In 2022-2023 the cost will be met from Public Health grant.

[RP/15072021/V]

## 1.25 Legal implications

1.26 The Council must follow the Contract Procedure Rules and the Public Contract Regulations 2015 when awarding contracts for services. The Council contracted with RWT under Regulation 12 (7) of the PCR 2015 and these conditions must apply for the arrangement to continue, any subsequent variations to this agreement must also meet the requirements of Regulation 12.

[SZ/15072021/P]

## 1.27 Equalities implications

1.28 The Covid-19 pandemic had had a significant impact on particular communities and groups, including people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities, people living in more deprived areas, those working in higher risk occupations, people living in overcrowded conditions and/or those who have relevant, pre-existing health conditions. This funding seeks to support some of the most vulnerable people within our population in high-risk settings to ensure no one in our city is left behind.

## 1.29 All other implications

1.30 The investment supports CWC's 'Relighting our City' recovery plan and the priority of supporting people who need us most. A key component of this funding is to prevent the onward transmission of Covid-19 and prevent future outbreaks and thereby contributes to the council plan outcome: that Wulfrunians will live longer, healthier and more fulfilling lives.

### **1.31 Recommendation**

- 1.32 Cabinet (Resources) Panel is recommended to approve a variation to the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Partnership Agreement to incorporate Covid-19 Infection Prevention and Control Service from 1 November 2020 to 31 October 2023 with a variation value of £785,237.00.

### **1.33 Schedule of background papers**

- 1.34 Cabinet (Resources) Panel - 23 July 2019 - [Procurement - Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services](#)
- 1.35 Cabinet (Resources) Panel - 21 April 2021- [Investing to improve health outcomes for the city's children, young people and families in partnership with the NHS](#)