

Attendance

Members of the Cabinet (Resources) Panel

Cllr Steve Evans (Chair)
Cllr Obaida Ahmed
Cllr Paula Brookfield
Cllr Chris Burden
Cllr Craig Collingswood
Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal
Cllr Jasbir Jaspal
Cllr Louise Miles
Cllr Stephen Simkins

Employees

Tim Johnson	Chief Executive
John Denley	Director of Public Health
Alison Hinds	Director of Children's Services
James Howse	Director of Finance
Charlotte Johns	Executive Director of Economy
Richard Lawrence	Director of City Development
David Pattison	Chief Operating Officer
John Roseblade	Director of Resident Services
Andrew Wolverson	Director of Adult Social Care (DASS)
Jaswinder Kaur	Democratic Services and Systems Manager
Dereck Francis	Democratic Services Officer

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

- 1 Apologies for absence**
Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Jacqui Coogan.
- 2 Declarations of interest**
No declarations of interests were made.
- 3 Minutes of the previous meeting**
Resolved:
That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 January 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4 **Procurement - Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services**

Councillor Louise Miles move the recommendations contained in the report seeking delegated authority for Cabinet Members to approve the award of contracts once the evaluation process is complete.

Cabinet Members reported on the contracts within their portfolio area.

Resolved:

1. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Governance and Equalities, in consultation with the Deputy Director of Assets, to approve the award of a contract for Washroom Services when the evaluation process is complete.
2. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change, in consultation with the Director of Resident Services, to approve the award of a contract for Black Country Transport Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans Early Development Works Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4 when the evaluation process is complete.
3. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change, in consultation with the Director of Resident Services, to approve the award of a contract for Hire of Winter Service Vehicles including Maintenance when the evaluation process is complete.
4. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Jobs, Skills and Education, in consultation with the Deputy Director of Education, to approve the award of a contract for UK Shared Prosperity Fund Employment Support when the evaluation process is complete.
5. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Adults and Wellbeing, in consultation with the Director of Adult Social Care to approve the award of a contract for Dementia Community Support Service when the evaluation process is complete.
6. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Adults and Wellbeing, in consultation with the Director of Public Health, to approve the award of a contract for Our People Project when the evaluation process is complete.
7. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Adults and Wellbeing, in consultation with the Director of Adult Social Care, to approve the award of a contract for Service, Repair and Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations testing of Community Equipment when the evaluation process is complete.
8. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Resources in consultation with the Director of Finance, to approve the award of a contract for Leaseholder Insurance Services when the evaluation process is complete.

5 **Care and Support Provider Fee Review 2024-2025**

Councillor Jasbir Jaspal presented the report on the proposed increase to adult social care fees for 2024-2025. The proposals set out to support the Council in

meeting its legal duty under the Care Act 2014 to mount the effective and efficient operation of the market, with its other legal duty of setting a balanced budget. A 7.45% uplift to the fees paid to externally commissioned adult social care providers was proposed based on a composite rate which takes into account the National Living Wage and inflation. The only exception was for direct payments and personal assistants, for which a 9.79% uplift was proposed as they are solely payroll costs. The projected net cost of the proposal was £6.6 million based on current packages. Placements and the projected demographic growth could cost an additional £2.9 million in the coming year. Subject to the final budget approval these projected costs could be met from budgets held in adult services.

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Stephen Simkins) placed on record his thanks to Becky Wilkinson who had recently left the role of the Council's Director of Adult Social Care to become the new Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health Partnership at Salford City Council. He thanked Becky for her work, commitment and the passion she had shown to her roles during her time at the Council and wished her well for the future.

Resolved:

1. That the proposed increases in care fee levels for 2024-2025 as set out in the table below be approved to ensure sufficiency and sustainability across the external Adult Social Care market.

Type of Care Provision	Recommendation	Current Rate 2023-2024 £	% Increase	Proposed Rate 2024-2025 £
Home Care	Increase to reflect the cost impact of the National Living Wage (NLW) and Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation. To be applied to care and support delivered through the CWC19112 – Home Care – Light Touch Flexible Framework, as well as spot purchased care commissioned outside of the contract	18.84* (Hourly rate)	7.45	20.28* (Hourly rate)
Home Care – Reablement		20.12 (Hourly rate)	7.45	21.64* (Hourly rate)
Home Based Respite		18.00 (Hourly rate)	7.45	19.36* (Hourly rate)
Direct Payments for Adults, Carers and Children's – Agency Rate	Aligned to the Supported Living rate. Increase to reflect cost impact NLW and CPI Inflation.	18.00 (Hourly rate)	7.45	19.36 (Hourly rate)

Type of Care Provision	Recommendation	Current Rate 2023-2024 £	% Increase	Proposed Rate 2024-2025 £
Direct Payments for Adults, Carers and Childrens – Employed Personal Assistant	Increase to reflect cost impact of the NLW.	12.80 (Hourly rate)	9.79	14.08 (Hourly rate)
Direct Payments for Adults, Carers and Childrens – Self-Employed Personal Assistant	Increase to reflect cost impact of the NLW.	15.68 (Hourly rate)	9.79	17.24 (Hourly rate)
Individual Service Funds	Aligned to the Supported Living rate. Increase to reflect cost impact of the NLW and CPI Inflation.	Dependent on care type	7.45	Dependent on care type
Residential Care – Older People	Increase to reflect cost impact of the NLW and CPI inflation. All placements are spot purchased rather than through a framework or contract.	551.18 (Weekly rate)	7.45	592.27 (Weekly rate)
Residential Care – Older People with Dementia		592.55 (Weekly rate)	7.45	636.72 (Weekly rate)
Nursing Care – Older People		620.76 (Weekly rate)	7.45	667.03 (Weekly rate)
Nursing Care – Older People with Dementia		667.10 (Weekly rate)	7.45	716.87 (Weekly rate)
Residential and Nursing – under 65 years old		Individually Negotiated	7.45	Increase to current placements

Type of Care Provision	Recommendation	Current Rate 2023-2024 £	% Increase	Proposed Rate 2024-2025 £
Supported Living Disabilities Framework	Increase fees to reflect the cost impact of the NLW and CPI Inflation. To be applied to the CWC19045 – Supported Living for Adults with Disabilities contract and spot purchased care outside of the contract.	18.00 (Hourly rate)	7.45	19.36 (Hourly rate)
Supported Living Forensic Framework	Increase fees to reflect the cost impact of the NLW and CPI Inflation. Applied to CWC20029 – Supported Living Framework for Individuals with Forensic History or Significant Complex Behaviour	21.28 (Hourly rate)	7.45	22.88* (Hourly rate)
Supported Living Block Contracts	Increase fees to reflect the cost impact of the NLW and CPI Inflation	Negotiated with provider	7.45	Negotiated with provider
Day Care Sessional Rates	Increase fees to reflect the cost impact of the NLW and CPI Inflation.	34.32 (Sessional rate)	7.45	36.88 (Sessional rate)
Day Care Hourly Rates	Increase fees to reflect the cost impact of the NLW and CPI Inflation. Ensure that the rate is consistent with the supported living rate and proportionate to 1:1 1:2 1:3 staffing ratios	18.00 per hour for 1:1 staffing 9.00 per hour for 1:2 staffing 6.00 per hour for 1:3 staffing	7.45	19.36 per hour for 1:1 staffing 9.68 per hour for 1:2 staffing 6.46 per hour for 1:3 staffing

The proposed percentage uplifts have been applied to 2023-2024 rates and rounded up so that hourly and weekly rates are divisible by four and seven respectively. This is to allow corporate systems to accurately and correctly facilitate payment to providers. Actual rates would be communicated with each individual provider through implementation.

*This is the current maximum rate. Where providers have tendered lower than this rate then the same percentage uplift and rounding will apply.

2. That increases be approved with effect from 1 April 2024 to align to corporate payment systems.
3. That it be noted that engagement had been undertaken with providers and the feedback received had informed the fee review amongst other factors such as the increase to the National Living Wage, Consumer Price Index inflation and the legal duties for a sustainable market and setting a balanced budget.
4. That it be noted that this report was presented to the Fulfilled Adult Lives Scrutiny Panel on 20 February 2024.
5. That it be noted that any proposed care fee increases would create an ongoing expectation to continue paying fees at this new minimum level.
6. That it be noted that all other care contracts not explicitly referred to within the report are out of scope for the care and support provider review 2024-2025 and therefore any price adjustments to such contracts are managed through separate mechanisms.
7. That it be noted that new contracts, including re-tendering, would include indexation clauses which would set out the mechanism for adjusting prices throughout the contract period. Indexation may include linking prices to changes in the National Living Wage and indices for inflation, to be determined based on the specific nature of services being procured.

6 **Exclusion of press and public**

Resolved:

That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining item of business as it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

Part 2 - exempt items, closed to press and public

The Chair reported that as stated previously the meeting was in confidential session as the information included in the report could, if released into the public domain, prejudice the financial position of the Council or its partners. As such all present are under a legal duty of confidentiality and must not disclose any confidential information - to do so would not only be a breach of the Council's codes (for councillors and employees) but also a breach of the legal duty of confidentiality.

7 **Procurement - Award of Contracts for Works, Goods and Services**

Councillor Louise Miles presented for approval the exempt report on the award of contracts for works, goods and services. The report also included a list of exemptions to Contract Procedure Rules approved by the Head of Procurement and the Director of Finance during 1 November to 31 December 2023.

Resolved:

1. That the Partnership Arrangement to deliver Public Health Services with The Royal Wolverhampton Trust of New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton, WV10 0QP be varied for a three-year programme of annual investment from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2027, with a total variation value of £1,725,000.
2. That the exemptions to the Contract Procedure Rules approved by the Head of Procurement and Director of Finance from 1 November to 31 December 2023 be noted.