

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet meeting held in the Council Chamber at County Hall at 10.15am on Tuesday 23 April 2024**Present:**

Councillor	Cabinet Member Responsibility
Cllr Kevin Bentley	Leader of the Council
Cllr Tony Ball	Education Excellence, Lifelong Learning and Employability
Cllr Tom Cunningham	Highways Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport
Cllr Mark Durham	The Arts, Heritage and Culture
Cllr Beverley Egan	Children's Services and Early Years
Cllr Louise McKinlay	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Levelling Up and the Economy
Cllr Peter Schwier	Climate Czar, Environment, Waste Reduction and Recycling
Cllr Lee Scott	Planning a Growing Economy
Cllr John Spence	Adult Social Care, Health and ICS Integration
Cllr Chris Whitbread	The Chancellor of Essex

Cllrs Susan Barker, Graham Butland, Alan Goggin, Carlo Guglielmi, Derrick Louis, Mike Mackrory, Bob Massey, Mark Platt and Laureen Shaw were also present. Cllr Ivan Henderson attended remotely via Zoom.

1. Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

The report of Membership, Apologies and Declarations was received, and the following were noted:

1. Membership of the Cabinet was as set out in the report.
2. No apologies for absence had been received.
3. There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes: 27 February 2024

The Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 27 February 2024, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Questions from the Public

None.

4. Procurement of the on-site care and support services at four existing extra care schemes (FP/039/02/24)

The Cabinet's approval was sought to procure and award contracts to the successful bidder/s for the on-site care and support service within four existing extra care schemes.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and ICS Integration undertook to provide a written reply to Cllr Mike Mackrory concerning the Council's financial responsibilities in the unlikely event of vacancies occurring in any of the extra care schemes due to a lack of nominations.

Resolved:

1. Agreed to undertake a single-stage, competitive tender for the award of four contracts, each of five-year duration, for the on-site care and support services at four extra care schemes being, (1) The Cannons, Colchester; (2) Sumners Farm, Harlow; (3) Dobsons House, Rochford; and (4) CanTERS Meadow, Tendring, at an indicative cost of £8.1m over the five years of the contracts.
2. Agreed that the procurement shall be structured with individual Lots for each scheme, using a single-stage tender process which complies with the light touch regime in The Public Contracts Regulations 2015.
3. Agreed that the high-level evaluation criteria for the award of the contracts will have a price, quality split of 60:40, with 10% of the quality score assessing social value.
4. Agreed to block fund 84 care and support hours per week at each scheme, which together with the planned personal care provided, will secure the 24-hour, 7-day (24/7) on-site support required for a scheme to be designated as extra care.
5. Noted that the cost of the core 24/7 on-site support in these four extra care schemes falls outside the current Adult Social Care charging arrangements and therefore adults will not be required to pay for this aspect of the service, but will be assessed for a contribution for any chargeable planned personal care needs in the usual way by the Council.
6. Agreed that the Executive Director, Adult Social Care is authorised to award the on-site care and support services contracts for the four schemes if he is satisfied that the contracts represent best value and are within budget when costed at expected volumes.

5. Procurement of contracts for reablement services (FP/046/02/24)

The Cabinet's agreement was sought to secure reablement capacity post-May 2024, when the current Essex Cares Limited (ECL) contract expired, and additional reablement post-September 2024, when the current ARC contracts came to an end. It was proposed to award a contract to ECL for reablement and that single-stage capacity open tender process was conducted for Additional Reablement Capacity.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Health and ICS Integration provided the following information in response to questions from Cllrs Ivan Henderson and Mike Mackrory:

- Although work was needed to reduce the numbers of people currently awaiting Care Act Assessments, officers were confident that it would be possible to recruit enough suitably qualified and experienced employees to begin to address this. Cllr Spence offered to meet with Cllr Henderson to discuss the matter further.
- Although future social care funding arrangements were difficult to predict, Cllr Spence was confident that the proposed ten-year service-level agreement would offer the best opportunity to optimise the efficiency, quality and effectiveness of the reablement service. An annual review process would be included as part of the agreement, together with a provision for the exercise of break clauses if necessary.

Resolved:

1. Agreed to enter into an agreement with Essex Cares Ltd (ECL) to deliver a block contract of 9,350 hours per week of Reablement and associated services for a 10-year period with effect from 4 May 2024, subject to annual reviews, which may adjust the unit, volume and price required on terms that allow either party to terminate with 12 months' notice, with a total contract value of up to £224.3m.
2. Agreed to authorise Essex Cares Limited to undertake Care Act Assessments on behalf of ECC as part of the agreement outlined in Resolution 1 above, including authority for suitably qualified and experienced employees of Essex Cares Limited to undertake these assessments.
3. Agreed to the draw down of £520,000 in 2024/25 and £50,000 in 2025/26 from the Adults Investment Reserve to fund the expansion of ECL Trusted Assessor capacity to deliver delegated Care Act Assessments described in Resolution 2 above in the first year of the contract.
4. Agreed to undertake a single-stage, open procurement in five geographical lots to secure additional reablement capacity for a period of three years, with annual reviews and break clauses.

5. Agreed that the evaluation criteria for additional reablement capacity will be based on 30% price and 70% quality, including environment and social value weighting.
6. Agreed that the Executive Director, Adult Social Care is authorised to award the contracts for additional reablement capacity to the successful Bidder(s) following completion of the procurement process.
7. Agreed, as shareholder of ECL, that ECL may enter into the contract referred to in Resolution 1 above.

6. Decisions taken by or in consultation with Cabinet Members (FP/056/02/24)

The report was noted.

7. Date of next and future meetings

Noted that:

1. the next meeting of the Cabinet will take place at 10.15am on Tuesday 28 May 2024 in the Council Chamber at County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH.
2. Cabinet meetings will be held on the following dates in 2025:

21 January	22 July
25 February	9 September
25 March	7 October
15 April	4 November
3 June	16 December
26 June (Thursday)	

(Taking place at 10.15am at County Hall, Chelmsford unless otherwise notified)

8. Urgent business

None.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.35am.

Chairman
28 May 2024