

(b) Environment

The provision of equipment enables people to remain in and be part of the community.

(c) Community Safety

Providing equipment can prevent falls and other accidents around the home thereby enabling people to feel safe within their own home for as long as possible.

4 **Other Implications**

(a) Financial

The local partnerships contract value for this joint arrangement is £2,808,545 for both 2011/12 and 2012/13, of which Slough's share is £218,113. This is within the Council's budget provision of £218,113.

Contributions from other partners to the current service are set out below:

<u>UNITARY AUTHORITIES</u>	
<u>Berkshire East</u>	
BRACKNELL FOREST	181,352.59
RBWAM	205,859.69
SLOUGH	218,113.25
BERKSHIRE EAST PCT	543,077.48
SUB TOTAL EAST	1,148,403.00
<u>Berkshire West</u>	
READING	315,533.20
WEST BERKSHIRE	271,795.92
WOKINGHAM	281,168.20
BERKSHIRE WEST PCT	791,644.68
SUB TOTAL WEST	1,660,142.00
TOTAL ALL	2,808,545.00

The tendered service includes the addition of paediatric equipment, non-standard / bespoke equipment and the approved repairer element of the East Berkshire Wheelchair Service which will increase the cost of the contract to approximately £5million. The relevant partnership organisations have agreed to transfer the funding for these services in to the BCES contract.

(b) Risk Management

Recommendation	Risk/Threat/Opportunity	Mitigation(s)
Ratify the contract award notice for BCES	Risk of not undertaking a competitive tender process: the Council would be in breach of European Union legislation and in breach of the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.	Tender process undertaken through the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) in accordance with legislative requirements.

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

Slough Borough Council has a statutory duty to provide services to those who meet Adult Social Care criteria; it could be argued that not providing the appropriate equipment breaches an individual's right if they are eligible for Adult Social Care services.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

Access to the service will be provided to adult residents of Slough and Berkshire who are eligible for Adult Social Care Services and assessed as benefitting from and requiring this service due to their long term condition, and to those who may, through a medical condition, be provided with equipment. A full Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out on the new service specification and will be reviewed as part of the implementation process of the new service.

(e) Workforce

Due to the complexity of the service and partnerships involved, partners have agreed to fund a Contract Manager through the pooled budget. This would be at no extra cost to the council, but as lead commissioner it would be expected that the council recruit and employ the manager. The contract for the manager will be fixed term and linked to the length of the contract. (3 years plus an additional 1 plus one 1 year).

5 **Supporting Information**

5.1 **Background:**

5.1.1 At its meeting of 20th September 2010, Cabinet approved the tendering of the Berkshire Community Equipment Service (BCES) with Slough to act as lead commissioner on behalf of partners.

5.1.2 The service is commissioned in partnership with Berkshire PCT and the five other Berkshire unitary authorities. It provides equipment on loan to help adults and children with activities of daily living. The service is currently operated by the Southern Central Ambulance Service (SCAS).

5.1.3 BCES provides, for example:

- Equipment for daily living, e.g. toileting and bathing equipment;
- Equipment for home nursing, e.g. special mattresses for pressure relief;
- Mobility equipment, e.g. walking frames;
- Minor housing adaptations, e.g. grab rails and small ramps.

5.1.4 Slough Borough Council has been the lead commissioner of the pan Berkshire Integrated Community Equipment Service since its creation over 5 years ago.

5.1.5 This is one of the largest examples of a Section 75 Agreement in the country consisting of the 6 Berkshire Unitary Authorities and the PCT.

5.2 **Supporting Information:**

5.2.1 The incumbent provider for of the Berkshire Community Equipment Service is South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS). The full contract value for the service in 2011/12 is £2,808,545 of which Slough contributes £218,113.

- 5.2.2 As previously agreed by Cabinet, Slough has taken on the role of lead commissioner on behalf of partners in undertaking the tender exercise.
- 5.2.3 During the last year service user, carer, practitioner and commissioner consultation has been undertaken across all Berkshire Unitary Authority areas, resulting in the development of a service specification agreed by all partners. Lead commissioners from each partner agency were given delegated authority to carry forward joint commissioning of the service and this group has met monthly for the past ten months.
- 5.2.4 The council's intention to run this tender was advertised in the Official Journal of European Union (OJEU Notice 2011/S 170-280219) and on the South East Business Portal on the 1st September 2011. The advert was for a 3 year contract with the option to extend for a further 2 years.
- 5.2.5 A restricted procurement process was chosen with the technical/price coefficient being set by lead commissioners at (60 /40). Each partner formed their own Tender Evaluation Panel (TEP) consisting of Commissioning, Operations and Procurement staff. A separate Berkshire wide finance evaluation panel was established involving finance leads from each partner organisation.
- 5.2.6 Following a robust evaluation of the PQQ's, tender documents were issued to the short list of companies identified in Part 2 of this report.
- 5.2.7 Written Technical Proposals were requested from short listed providers. The information required in these proposals and the criteria upon which they were evaluated is detailed in the Model Evaluation Form attached within Part 2 of this report.
- 5.2.8 Written Financial Proposals were requested from short listed providers. The information required in these proposals and the criteria upon which they were evaluated is detailed in Part 2 of this report.
- 5.2.9 The Lead commissioners, finance and procurement managers for each organisation drew up the selection and award criteria for the Tender Document. The evaluation of all tender submissions was performed in accordance with the EU directive. The final scores for these submissions can be found in Part 2 of this report.
- 5.2.10 Tender panels within each partner agency met between the 22nd November and the 5th December with a final Tender Evaluation Panel held on the 9th December where all lead commissioners met and moderated evaluations.

5.3 Summary of outcome:

5.3.1 Following extensive evaluations undertaken by multiple evaluation panels across partner organisations and the lead Commissioners Tender Evaluation Panel the chosen provider in the Model Evaluation Report was deemed to offer the best value to Slough Borough Council and partners. Details can be found in Part 2 of this report

6 Comments of Other Committees

Not applicable

7 Conclusion

It is recommended that Cabinet ratify the contract award recommendations for the Berkshire Community Equipment Service.

8 Background Papers

None