

Slough Borough Council Record of Significant Officer Decision

Title of decision	Slough Targeted Asymptomatic Testing for COVID Programme: Exemption from Competitive Tendering Request
Date decision taken	04/01/2021
Decision maker	Josie Wragg, Chief Executive Alan Sinclair, Executive Director, People (Adults)
Portfolio	Public Health
Details of decision taken	<p>Officers have taken a decision to award a contract to Solutions 4 Health for the provision of services to support the Targeted Asymptomatic Testing for COVID Programme.</p> <p>The value of the contract is £221, 677.</p> <p>This will provide for:</p> <p>1 test centre of 11 booths, operational for 30 days 7am to 9pm- up to 8 hours max a day</p> <p>5 test centres, each of 3 booths, each operational for 30 days 7am to 9pm- up to 8 hours max a day</p> <p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to being in Tier 3/4, SBC was able to bid, to the Department for Health and Social Care, for a bespoke 6 week testing programme for people without symptoms of Covid in Slough, targeting populations with higher Covid risks with a main focus on behaviour change and community engagement. This is approx. 68,000 people equating to 50% of the total eligible population (above the age of 11). The programme will run between 11 Jan – 19 Feb 21. • The purpose of the testing programme is to improve case ascertainment and compliance with primary and secondary prevention of transmission behaviours. • The programme requires the recruitment and training of up to 89 staff over 3 week period, which included the Christmas and New Year break. Resources in departments such as HR would have severe difficulty in achieving this. • Therefore the decision has been made to:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accept the proposal of running the operational side of the programme, including staff, from a current contractor (Solutions for Health) who is also running a community lateral flow testing programme elsewhere in the country. And thus exempt this contract from the usual procurement requirements due to the urgency of the requirements of the programme and its timeline for roll out.
Reasons for taking decision	Urgent requirement for roll out of Slough Lateral Testing Programme required by Department of Health and Social Care following approval of programme proposal
Options considered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Slough Borough Council to recruit and train all personnel required for timely roll out of Lateral Testing Programme- insufficient resources to undertake this in time Usual tendering process to acquire a suitable contractor- insufficient time to go through this process and suitably qualified contractor already available.
Details of any conflict of interest, disclosable pecuniary interest or non-statutory disclosable interest declared	None
Reports considered	Equalities Impact Assessment conducted