



Decision Ref. No.
B120/17

DECISION RECORD ¹

Officer Key Decisions are subject to the Council's Call-In Procedure (Annex 9 of the Council's Constitution <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/freedom-of-information-and-council-data/open-data-statistics-about-hertfordshire/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/who-we-are-and-what-we-do.aspx>)

Subject: Decision to extend current contract for the provision of a Childrens Speech and Language Therapy Service	
Staff Contact: Oliver Barnes	Executive Member: Teresa Heritage
Tel: 01992 556309	Portfolio: Children's Services

1. **Decision**

To extend Hertfordshire County Council's current contract with Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust for the provision of Speech and Language Therapy Services from April 2018 to April 2019.

2. **Reasons for the decision**

Hertfordshire County Council's contract for the provision of Speech and Language Therapy Services (SALT) is due to expire in April 2018.

The long-term ambition for SALT services in Hertfordshire is that there will be a fully integrated service, co-created by Hertfordshire's Clinical Commissioning Groups and Hertfordshire County Council. Both of the Clinical Commissioning Groups have SALT contracts in place which expire in April 2019. Therefore, extending Hertfordshire County Council's contract will allow all commissioning agencies to work together to produce an integrated service, which will improve the offer made to children and young people.

At the same time as extending the current contract, a revised specification will be introduced. The specification reflects the model of care which the contract provider, Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust (HCT), currently works to. This model of care has been developed in partnership by HCT and the commissioning agencies. An additional year will provide commissioners with the time to assess the impact of this new model.

The extension period is only twelve months, and at the end of this period a full procurement process will be undertaken. If the new model is proven to be effective, this will be incorporated into this future procurement opportunity. This procurement will be a joint health, education, and social care process.

Hertfordshire County Council's contract is funded through the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant. Consequently, the proposed extension has been approved by Schools Forum, at its meeting on 17 January.

3. **Alternative options considered and rejected ²**

The option of going to full procurement for SALT provision in this financial year was considered.

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This option was rejected because it would not enable commissioners to achieve the long-term objective of delivering an integrated service offer. This is because it would not be feasible to deliver a full procurement process for a contract which would only be in place until April 2019.

Neither of the Clinical Commissioning Groups wanted to risk disruption to their current service provision by undertaking a procurement exercise for an integrated specification whilst they had contracts in place.

Therefore to achieve the required objective, all three commissioning agencies agreed that the best way forward was to extend the current Hertfordshire County Council contract, to align with the Clinical Commissioning Group contacts.

4. Consultation

(a) Comments of Executive Member ^{3 4}

NO COMMENTS

(b) Comments of other consultees ⁵

5. Following consultation with, and the concurrence of the Executive Member, I am proceeding with the proposed decision.

Signed: 

Title: Operations Director Date: 26.01.18

6. Copies of agreed document to:

- All consultees
- Chairman, and Vice-Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- hard & electronic copy (for public inspection both at County Hall and on Hertsdirect) Democratic Services Manager - Room 213 County Hall.

¹ for guidance see Chief Legal Officer's note "Taking Decisions"

² details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the officer at the time the decision was made

³ record any conflict of interest declared by any Executive Member consulted. If an Executive Member declares a conflict of interest DO NOT PROCEED without seeking advice from the Chief Legal Officer

⁴ If the matter has general significance for the Council and/or is, or is likely to be, controversial, then the officer shall consult the appropriate Executive Member before proceeding. In some cases it will be necessary to consult more than one Executive Member, and in some cases the Leader of the Council will need to be consulted

⁵ If the matter has local significance, but no general significance for the Council and no controversial aspects, the officer shall consult or inform the local member in writing (or by e mail) and proceed. It is essential that all officers responsible for delivering services ensure that local members are kept well briefed on issues affecting their areas.