

DECISION RECORD ¹

Subject: Contracts for Mobile Testing Services

Staff Contact: Brian Gale
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Executive Member: Cllr Tim Hutchings
Portfolio: Public Health

1. **Decision**

To directly award two contracts for, respectively circa £976,088 and circa £1,500,000 to deliver mobile Lateral Flow Testing Services for a six-week period from 18th January 2021.

2. **Reasons for the decision**

Hertfordshire is currently in Tier 4 of the Government's restrictions for local areas, in order to reduce the spread of the SARS-CoV-19 (COVID-19) virus. Part of the Government's approach to reducing the transmission of the virus has been to introduce Lateral Flow Antigen Testing for asymptomatic people to a. identify those who are positive who can then isolate; and b. to monitor the spread of the virus across the country.

Hertfordshire is in the process of developing 'fixed testing sites' to undertake these tests, but suitable venues are extremely difficult to come by. To improve the county's testing capacity, the council needs to implement a mobile testing provision that will supplement the fixed testing sites when they are established but, in the meantime, enable asymptomatic people across the county to be tested.

The council will award two contracts for this mobile testing provision. One for the provision of 'pop-up' testing centres, which will utilise local community centres, parish halls and leisure centres amongst others on an occasional basis, moving to different locations every one or two days.

The other contract is for the provision of a 'roving' testing service that will be vehicle based, enabling a testing vehicle to locate for a day in a public space such as a car park.

For both models, the council has developed a booking system which will reduce waiting times for local communities. The council will be making the relevant venues and sites available and will be directing the localities based on a public health epidemiological approach.

The interim model will be for six weeks initially, whilst a fixed site operation is developed and established.

The funding of the provision is funded using a grant for this purpose from central Government.

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

None.

4. **Consultation**

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

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Proposal has been discussed with Executive Member at both Health Protection Board and directly and he is supportive.

(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: Jim McManus

Title: Director of Public Health Date: 8th January 2021

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.