

Items for Decision

1. Declarations of Interest

See guidance below.

2. Questions from County Councillors

Any county councillor may, by giving notice to the Proper Officer by 9 am two working days before the meeting, ask a question on any matter in respect of the Cabinet Member's delegated powers.

The number of questions which may be asked by any councillor at any one meeting is limited to two (or one question with notice and a supplementary question at the meeting) and the time for questions will be limited to 30 minutes in total. As with questions at Council, any questions which remain unanswered at the end of this item will receive a written response.

Questions submitted prior to the agenda being despatched are shown below and will be the subject of a response from the appropriate Cabinet Member or such other councillor or officer as is determined by the Cabinet Member, and shall not be the subject of further debate at this meeting. Questions received after the despatch of the agenda, but before the deadline, will be shown on the Schedule of Addenda circulated at the meeting, together with any written response which is available at that time

3. Petitions and Public Address

Members of the public who wish to speak at this meeting can attend the meeting in person or 'virtually' through an online connection.

Requests to speak must be submitted by no later than 9am four working days before the meeting. Requests to speak should be sent to committeesdemocraticservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk .

If you are speaking 'virtually', you may submit a written statement of your presentation to ensure that if the technology fails, then your views can still be taken into account. A written copy of your statement can be provided no later than 9 am 2 working days before the meeting. Written submissions should be no longer than 1 A4 sheet.

4. Extension to local stop smoking service (Pages 1 - 6)

Cabinet Member: Public Health, Inequalities & Community Safety

Forward Plan Ref: 2023/353

Contact: Derys Pragnell, Public Health Consultant, Live Well Promote and Prevent (derys.pragnell@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Report by Corporate Director of Public Health & Community Safety

The Cabinet Member for Public Health, Inequalities and Community Safety is RECOMMENDED to:

- a) Approve the budget for and authorise the Director of Public Health to extend the current Specialist Stop Smoking Service contract by one year to 30th June 2025.**

- b) Delegate authority to the Director of Public Health in consultation with the Head of Legal and Deputy Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer, to award an extension to the Stop Smoking Service Contract as referred to in this report, in line with the Council procurement guidelines.**

Councillors declaring interests

General duty

You must declare any disclosable pecuniary interests when the meeting reaches the item on the agenda headed 'Declarations of Interest' or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.

What is a disclosable pecuniary interest?

Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to your employment; sponsorship (i.e. payment for expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties as a councillor or towards your election expenses); contracts; land in the Council's area; licenses for land in the Council's area; corporate tenancies; and securities. These declarations must be recorded in each councillor's Register of Interests which is publicly available on the Council's website.

Disclosable pecuniary interests that must be declared are not only those of the member her or himself but also those member's spouse, civil partner or person they are living with as husband or wife or as if they were civil partners.

Declaring an interest

Where any matter disclosed in your Register of Interests is being considered at a meeting, you must declare that you have an interest. You should also disclose the nature as well as the existence of the interest. If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest, after having declared it at the meeting you must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Members' Code of Conduct and public perception

Even if you do not have a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter, the Members' Code of Conduct says that a member 'must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself' and that 'you must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned'.

Members Code – Other registrable interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to the financial interest or wellbeing of one of your other registerable interests then you must declare an interest. You must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and you must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Wellbeing can be described as a condition of contentedness, healthiness and happiness; anything that could be said to affect a person's quality of life, either positively or negatively, is likely to affect their wellbeing.

Other registrable interests include:

- a) Any unpaid directorships

- b) Any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority.
- c) Any body (i) exercising functions of a public nature (ii) directed to charitable purposes or (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management.

Members Code – Non-registrable interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to your financial interest or wellbeing (and does not fall under disclosable pecuniary interests), or the financial interest or wellbeing of a relative or close associate, you must declare the interest.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which affects your own financial interest or wellbeing, a financial interest or wellbeing of a relative or close associate or a financial interest or wellbeing of a body included under other registrable interests, then you must declare the interest.

In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied:

Where a matter affects the financial interest or well-being:

- a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
- b) a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest.

You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

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Divisions Affected - All

Delegated Decision by Cabinet Member for Public Health, Inequalities and Community Safety

6 February 2023

Extension and Budget approval for Oxfordshire Stop Smoking Service (Public Health Service) in Oxfordshire

Report by Corporate Director for Public Health and Community Safety

RECOMMENDATION

1. **The Cabinet Member for Public Health, Inequalities and Community Safety is RECOMMENDED to**
 - (a) Approve the budget for and authorise the Director of Public Health to extend the current Specialist Stop Smoking Service contract by one year to 30th June 2025.
 - (b) Delegate authority to the Director of Public Health in consultation with the Head of Legal and Deputy Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer, to award an extension to the Stop Smoking Service Contract as referred to in this report, in line with the Council procurement guidelines.

Executive Summary

2. Smoking leads to 64,000 deaths in England each year, harming nearly every organ of the body. It causes 1 in 4 of all cancer deaths, with lung being the most common. Other health risks from smoking include Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), Cardiovascular Disease (CVD), poor pregnancy related outcomes such as low birth weight and stillbirths, poor mental health, and dementia. In Oxfordshire there are estimated to be 60,000 adult smokers.
3. In line with NICE Guidelines, a Specialist Stop Smoking Service (SSSS), was commissioned for Oxfordshire in 2021 with an initial contract period of 3 years with the option to extend in aggregate for a further 2 years.
4. In October 2023 central Government announced ring fenced funding for Local Authorities to support increased capacity in Stop Smoking Services for the period 24/25 to 28/29.
5. The current core SSSS is commissioned at Level 3 to reach around 750 Oxfordshire residents annually with a full offer of behaviour change and nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) as per NICE Guidelines.

6. This proposal seeks to condense the remaining extension period of 1 year and 9 months, associated quit target and budget, into being delivered across 12 months. This would give an increased quit target of 1400 (almost doubling capacity).
7. The total cost of the proposed condensed contract extension from 1st July 2024 to 30th June 2025 will be £690,102. This will utilise the current core contract value and an additional £391k of the new national ring fenced funding.
8. The contract value will be over £500,000 and therefore is required to be entered in the Forward Plan, in accordance with the Access to Information Rules. This is a key decision and one that is delegated to the Cabinet Member for Public Health to take, consistent with overall Council policy to deliver agreed strategy/plans within the area of responsibility and within approved budgets.

Background Information.

9. Smoking rates have fallen by more than third over the last decade across all ages but still around 12.7% of the population continue to smoke in England. In Oxfordshire around 11.2% population smoke.
10. Evidence shows that people are most likely to successfully quit smoking with support from a specialist stop smoking service.
11. Nationally and locally, smoking prevalence is higher in people on lower incomes, unemployed, working in routine manual populations or living with poor mental health.
12. Oxfordshire has the following prevalence rates:
 - 11.2% of Oxfordshire residents smoke (2022)
 - 6.4% smoking at time of delivery (22/23), approximately 420 births,
 - 19.8% individuals with long term mental health condition (21/22)
 - 25.7% of routine and manual workers smoke (2022)
13. Smoking impacts heavily on our local costs to health and social care each year (<https://ash.org.uk/resources/view/ash-ready-reckoner>). This includes an estimated:
 - £336 million in productivity costs
 - £133 million in social care costs
 - £18 million health care costs
 - £3 million in fire costs
14. The Oxfordshire Tobacco Control Strategy reflects the England Tobacco Control Plan 'Towards a Smokefree Generation' aspiration to become smoke free (<5% prevalence). Specific actions include prevention, supporting

smokers to quit, reducing variations in smoking rates, and regulation and enforcement.

15. National Government published 'Stopping the Start' in October 2023, which highlighted a range of initiatives to support England to become smokefree by 2030. This includes increasing Local Authority budgets related to stopping smoking from 24/25 for five years, up to and including the financial year 28/29.
16. The current SSSS commissioned by Oxfordshire County Council, Public Health, is delivered across three levels:
 - Level 1 = promotion and awareness raising
 - Level 2 = one off behavioural support session, self-funded NRT/vapes
 - Level 3 = 12-week behavioural support to quit and funded NRT/vapes

Level 3 is available for priority populations as identified in the strategy; pregnant women, routine and manual workers, long term mental/physical health conditions, unemployed, carers, living in areas of high deprivation.
17. The current SSS contract runs until 30th June 2024. There is an option to extend for up to a further 1 year and 9 months in aggregate. Additional capacity and associated funding has already been added from 1st April 2023 – 30th June 2024.
18. This proposal is to condense the remaining extension period of 1 year and 9 months, associated quit target and budget, into being delivered across 12 months. This would double capacity and give an increased 4-week quit target of 1400 (minimum).

Corporate Policies and Priorities

19. This commission aligns with the following local priorities:
 - (a) Oxfordshire County Council's **Strategic Plan 2023-2025** which includes commitments to tackle inequalities in Oxfordshire, prioritise the health and wellbeing of residents and create opportunities for children and young people to reach their full potential.
 - (b) The Oxfordshire **Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2024-2030** which has preventing ill health and tackling health inequalities as it's key underpinning principals.
 - (c) The **Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire (BOB) Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) Strategy (2023)** which outlines priorities to reduce the proportion of people smoking across BOB, including in deprived areas, and those in contact with NHS services (pre-operative, maternity, severe mental illness).
 - (d) The Oxfordshire Tobacco Control Strategy (2020-2025).
20. The service also fits with national guidance for smoking cessation and tobacco control:

- (a) **The DHSC (2020) strategy paper** Towards a Smokefree Generation: A Tobacco Control Plan for England (2017), and subsequent policy paper, Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation (2023).
- (b) The **NHS Long Term Plan (2019)**
- (c) **NICE guidance (NG209)** (2021) – Tobacco: preventing uptake, promoting quitting and treating independence.

Financial Implications

- 21. The condensed contract value is expected to be £690,102 per annum. The condensed contract term will be 12 months.
- 22. The additional funding for 24/25 of £790,000 from DHSC is expected from DHSC via a Section 104 grant in April 2024. The additional funding required to condense the extension period and associated quit target for the SSS is £390,102. Remaining monies will be utilised to support other initiatives in smoking cessation in line with funding agreements.

Comments checked by: Stephen Rowles, Assistant Finance Business Partner.
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Legal Implications

- 23. The Council has a statutory obligation to “take such steps as it considers appropriate for improving the health of the people in its area” (s2B National Health Service Act 2006 as amended by s12 Health and Social Care Act 2012).

The extended contract is not materially different from the original contract and constitutes a permitted modification under Regulation 13 of the Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023.

Comments Checked by: Jonathan Pool, Solicitor. Email:
jonathan.pool@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Staff Implications

- 24. The Live Well Promote and Prevent Team within Public Health will carry out the contract variation and extension process, in collaboration with the Procurement and Legal team.

Equality & Inclusion Implications

- 25. This expansion, will operate alongside a successful bid to the national Stop to Swap Scheme and will enable every Oxfordshire resident to be eligible for smoking cessation guidance and support with a quit aid. However, efforts to

target support at those most likely to smoke and with the poorest outcomes will remain paramount.

Sustainability Implications

Risk Management

26. The purpose of extending the current service and increasing capacity is to minimise risk. Alternatives would be to reprocure for a considerably larger service at this point. However, the current service is performing well in terms of both uptake and outcomes. Consequently amalgamating the remaining term and targets with the current provider in line with procurement rules whilst planning carefully what might be required moving forward is the planned approach.
27. The key risks identified with this approach are:
 - (a) Greater demand than capacity allows. This will be mitigated by offering the Stop to Swap Scheme (which Oxfordshire has successfully bid for) alongside the core Stop Smoking Service and ensuring that other routes to smoking cessation support are in place for example the new NHS service providing a full pathway to support pregnant women to quit.
 - (b) Less demand than specified. This is deemed unlikely but there are contractual levers in place that ensure funds are not fully paid if anticipated demand is not met.
 - (c) Anticipated Government funding to increase smoking cessation capacity is not received. We will not progress contractual changes until we receive the final memorandum of understanding (expected January 2024).

Consultations

Statutory consultation is not required for this proposal.

Ansaf Azhar
Corporate Director – Public Health and Community Safety

Contact Officer: Derys Pragnell, Public Health Consultant, Live Well Promote and Prevent Derys.Pragnell@oxfordshire.gov.uk

January 2024

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