

Divisions: N/A

## CABINET – 21 JANUARY 2025

### DELEGATED POWERS – QUARTERLY REPORT

Report by the Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer

#### RECOMMENDATION

1. Cabinet is **RECOMMENDED** to note the executive decisions taken under delegated powers, set out in paragraph 4.

#### Executive Summary

2. Under the Scheme of Delegation in the Council's Constitution (Part 7.2, paragraph 6.3 (c)(i)), the Chief Executive is authorised to undertake an executive function on behalf of the Cabinet. Cabinet receives a quarterly report on the use of this delegated power in relation to such executive decisions; that is, decisions that might otherwise have been taken by Cabinet.
3. This report refers to executive decisions taken during the period October to December 2024 inclusive.

#### Executive decisions – October to December 2024

4. The following executive decisions were taken during this period:

| Date            | Subject                                 | Decision  | Reason   |
|-----------------|---|---|--|
| 14 October 2024 | Delivery of the Marmot Places programme | To approve an exemption from tendering under Contract Procedure Rule 19.8 in respect of a contract for consultancy services to be awarded to UCL. | <p>Oxfordshire becoming a Marmot Place aims to improve the lives of residents and reduce health inequalities. The Marmot approach will act as a catalyst for joined-up action and sustained change, driven by local communities and organisations. It will bring together a range of existing work happening on inequalities and provide increased cohesion, consistent approach and improved effectiveness.</p> <p>UCL's Institute of Health Equity (IHE) has considerable experience and expertise in the field of inequalities and being led by Sir Michael Marmot, was in a unique position to support our work in</p> |

| Date            | Subject                              | Decision  | Reason  |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|
|                 |                                      |   | <p>Oxfordshire to address inequalities.</p> <p>Taking the procurement route of a direct award allowed the Council to mobilise the programme quickly to begin this work at a pivotal time of change within the system. This included the County Council transformation programme and the ICB re-organisation already underway. The Marmot Places work is expected to make a significant contribution to Oxfordshire County Council's 'Place Maker of Choice' programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Oxfordshire has sustainable resilient communities'</li> <li>• 'Oxfordshire has communities where healthy behaviours are the norm'</li> <li>• 'Oxfordshire has an inclusive economy'</li> <li>• Oxfordshire is a collaborative community with a clear identity and sense of belonging'</li> </ul> |
| 29 October 2024 | Drug & Alcohol Treatment Data System | To approve an exemption pursuant to Contract Procedure Rule 19.8 relating to a contract with Illy Systems Ltd for the provision of a hosted drug and alcohol treatment information data system. | <p>There were a number of significant risks associated with conducting an open procurement process for the continued delivery of this System:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A full tender procedure had no commercial benefit to the Council. There was no competitive market position to be leveraged by conducting a procurement.</li> </ul>   |

| Date | Subject | Decision | Reason  |
|------|---------|----------|---|
|      |         |          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1031 241 1485 819">▪ Engaging an alternative service provider would have resulted in the need to migrate patient records, including all documentation and complex prescribing data, for over 3,450 people currently in drug and alcohol treatment, to the new data system provider. This exercise would have required extensive ICT support to manage the process, and was likely to carry significant additional costs.</li> <li data-bbox="1031 864 1485 1070">▪ An alternative provider would also have posed a significant risk of downtime and retraining of staff for both alcohol and drug Service Providers.</li> <li data-bbox="1031 1115 1485 1406">▪ Going to the market could have increased costs as inflation, transition and time for undertaking the procurement process would be factored into the pricing be it the existing supplier or a new provider.</li> <li data-bbox="1031 1451 1485 1742">▪ If records were not migrated smoothly or prescriptions were missed off, or if there were disruptions in service provision, individuals could return to using illicit drugs, which pose risk to health and wellbeing.</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="1031 1776 1485 2134">The new maximum length contract with Ily will end around Dec 2028. The main contract with Turning Point for the provision of the Community Alcohol and Drug Service was due to end on 31 Mar 2028. This therefore provided the opportunity to review this service when procuring the</p> |

| Date | Subject | Decision | Reason  |
|------|---------|----------|---|
|      |         |          | main Community Alcohol and Drug Service contract and explore whether there was an opportunity to align the tendering processes. |

## Legal Implications

5. There are no legal implications arising from this report. It is a requirement of the Council's Constitution (Part 7.2, paragraph 6.3(c)) that "any exercise of these functions shall be reported to the Cabinet or other relevant committee or sub-committee and shall be published on the website as soon as possible".

6. The decisions were published on the website at these links:

[Decision - Delivery of the Marmot Places programme | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

[Decision - Drug & Alcohol Treatment Data System | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

7. The decisions were undertaken in the context of legal appraisals.

Comments checked by: Paul Grant, Head of Legal and Deputy Monitoring Officer,  
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## Financial Implications

8. There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report. It is a procedural item reporting on a decision previously taken. The decisions reported were undertaken in consultation with the Director of Finance.

Comments checked by: Drew Hodgson, Strategic Finance Business Partner,  
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### ANITA BRADLEY

Director of Law & Governance

Background Papers: Nil

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