

Delegated Officer Report

Decision Maker: Katrina Stephens, Director of Public Health

Date of Decision: 13/12/19

Subject: Weight Watchers contract extension for weight management support

Report Author: Gabriel Agboado

Ward (s): All

Reason for the decision: A deed of variation is sought to extend a contract period with an existing provider, Weight Watchers, to enable the balance of 140 pre-paid weight management vouchers to be used. This will enable for the continuation of the delivery of weight management support packages for eligible adults referred by Primary Care, Early Help and Fit for Oldham (Oldham Council's employee health scheme). No additional financial investment is required and the contract value for the entire duration will not increase and therefore meets requirements of the Council Procurement rules set out within 17.1(b).

Summary: Local Authorities have a responsibility for prevention of overweight and obesity and as such in 2017 Oldham Council commissioned the 'Oldham Weight Loss Voucher Scheme' from two national weight loss organisations, Slimming World and Weight Watchers, to deliver to the eligible population - i.e. adults with a BMI up to 35kg/m², resident in Oldham or employed by Oldham Council with no pre-existing eating disorder or untreated medical condition, and who have not self-funded to the weight loss organisation in the last 12 weeks. The contract involved the delivery of weight management support through prepaid ('voucher') group activities, printed materials and on-line support for a period of at least 12 weeks, with free further support for individuals meeting weight management targets.

On 15 April 2019 the contract was extended from original end date of 30 April 2019 to 31 October 2019 to enable a balance of 204 pre-paid vouchers to be used. However due to lower than expected uptake of the scheme, 140 vouchers were left as of 26 November 2019.

It is being proposed to extend the contract to 31st October 2020 to enable the existing balance to be exhausted. It is anticipated the uptake for the Weight Watchers service would increase as the vouchers for the Slimming World service have been used. This end date will also coincide with the commissioning of a new weight management offer as part of a wider health improvement service.

Through the proposed deed of variation, the only amendment to contract is

the extension of the contract end date. The contract value will not increase from that originally tendered as a result of this extension and therefore meets the Council's Contract Procedure rules 17.1/ 17.1(b).

What are the alternative option(s) to be considered? Please give the reason(s) for recommendation(s):

Option 1: To extend the contract with Weight Watchers to continue to provide weight management services until end October 2020. This end date will coincide with the commissioning of a new weight management offer as part of a wider health improvement service.

Option 2: To stop providing the GPs, Early Help and the Fit for Oldham with access to one of the Oldham Weight Loss Voucher Scheme weight management providers thus reducing access to support and risking increased future costs from treating obesity-related illness (e.g. diabetes, heart disease, or liver disease).

Consultation: including any conflict of interest declared by relevant Cabinet Member consulted.

No consultation has been undertaken.

Recommendation(s):

Option 1 is recommended: To extend the contract with Weight Watchers to 31st October 2020 to continue to provide weight management support for eligible adults referred by GPs, Early Help and Fit for Oldham.

Implications:

What are the financial implications?

The existing contract with Weightwatchers ceased on 31 October 2019 at which point Weightwatchers are expecting to hold a residual balance of approx. 140 vouchers, generated by reduced take up of the scheme. The proposal is to extend the contract for a further twelve months or until the balance remaining has been fully utilised.

There are no adverse financial implications as a result of extending this contract.

(Jenny Howarth Senior Accountant/Nicola Harrop Finance Manager)

What are the legal implications?

There is provision under Rule 17.1(b) in the Council's Contract Procedure Rules to modify a contract where services have become necessary which were not included in the original procurement and a change of contractor would cause significant inconvenience or substantial duplication of costs for the Council. This is the case here and there is no increase in price which means that all of the criteria for a modification are met.

(Elizabeth Cunningham-Doyle)

What are the procurement implications?

Commercial Services accept the rationale to modify the contract under 17.1 (B) of the CPR's. There is provision in the Council's Contract Procedure Rules where services are integral part as change may cause disruption. Strategic Sourcing will provide commercial support as necessary on this basis, and in accordance with legal advice.

(Mohammad Sharif, Sourcing & Contracts Consultant 04.12.2019)

*What are the **Human Resources** implications?* There are no Human Resources implications

***Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment** attached or not required because (please give reason)* No equality and diversity impact assessment has been undertaken as this work is borough wide.

*What are the **property** implications* There are no property implications

Risks: No risks have been identified with the continuation of this provision through contract extension. Failure to continue may result in the Council not using the pre-paid vouchers for the intended purpose.

Co-operative agenda
#ourbit: supporting public services that demonstrate value for money, support individual behaviour change, leading to better health outcomes and reduced costs of obesity – related preventable illnesses.
#yourbit: Getting involved and having your say in designing future public services
#result: Empowering the positive reform of public services

Has the relevant Legal Officer confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council's Constitution? Yes

Has the relevant Finance Officer confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council's budget? Yes

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council? No

Reason(s) for exemption from publication:

List of Background Papers under Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972:

There are no background papers for this report

Report Author Sign-off:	
	Gabriel Agboado
Date:	04/12/19

Please list and attach any appendices:

Appendix number or letter	Description

In consultation with Strategic Director of Communities and Reform

Signed: 

Date: 24/12/2019