

COUNCIL 26th JULY 2023**Cabinet 12th June 2023****18 NATIONAL ANALOGUE TO DIGITAL SWITCHOVER / COMMUNITY ALARMS AND MOBILE RESPONSE SERVICE CONTRACT - EXEMPT**

Councillor Fenton-Glynn, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Adult Services and Wellbeing presented a written report of the Director, Adult Services and Wellbeing seeking consideration of the National Analogue to Digital Switchover/Community Alarms and Mobile Response Service contract. Cabinet approval was sought to the extension to the current Community Alarms and Mobile Response Service (the Service) to allow the digital switchover to be carried out over the next 18 months by the same provider; and, to allow the joint re-procurement with Calderdale Cares Partnership by 1st April 2025 and to ensure the continued delivery of a high-quality service that met people's needs and improved their outcomes. The report also sought Council approval for Capital Funding to proceed with a project to purchase and install replacement equipment for the analogue to digital switchover that had been announced nationally, to be completed by 2025.

The UK's telecommunications providers were currently transitioning their telephone services from analogue to digital networks aiming for completion by 2025. This switchover directly impacted the services users of the Community Alarms and Mobile Response Service contract which was due to expire 31st March 2024. With effect from May 2023, a project action plan commenced, in line with Government guidance, for the replacement of telecare and assistive technology equipment, used by people who were benefitting from the Service. Telecare and assistive technology equipment would need to be replaced, tested and introduced to vulnerable service users/family representatives in an 18 month programme of work. Due to the large numbers of service users in receipt of telecare equipment and assistive technology (over 3000), the project plan spans beyond 31st March 2024.

The report outlined background information, options considered, financial, legal, human resources and organisational development, environmental, health and economic implications.

***RESOLVED that it be recommended to the Council that:**

(a) to fund the purchase of digital equipment to replace analogue equipment by 2025 be agreed;

(b) the capital sum detailed in the report be incorporated into the Council's Capital Programme to allow for the purchase and installation of the digital units, to be funded by prudential borrowing;

(c) the additional revenue funding required to service the borrowing as detailed in paragraph 6.6 of the Director, Adult Services and Wellbeing's written report be added to the Council's revenue budget from 2025/26 onwards;

(d) a 12 month extension, to 31st March 2025 to the Community Alarms and Mobile Response Service be approved to enable:

- (i) the current provider to replace current analogue equipment with new digital equipment, to test it and to introduce it to the people who use the service; and,
- (ii) the re-commissioning of the service to be a joint exercise with the Calderdale Cares Partnership.

(e) the Director, Adult Services and Wellbeing be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Adult Services and Wellbeing, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Head of Finance to implement the extension if required; and

(f) the Director, Adult Services and Wellbeing be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Adult Services and Wellbeing, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Head of Finance to proceed with the procurement of digital equipment to replace analogue equipment and implement the associated contract.

(parts b and c only)