



Cabinet
19 June 2023

**Report from the Corporate Director,
Adult Social Care and Health**

Authority to Award Contract for Integrated Community Equipment Services

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Key Decision
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
No. of Appendices:	None
Background Papers:	
Contact Officer(s): (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Andrew Davies Head of Commissioning, Contracting and Market Management 07867 189371 Andrew.davies@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 This report concerns the procurement of Integrated Community Equipment Services. This report requests authority to award contracts as required by Contract Standing Order 88. This report outlines the process undertaken to directly award a community equipment contract to Nottingham Rehab Limited (NRS Healthcare) from the London Community Equipment Consortium Framework (a single provider framework agreement).

2.0 Recommendation(s)

That Cabinet:

- 2.1 Approves the pre-tender considerations set out in paragraph 3.43.
- 2.2 Approves the council joining the London Consortium for Community Equipment.
- 2.3 Approves the appointment of Nottingham Rehab Services Limited (trading as NRS Healthcare) for the supply of community equipment services under a direct award from the single supplier Integrated Community Equipment Service framework for the term specified in 2.4 below.
- 2.4 Approves the contract term for the supply of community equipment services to be for an initial two years, up to 31st July 2025, with the option to extend for a further two years eight months, to 31st March 2028 and by a further two years to 31st March 2030, subject to the conclusion of an options appraisal on community equipment services.
- 2.5 Delegates the option to extend the contract for an additional 2 years eight months to 31st March 2028 and for a further 2 years to 31st March 2030 to the Corporate Director for Adult Social Care and Health.
- 2.6 Approves the Council entering into an agreement pursuant to s75 National Health Service Act 2006 with North West London Integrated Care Partnership to collaborate in the provision of the integrated community equipment services until 31st March 2030.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The council requires the provision of Community Equipment Services. Council Officers have determined that the most appropriate means of procuring a new provider is using the single supplier London Integrated Community Equipment Service Framework (the “Framework”). The single supplier appointed to the Framework following a tender process is Nottingham Rehab Limited (trading as NRS Healthcare) (“NRS”) and therefore Officers recommend award of a contract for Community Equipment Services (the “Contract”) to this contractor.

Background

- 3.2 Local authorities have a statutory duty under various legislation including the Care Act 2014, and the Children and Families Act 2014, to make arrangements for the provision of disability aids and “community equipment”, to meet the assessed eligible needs of individuals who are resident in their area.
- 3.3 The provision of community equipment supports residents to remain as independent as possible for as long as possible and is both a statutory requirement and important in delivering key strategic system priorities, for example hospital discharge and avoidance, a reduction in the use of residential care and a reduced reliance on homecare provision.

- 3.4 Brent Council and Brent Integrated Care Board (ICB) are currently members of the North London Community Equipment Consortium with the London Borough of Barnet. On behalf of the North London Community Equipment Consortium, Barnet Council has procured a framework agreement that Barnet, Brent and other local authorities and public bodies could call off Community Equipment Services from. It was agreed that this would be a single supplier framework, procured in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR 2015). Following the establishment of the framework, Brent and Barnet would then be able to call off their own contracts for community equipment services.
- 3.5 On 6th April 2021, Cabinet approved a report confirming the appointment of Millbrook Healthcare Limited as Brent's Community Equipment provider, following a call off exercise from the North London Community Equipment Consortium framework. The contract with Millbrook was for a period of five years from the 1st July 2021 until 30th June 2026 with optional break clauses exercisable at the ends of years 3 and 4 of the contract.
- 3.6 Brent Council has commissioned community equipment services jointly with the North West London Integrated Care Partnership ("ICP") via a Section 75 Partnership Agreement, with the Council acting as lead commissioner. The section 75 is reviewed annually. The ICP currently funds 62% of the costs and the Council meets the remaining 38% and annual spend is £2.9m in total (based on 2022/23). The activity and cost confirming the funding split continues to be reviewed annually to ensure it reflects the balance of health and social care provision.
- 3.7 The Community Equipment Service comprises the following elements -
- Sourcing and supply of equipment
 - Storage facility
 - Cleaning
 - Delivery
 - Maintenance and repairs
 - Collection
 - Logistics for scheduling activities
- 3.8 There are over 600 active prescribing practitioners in Brent using the service on a regular basis across a range of professions, but primarily occupational therapists within the Hospital Trusts and the Council, and district nurses. The service operates as a spot purchase contract whereby equipment and associated services are purchased individually by prescribing practitioners for each person who is being supported following clinical assessment. Therefore, monthly demand and spending is variable.
- 3.9 There is currently an OT lead role hosted within the Council which oversees the prescriber engagement, provides guidance on equipment provision, undertakes

scrutiny of prescribing behaviour and carries out day to day liaison with the contractor.

- 3.10 The timely provision of equipment contributes significantly to the priorities of the council and the NHS. This includes –
- Aiding short term recovery e.g. a raised toilet seat following a hip replacement
 - Supporting long term conditions to be managed in the home e.g. ceiling track hoists and slings to enable care at home
 - Reducing risk of deterioration e.g. appropriate seating and postural support to enable independent eating
 - Facilitating hospital discharge e.g. pendant alarms and key safes
 - Reducing unscheduled hospital admissions and Accident & Emergency attendance.
 - Reducing the costs of long-term care by avoiding the need for paid carers, and/or by reducing the number of carers or frequency of care visits required
 - Promoting independence, safety, social inclusion, quality of life, improved end of life care.
 - Helping to give elderly and disabled people control over their own lives.
- 3.11 There have been issues with the performance of the Community Equipment contract since it went live in July 2021, and in recent months the provider, Millbrook, had indicated that they are unable to meet the performance terms within the contract or deliver equipment at the prices agreed when the contract went live. The backlog on delivery of equipment ordered is large, with the provider unable to deliver on all of the orders placed.
- 3.12 Despite negotiations involving Brent Council, Brent ICB, Barnet Council and Barnet ICB, a way forward with Millbrook has not been agreed. Consequently, Millbrook have confirmed to the council that they will be withdrawing from the contract by 31st July 2023. Given the issues with contract performance, the council has agreed to this accelerated exit date.
- 3.13 Steps are being taken to address the backlog with Millbrook to reduce it as much as possible before the services moves to a new provider. Officers are meeting with the company on a fortnightly basis to review the backlog and taking steps to mitigate the impact on people waiting for equipment. For example, where possible substitute items are being considered for service users where it will act as a direct replacement for the equipment ordered. Millbrook have obligations to meet before the contract comes to an end, and it is important that the new provider is able to start delivering the service from 1st August without the added pressure of a significant backlog of orders. Steps will also be taken to seek redress from Millbrook if the backlog on orders cannot be cleared by the time the contract with them ends. The new provider is fully sighted on the backlog issues and understands the work that is happening to clear it as much as possible ahead of handover.

- 3.14 As a result of the decision to end the service with Millbrook the council requires a new community equipment provider to be appointed and operational by the end of July 2023 so that there is no gap in service provision. Officers have been looking at various options for doing this in a timely way, but recognising the constraints in this limited market.
- 3.15 There are few providers in this market that have the experience and ability to scale up a complex service such as Community Equipment in a relatively short period of time. The operational preparation is considerable, particularly the requirement around the establishment and set up of a depot to use as a base for the collection, recycling, and storage of equipment in the locality. There is also a requirement to secure an alternative provider in a short timescale because of the current provider failure, which further complicates this matter and adds a degree of urgency as Brent cannot be without this service. Spot purchasing equipment is not a viable alternative given the number of equipment prescribers and administration that would be required to facilitate spot purchased provision.
- 3.16 The majority of councils in London, including six out of eight in North West London (Hounslow and Brent being the exceptions) are members of the London Community Equipment Consortium. The Consortium has established a single provider Integrated Community Equipment Service framework that is being used by 21 London councils. The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea was responsible for the procurement process, which took place in 2022, and the new contract went live on 1st April 2023.
- 3.17 NRS was the single supplier appointed to the framework agreement to provide an Integrated Community Equipment Service on behalf of the London Community Equipment Consortium, following the completion of a tender process in 2022. Whilst RBKC set up the framework, each council in the Community Equipment Consortium has to separately award their own call off contracts to be able to use the framework for community equipment services. The framework was established with an initial term of 5 years with the ability to extend by a further 2 years (a maximum term of 7 years).
- 3.18 There are operational benefits to Brent contracting with NRS to deliver community equipment services. From a service delivery perspective, it makes sense as our neighbouring councils and ICBs are part of the consortium and using the NRS systems to order equipment. This is important, as prescribers will need to be trained on the NRS system ahead of contract implementation, a significant undertaking with over 600 people ordering equipment in Brent. As most of Brent's hospital-based prescribers who work in the NHS will already been using the NRS equipment system to facilitate discharge to other boroughs, this reduces the impact of the transition to just on-boarding local authority staff.
- 3.19 NRS have also mobilised a depot in North West London (in Greenford) for the London Consortium, which can be used for Brent services, helping to reduce

the impact of the transition from Millbrook to NRS. The set-up of the service in Brent should be more straightforward than it would be for a provider without a presence in the local area. Informal discussions with the consortium and NRS have been positive, and both are keen to work with Brent on the supply of community equipment.

- 3.20 Given the time constraints with appointment of a provider, framework agreements offer the only viable procurement approach. There is more than one framework in place that Brent could use to appoint a new provider. Officers have reviewed the KCS (Kent County Council) Integrated Community Equipment Service Framework. The KCS Framework is not a single provider framework, and there are five providers on that framework that could be considered, one of which is Millbrook, Brent's current provider and another is NRS. Officers have however concluded that using the London Community Equipment Consortium's framework is the preferred procurement route, allowing the appointment of a contractor within the time constraints.
- 3.21 Discussions with the London Consortium have been positive and it would welcome Brent Council joining the pan-London arrangement. The benefits of Brent joining the consortium is that a new service specification has been developed to address a number of inefficiencies experienced during the previous contract period and to drive forward the quality of the provider's performance and improved contract monitoring and reporting.
- 3.22 The new service model will migrate from a 5 day/8 hrs per day model to a 6 day/12 hrs per day operating model from the start of the contract, with the flexibility to switch (at a Consortium level) to 7 days if required during the contract period.
- 3.23 There will be a new "On Time In Full" KPI which will require the provider to ensure that all deliveries and other activities are completed within the time window specified by the Prescriber and that all equipment is delivered clean, in good working order and with no missing parts. Failure to achieve this will require the provider to cascade the activity fee to the actual completed tariff and any re-work will be at the provider's expense.
- 3.24 Equipment price increases will now only apply to new equipment purchases. The Consortium aims for a recycling target of 70% on the equipment issued to reduce the impact of future equipment price rises.
- 3.25 The introduction of the Lifecycle model will also support the monitoring of expenditure on equipment and repairs to maximise the equipment's useful economic life and support decision making to decommission existing equipment and implement new equipment. The Consortium will also be taking the lead in reviewing the equipment catalogue and working directly with the supply chain and the service provider to maximise the Consortium's buying power.

- 3.26 This is a London Living Wage contract. The London Living Wage must be paid to all staff engaged on the contract as a minimum. The contract requires that any future uplifts are passed on to staff to maintain this compliance during the life of the contract. Payment of LLW will be checked and overseen by the Consortium Team.
- 3.27 When Brent joins the Consortium, the council will become part of a larger group of organisations that is working with a single provider of equipment services, giving greater leverage over performance of NRS, the service provider. The new service has been in place since April 2023, and the mobilisation period should have settled by the time that Brent joins the consortium on 1st August 2023. There will be capacity and time to train the Brent prescribers in the new systems and ways of ordering equipment, that will be essential for a smooth transition to the new provider.
- 3.28 However, there are issues with the consortium arrangement that need to be considered. Ideally officers would be able to look at different procurement methods and the merits of different providers and frameworks to consider the best option for Brent before committing to a new provider.
- 3.29 In order to secure the services of another provider but leave Brent's options open to consider alternatives via a comprehensive options appraisal, officers are recommending that Brent joins the London Consortium and contract with NRS. In doing this, the Council ensures continuity of service and alignment with North West London service provision. The council will, however, still have the flexibility to carry out a full options appraisal and assess the merits of other procurement methods, frameworks and providers within a reasonable timeframe. Given the urgency with which an alternative provider needs to be secured, Officers consider this is a reasonable compromise position for the council.
- 3.30 The Consortium is open to Brent joining and in doing so, the council does not have to agree to a minimum contract term. However, if the council wanted to leave the Consortium and make our own arrangements for the provision of community equipment services, Brent would need to give 12 months' notice.
- 3.31 It should be noted that the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 ("TUPE") applies to this contract, and a new provider would want assurance that there is a reasonable minimum timeframe to be taking on this contract. Brent will also have to be accommodated within NRS's North West London depot, which will need some time to set up and the input of resources from the new provider. An options appraisal also requires considerable commissioning and procurement input, which has not been considered in work planning because of the long-term contract that was in place with Millbrook. This will be completed within 12 months of the start of the contract and completed by July 2024, with options brought forward once this is concluded.

- 3.32 It is felt that the options appraisal work could be concluded within 12 months, with a further 12 months to re-commission and implement an alternative service, if that was the recommended outcome of the appraisal. Therefore, in joining the consortium Brent would be committing for a minimum of two years from 1st August 2023, but it is clear to both the consortium and NRS that Brent will not necessarily contract with NRS up to 2030, depending on the outcome of the options appraisal and that we could re-tender the service to appoint a new provider by August 2025.
- 3.33 Consequently it is recommended that Brent contracts with NRS for an initial two years, up to 31st July 2025. If the options appraisal concludes that remaining in the consortium is the right thing to do, the contract with NRS can be extended for a further two years eight months, to 31st March 2028. There is also scope within the framework to extend again by a further two years to 31st March 2030. The outcome of the options appraisal and recommendations will be presented to Cabinet for consideration in April or May 2024.
- 3.34 Discussions with NRS ahead of the proposed transfer have been positive. They are aware of the issues Brent has faced with the current provider, and of our expectations with the new contract. Performance on the new contract will form part of the options appraisal work, and if it does not meet expectations in the coming months NRS are aware of Brent's position, that we could look to exist the consortium and contract by August 2025, and commission alternative services.

The Tender Process

- 3.35 The Contract will be called off from the Framework, using the form of award and standard call off terms and conditions prescribed under the Framework.
- 3.36 The Framework is a single supplier framework and as such is considered the most appropriate route for the procurement of the Contract as –
- The council has an urgent need for Community Equipment Services, as the contract with Brent's current provider is ending on 31st July 2023
 - Joining with London Community Equipment Consortium and appointing NRS Healthcare allows for operational alignment with other councils and ICBs in North West London, making implementation of this new arrangement easier to achieve within the timescales
 - This is a single supplier framework, and NRS has been appointed following a tender process undertaken by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea on behalf of the consortium members. The tender took place in 2022, with the contract with NRS going live from 1st April 2023. Brent would be joining four months into the contract term.
- 3.37 In compliance with the Framework guidance, Officers have reviewed the framework information for NRS on the Framework and have concluded that its

pricing is competitive with other providers in the market, including the Council's current provider.

- 3.38 Officers recommend the award of the Contract for an initial term of two years, up to 31st July 2025, with the option to extend for a further two years eight months, to 31st March 2028 and by a further two years to 31st March 2030, subject to the conclusion of an options appraisal on community equipment services. If the options appraisal concludes and doesn't recommend continuing with the contract, options will be re-presented to Cabinet within the next 12 months. The value of the contract is estimated to be approximately £19.3m if the contract runs until 31st March 2030.
- 3.39 The contract will commence on 1st August 2023.

Section 75 Agreement

- 3.40 Since November 2016 the council and North West London Integrated Care Partnership (previously Brent Clinical Commissioning Group) has had an agreement pursuant to section 75 National Health Service Act 2006 ("s75 Agreement") to collaborate in the provision of the integrated community equipment services. The original s75 Agreement has been successively extended and is now with the CCG's successor body.
- 3.41 By pooling Brent's community equipment budget under a s75 Agreement, Officers consider the Council's purchasing power has increased resulting in savings in equipment prices and lower activity price. The partnership has also promoted the efficient sharing of business processes, IT systems and also the redistribution of community equipment borough wide; this would not have been achieved without joint working through a s75 Agreement.
- 3.42 Consequently, it is recommended that approval is given to enter into a further s75 Agreement enabling the council to enter into a new agreement with the ICP to collaborate in the provision of the integrated community equipment services until 31st March 2030. If the contractor for community equipment services changes during that time following the options appraisal referenced above, the s75 Agreement will be updated and renewed.

Pre-tender Considerations

- 3.43 The pre-tender considerations relevant to the Contract are as follows:

Ref.	Requirement	Response	
(i)	The nature of the services / supplies / works.	As detailed above	
(ii)	The value.	Circa £19.3m (excluding VAT) at today's prices over the proposed full contract term. (The ICP currently fund 62% of costs)	
(iii)	The contract term.	Two years, up to 31 st July 2025, with the option to extend for a further two years eight months, to 31 st March 2028 and by a further two years to 31 st March 2030	
(iv)	The tender procedure to be adopted.	Direct Award from a Framework	
(v)	The procurement timetable.	Stage in Procurement	Indicative dates
		Contract start date	1 st August 2023
(vi)	The evaluation criteria and process.	Direct Award using Framework criteria	
(vii)	Any business risks associated with entering the contract.	No specific business risks are considered to be associated with entering into the Contract.	
(viii)	The Council's Best Value duties.	For the reasons set out in Section 3, it is considered that Direct Award will result in the Council achieving best value.	
(ix)	Consideration of Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012	Officers have had regard to the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 – see Section 9 for further details.	
(x)	Any staffing implications, including TUPE and pensions.	There are no implications for Council staff arising from the procurement. TUPE will apply for staff currently working for Millbrook on the Brent Contract	
(xi)	The relevant financial, legal and other considerations.	Financial – See Financial Implications at Section 4.	
		Legal – See Legal Implications at Section 5.	

Ref.	Requirement	Response
		Other – N/A
(xii)	Sustainability	The Consortium aims for a recycling target of 70% on the equipment issued to reduce the impact of equipment provision on the environment.
(xiii)	Key Performance Indicators / Outcomes	Appropriate Key Performance Indicators / Outcomes will be included in the Contract.
(xiv)	London Living Wage	The Contract will require the payment of the London Living Wage
(xv)	Contract Management	A contract manager will be appointed and appropriate contract management provisions will be included in the Contract.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 Part 3 of the Council's Constitution state that contracts for services exceeding £5 million shall be referred to the Cabinet for approval of the award of the contract. The value of the Integrated Contract is estimated to be over this threshold.
- 4.2 The annual value of this contract is estimated to be circa £2.9m at today's value.
- 4.3 It is anticipated that the cost of this contract will be funded from existing revenue budgets within Adult Social Care. As is detailed in section 3.11, 62% of costs are funded by the ICP. This puts the estimated annual cost to Brent at £1.1m at current prices.
- 4.4 Equipment prices and Activity Fees shall remain fixed up to April 2024. Then in each subsequent Contract Year during the Framework Period, the Activity Fees may at the absolute discretion of the Contracting Authority be subject to indexation in line with the average annual rate of the Consumer Price Index published by the Office for National Statistics twelve-month measure for January to December in each case published following the immediately preceding December to the fee review date (1 April).
- 4.5 Activity Fees increases will be subject to ratification by the Consortium Board members and satisfactory performance and completion of Open Book accounting requirements as set out in the contract.

- 4.6 There is also a fee that the council will have to pay for joining the London Community Equipment Consortium. This is £37,000 initial fee, with £9,450 to be paid each year to cover strategic management of the contract. This will be funded from Adult Social Care budgets. The Consortium membership fee has been frozen for the last four years and is currently being reviewed alongside resource requirements for the Consortium Team and has yet to be agreed by Consortium members. As a minimum, from 2023/24 the annual membership will increase in line with the local government pay award but could increase by more than that if the remit of the Consortium Team expands.
- 4.7 The Corporate Director, Finance & Resources has been consulted concerning the proposed s75 Agreement and has approved entry into such Agreement. The Finance and Resources Department will monitor the s75 Agreement going forward.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The estimated value of the proposed call off Contract is above the threshold for Supplies and Services under the Public Procurement Regulations 2015 (the “PCR 2015”) and the procurement is therefore governed by the PCR 2015.
- 5.2 Officers recommend the use of a framework to procure the Contract. The PCR 2015 allow the use of framework agreements and prescribe rules and controls for their procurement. Contracts may then be called off under such framework agreements without the need for them to be separately advertised and procured through a full procurement process. Call offs under the framework agreement need to be carried out in accordance with the framework rules, to include using evaluation criteria specified in the framework agreement and utilising the terms and conditions set out in the framework agreement.
- 5.3 The Council’s Contract Standing Orders state that no formal tendering procedures apply where contracts are called off under a framework agreement established by another contracting authority, where call off under the framework agreement is approved by Cabinet and provided that the Corporate Director, Governance has advised that participation in the framework is legally permissible. The Corporate Director, Governance has confirmed that participation in the Framework is legally permissible.
- 5.4 The award is subject to the Council’s own Standing Orders and Financial Regulations in respect of High Value Contracts given the Council’s element of the procurement is valued at more than £2 million. Part 3 of the Council’s Constitution state that contracts for services and supplies exceeding £5 million shall be referred to the Cabinet for approval of the award of the contract.
- 5.5 As the procurement of the Contract is from a framework, there is no requirement for the Council to observe a 10-day standstill period under the PCR 2015.

- 5.6 Recommendation 2.6 seeks approval for the Council to enter into an agreement pursuant to s75 National Health Service Act 2006. S75 of the NHS Act 2006 allows health bodies and local authorities to enter into partnership arrangements whereby the organisations contribute an agreed level of resource into a joint budget that can be used to commission or deliver health and social care services.
- 5.7 A s75 Agreement is considered to be a partnership agreement under the Council's constitution and in accordance with Contract Standing Order 85, no partnership arrangement may be entered into unless approved by the Corporate Director, Finance & Resources and a formal agreement covering the arrangements is signed by the parties. Paragraph 4.7 confirms that such the Corporate Director, Finance & Resources approves the proposed s75 Agreement and the intention is to enter into a formal written agreement with the ICP.
- 5.8 In accordance with Financial Regulation 9.1, Corporate Directors must ensure that the objectives of the arrangement are consistent with the Council objectives and priorities and this is addressed in paragraphs 3.37 – 3.39. There is also a requirement for Finance and Resources to be responsible for monitoring and validating such arrangements and this is confirmed in paragraph 4.7.
- 5.9 As detailed in Section 3, there have been issues with the performance of the Community Equipment contract since it went live in July 2021 and following Millbrook's withdrawal from the contract, there is currently a significant backlog in the supply of equipment. Legal Services will be liaising with Officers regarding any action that may be taken under the contract concerning such matters.

6.0 Equality Implications

- 6.1 Pursuant to s149 Equality Act 2010 (the "Public Sector Equality Duty"), the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it,
- 6.2 The Public Sector Equality Duty covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, marriage and civil partnership, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 6.3 Having due regard involves the need to enquire into whether and how a proposed decision disproportionately affects people with a protected

characteristic and the need to consider taking steps to meet the needs of persons who share a protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it. This includes removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by persons who share a protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.

6.4 There is no prescribed manner in which the council must exercise its public sector equality duty but having an adequate evidence base for its decision is necessary.

6.5 The proposals in this report have been subject to screening and Officers believe that there are no adverse equality implications.

7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

7.1 None.

8.0 Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)

8.1 This service is currently provided by an external contractor and there are no implications for Council staff arising from retendering the contract.

9.0 Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012

9.1 The Council is under a duty pursuant to the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 (“the Social Value Act”) to consider how services being procured might improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of its area; how, in conducting the procurement process, the Council might act with a view to securing that improvement; and whether the Council should undertake consultation. Officers have had regard to considerations contained in the Social Value Act in relation to the procurement.

9.2 The following elements were included in NRS’s social value commitments when appointed to the single supplier framework –

- A clear commitment to delivering full electric fleet from contract award
- A commitment to recruit a full-time social value lead to work with internal relevant partners, employment and procurement as well as social value leads in each consortium borough to deliver on social value commitments. The provider will compile a register on targeted recruitment and social value activities, to be reviewed monthly and report 6 monthly to the consortium.
- Reducing waste within the contract. There will be clear strategies for waste reduction that are continually effective and transparent, as well as a commitment to recycle 70% of equipment

- NRS Social Value lead to work with boroughs to identify community initiatives where NRS can donate resources and/or volunteering opportunities.
- Donation of employment training to support local workforces. Targeted recruitment, training and contracting. Donation of equipment to charity.

Report sign off:

Phil Porter

Corporate Director, Adult Social
Care and Health