



**Decision of Cabinet Member for
Community Health and Wellbeing**

**Report from the Corporate Director,
Community Health and Wellbeing**

**AUTHORITY TO VARY AND EXTEND A CONTRACT FOR
SUPPORTED LIVING SERVICES FOR ADULTS AT RUBY
STREET WITH DIMENSIONS (UK) LIMITED.**

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Non-Key Decision
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
List of Appendices:	N/A
Background Papers:	N/A
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Name: Rachel Crossley Job Title: Corporate Director, Adult Social Care and Health Care, Health and Wellbeing Email: Rachel.Crossley@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Executive Summary

1.1 This report requests individual Cabinet Member approval to vary and extend a contract in respect of Supported Living Services for Adults at Ruby Street with Dimensions (UK) Limited in accordance with paragraph 13 of Part 3 of the Constitution. The report summarises the reasons for the request to vary and extend.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

That the Cabinet Member for Community Health and Wellbeing, having consulted with the Leader:

2.1 Approves the variation of the contract for Supported Living Services at Ruby Street with Dimensions (UK) Limited as set out in paragraphs 3.2.

2.2 Approves the extension of the contract detailed in 2.1 above for a period of 9 months and 2 days from 29th June 2024 to 31st March 2025 in the sum of £221,809.04

3.0 Detail

3.1 Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context

- 3.1.1 Strategic priority 5 of the Borough Plan, A Healthier Brent, says that the Council will make sure that health and social care services meet local needs.
- 3.1.2 In particular, the council will ensure that adults with care and support needs are able to access support services that are responsive to their needs and the council will work with residents as partners in their own care and support
- 3.1.3 The proposed variation and extension to this contact will enable the Council to review the contracts and work with the residents in the relevant supported living site to shape the future of the services they receive by shaping the specification and through their participation in the procurement process.

3.2 Background

- 3.2.1 The Council entered into a contract for Supported Living Services for Adults with Learning Disabilities at Ruby Street with Dimensions (UK) Limited on 13th April 2020 (the "Contract"). The Contract was entered into for a period of 2 years with provisions for a further 6 month extension which was later utilised. The Contract was then varied and extended using delegated powers in October 2022 for a period of 12 months. On 14 October 2023 the Contract was varied and extended for a further 8 months and 14 days by the Lead Member. Following the above extensions, the Contract is due to expire on 28th June 2024.
- 3.2.2 Officers intend to include Ruby Street in a review of supported living services for adults with learning disabilities along with four other sites. The four other sites will have their contracts aligned to 31st March 2025. The four other sites are:
- Gladstone Park Gardens
 - Beechcroft and Manor Drive
 - Preston Road
 - Woodhill Crescent
- 3.2.3 Due to several staff leaving the team in a short space of time, the review has been delayed. The review will look at the overall strategy for these learning disabilities contracts, how services are delivered, how to achieve better outcomes for service users, how the council can better manage its financial exposure to voids and the potential for achieving savings through economies of scale on these contracts.
- 3.2.4 The intention is to align the contract end dates for these services to enable time for the review to take place. Aligning the contracts will also allow the procurement for all six sites to take place at the same time resulting in a more efficient use of both commissioning and procurement resources. This approach

will enable officers to examine the potential to bring two or more of the sites together into lots under one contract, where there is benefit in doing this. Lotting the sites together will help make the services more attractive to potential bidders than tendering for each service separately.

- 3.2.5 Commissioning each service individually would be a missed opportunity to carry out this review. The outcome of this engagement and review will be set out in a report that will be presented to DMT later in the year.
- 3.2.6 In view of the above, Officers consider that the Contract should be varied and extended and have entered into discussions with Dimensions (UK) Limited (the “Contractor”) to explore the possibility of varying and extending the Contract from 29th June 2024 to 31st March 2025.
- 3.2.7 In accordance with clause B2.6, the Contract allows for a variation that shall be effective if mutually agreed by the Parties and made by written agreement executed by duly authorised representatives of both parties and annexed to the Contract. The Contractor has been consulted and is in agreement with the proposals set out in this report.
- 3.2.8 In addition to the proposed variation, Officers also recommend an extension to the term of the Contract. The Contract contains provisions permitting extensions to the Contract under paragraph 1.4 of the Order form and Clause B1.1. The extension provision in the Contract that was let has already been utilised however. Also, the Contract has been varied and extended by the Corporate Director in October 2022 by an additional year using delegated powers under paragraph 9.5 of Part 3 of the Constitution and the Corporate Director is therefore unable to extend the Contract any further as their delegated powers have been exceeded. For the reasons detailed in paragraphs 3.2.2 to 3.2.6, Officers seek authority from the relevant Cabinet Member to further extend the Contract.
- 3.2.9 Pursuant to paragraph 13 of Part 3 of the Constitution and subject to consultation with the Leader, the Cabinet Member for Community Health and Wellbeing, has delegated powers to agree the proposed variation and extension of the Contract.

4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

- 4.1 The Contractor has been consulted and is in agreement with the proposed extension of the service pending a full procurement process.
- 4.2 The residents at Ruby Street and their families have been consulted in relation to the proposed procurement and shaping the future service.
- 4.3 ASC DMT have been consulted on the proposed extension and future procurement plans.

5.0 Financial Considerations

- 5.1 The Council entered into the Contract for Supported Living Services for Adults with Dimensions (UK) Limited in April 2020.
- 5.2 Based on the most recent accounts available Dimensions (UK) Limited passed Brent Council's financial assessment.
- 5.3 The value of the proposed variation and extension is £221,809.04. This includes the uplift for London Living Wage and a discretionary uplift awarded by the council.
- 5.4 The cost of this variation and extension of the Contract will be funded from Commissioning and Contract which sits within the Adult Social Care budget B02801.

6.0 Legal Considerations

- 6.1 Officers recommend the variation and extension of the Contract as set out in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2.
- 6.2 The value of the original Contract is such that it is subject to application of the Public Contract Regulation 2015 (PCR 2015).
- 6.3 A contract may only be modified (to include an extension) without a new procurement procedure where this is done in accordance with Regulation 72 of the PCR 2015. Regulation 72 sets out various circumstances in which it is possible to vary and extend a contract. Regulation 72 (1)(b) of the PCR 2015 states that contract and framework agreements may be modified without a new procurement procedure for additional works, services or supplies by the original contractor that have become necessary and were not included in the initial procurement, where a change of contractor:
 - (i) cannot be made for economic or technical reasons such as requirements of interchangeability or interoperability with existing equipment, services or installations procured under the initial procurement, and
 - (ii) would cause significant inconvenience or substantial duplication of costs for the contracting authority;

provided that any increase in price does not exceed 50% of the value of the original contract;

- 6.4 Regulation 72 (2) sets out (2) Where several successive modifications are made:—
 - (a) the limitations imposed by the provision at the end of paragraph 72 (1)(b) shall apply to the value of each modification; and
 - (b) such successive modifications shall not be aimed at circumventing this Part.

6.5 Given the circumstance surrounding the proposed extension as set out in paragraph 3.2, and the limited duration and value of the extension, it is considered that the Council is able to rely on Regulation 72 (1) (b) of the PCR 2015 in varying and extending the Contract as recommended.

6.6 As set out in paragraph 3.2.9, pursuant to paragraph 13 of Part 3 of the Constitution, the Cabinet Member for Community Health and Wellbeing, subject to consultation with the Leader, has delegated powers to agree the proposed extension and variation.

7.0 Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

7.1 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,

7.2 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.

7.3 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.

7.4 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.

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

7.6 Officers do not consider that there are any adverse health equalities implications arising from the recommendations in the report.

8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

8.1 There are no specific climate change and environmental considerations regarding the extension of this Contract.

9.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)

9.1 This service is currently provided by an external contractor and there are no implications for Council staff arising from varying and extending the Contract.

10.0 Communication Considerations

10.1 The residents at Ruby Street and their families have been consulted in relation to the proposed procurement and shaping the future service. Easy read documentation was used. Should the recommendations be agreed, the resident's and their families will be advised of the extension to the Contract.

Report sign off:

RACHEL CROSSLEY

Corporate Director, Community Health &
Wellbeing