



# EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION

<b>REPORT OF:</b>	Executive Member for Public Health, Prevention & Wellbeing
<b>LEAD OFFICERS:</b>	Director of Public Health
<b>DATE:</b>	29 November 2023

<b>PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:</b>	Public Health, Prevention & Wellbeing
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>KEY DECISION:</b>	N

**SUBJECT: To renew the shared Infection Prevention Control (IPC) service hosted by Lancashire County Council via a collaborative agreement**

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Protecting the population's health is one of five mandated responsibilities given to local authorities as part of the National Health Service Act 2006. The Director of Public Health (DPH) for Blackburn with Darwen is responsible under legislation for the discharge of the local authority's public health functions, and as such is accountable for commissioning infection prevention and control (IPC) services for their local community health economy.

Health Protection is a key aspect of Public Health aimed at protecting the public from harm. Health protection consists of three main broad areas: control of infectious diseases and screening; emergency preparedness, resilience and response (EPRR); and providing an environment that promotes health and wellbeing. In practice, it involves a range of activities across several partner agencies. It includes work to ensure the safety and quality of food, water, air and the natural and built environment. It covers the measures needed to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, preparing for and managing outbreaks and other incidents which threaten health.

The Council has held a service level agreement with Lancashire County Council's (LCC) Infection Prevention Service since 2016 to deliver a shared IPC service across Lancashire and Blackburn with Darwen. It was agreed in 2016, that the Council would enter into a collaborative agreement with LCC, as the IPC service model developed by LCC had two key advantages of size, which could not be achieved cost-effectively on the Blackburn with Darwen footprint alone: 1) resilience and 2) appropriate mix of skills between strategic and operational functions. It is proposed that this arrangement continues for a further two years with the possibility of extending it for a further 1 + 1 years.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Executive Member:

- Notes the contents of this report
- Agrees for the Council to negotiate and enter into a collaborative agreement with Lancashire County Council to provide a shared, clinically-led Infection Prevention and Control service, for a term of 2 years, with the option to extend for a further 1 + 1 years
- Delegates the signing of the collaborative agreement to the Director of Public Health in consultation with the Deputy Director, Legal and Governance.

## **3. BACKGROUND**

As part of the National Health Service Act 2006, Directors of Public Health are accountable for commissioning infection prevention and control services for their local health economy. Since 2016, this has been achieved by the agreement with LCC's IPC service. This is a clinically-led specialist strategic and operational service which provides support not only to Council services but also to independent providers of health and social care within the borough including residential and nursing homes, and other complex settings such as SEN schools and day centres. It should be noted that NHS England services such as hospitals and GP practices are required to have their own IPC services.

The service ensures that independent providers of health and social care within the borough are supported to effectively manage service users/residents with a confirmed or suspected infection, including health care associated infections.

It provides evidence of assurance that robust quality control processes in line with evidence-based IPC national guidance and legislation are in place in services that are commissioned or contracted by the Council.

It is also tasked with ensuring that the Council is better prepared to deal with IPC issues that may arise in the future related to outbreaks or incidents of infectious diseases.

The UK Health Security Agency provides regional IPC support and response when needed, and work closely with Public Health and the IPC services to ensure incidents and outbreaks are managed effectively.

## **4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS**

It was agreed in 2016 when the Council entered into an agreement with LCC that the IPC service model developed by LCC has two key advantages of size, which could not be achieved cost-effectively on the Blackburn with Darwen footprint alone: 1) resilience, and 2) appropriate mix of skills between strategic and operational. This remains true today, and was especially highlighted during the COVID19 pandemic when high levels of IPC support was required by the Council and health and social care services across the borough.

The Health Protection Board receives quarterly updates from the IPC service on local health care associated infections and what actions have been taken to address any issues. The Board also receives an annual assurance report on health protection activities which includes IPC performance and outcomes, this report is also taken to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

A draft service specification has been developed by all the parties, and is attached to this decision paper. That service specification will be incorporated in/annexed to the collaborative agreement between the Council and LCC for the provision of this service.

The Director of Public Health will continue in discharging the Local Authority's statutory responsibilities in relation to health protection.

## 5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct policy implications arising from this decision.

## 6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Local Authority Public Health's health protection duties are financed by the annual public health grant.

Recommissioning the service will be at the value of £88,307\* per year (£176,614 for two years), starting on 1st April 2023 until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025, with the option to further extend for 1 + 1 years.

\*Please note that for future years this figure is subject to Government agreed local authority salary uplifts.

## 7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Protecting the population's health is one of five mandated responsibilities given to local authorities as part of the National Health Service Act 2006. The Director of Public Health (DPH) for Blackburn with Darwen is responsible under legislation for the discharge of the local authority's public health functions.

This proposal continues to support Blackburn with Darwen's Director of Public Health's accountability, both for the overall health of the local population and for commissioning infection prevention and control services for the local health economy.

s.12 (7) of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 exempts relevant contracts which establish collaboration between contracting authorities from the normal requirements of the Public Contract Regulations in relation to procurement of public contracts.

## 8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Local Authority Public Health's health protection duties are financed by the annual public health grant.

## 9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

**Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.**

Option 1  Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2  In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA link here)*

Option 3  In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA attachment)*

## 10. CONSULTATIONS

There is no requirement for consultation in relation to this report.

## 11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

## 12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded and published if applicable.

<b>VERSION:</b>	<b>2.0</b>
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<b>CONTACT OFFICERS:</b>	<b>Abdul Razaq – Director of Public Health</b> <b>Rabiya Gangreker – Public Health Development Manager (Health Protection)</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	21 November 2023
<b>BACKGROUND PAPER:</b>	Draft service specification for BwD Infection Prevention Control Service