

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	Decision to vary the existing BetterOff agreement with Looking Local for 2 months at no additional cost from 22 nd August 2024 to 2 nd November 2024.
Date of decision:	13 th August 2024
Decision maker:	Service Director All Age Commissioning
Authority for delegated decision:	Chief Executive Scheme of Delegation SA09 - Commissioning, quality assurance and contract management relating to all ages
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	The current provider Looking Local has confirmed their willingness to continue to deliver the service until the 2 nd November 24 at no additional cost to allow for joint commissioning of the BetterOff and BetterCare contracts together when the BetterCare contract expires.
Decision made:	To vary the current end date of the existing BetterOff contract with Looking Local from 22 nd August 24 to 2 nd November 24 at no additional cost.
Reasons for decision:	<p>This online support tool BetterOff is an easy to use, single point of online access for benefits and employments advice and guidance.</p> <p>To utilise the no cost extension period from 22nd August 24 to 2nd November 24 to align 2 contracts end dates together.</p> <p>During this extension period, we will look at re-procuring the 2 online support contracts (BetterCare and BetterOff) together through the GCloud framework service.</p>
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<p>There is no statutory duty on the council to make the 'better off' module available to its residents. In doing so however, the council aims to provide its residents with a single point of online access for benefits and employment advice and guidance. The provision of this service will support the council in the achievement of its corporate objectives (a) enabling residents to live safe, healthy and independent lives; (b) support the growth of our economy; and (c) secure better services, quality of life and value for money.</p> <p>There is no financial implication of this contractual variation as it is an extension at no additional cost.</p> <p>The extension of this online tool will support our public sector equality duty by being open to all and accessible remotely or through guided assistance through customer services or support workers.</p>
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	At the time of procuring this contract originally, there were no alternative providers identified who delivered a self-service benefits advice platform with guided digitised department for work and pensions applications. Therefore, utilising the 2 month no cost extension will enable us to carry out a full re-procurement exercise to establish what the market looks like

	now to ensure we are still achieving best value through this contract.
Details of any declarations of interest made:	No interests have been declared.

Signed..... Date:

Please ensure that signatures are redacted before publishing.