



## OFFICER DECISION RECORD

This form should be used to record Executive decisions taken by Officers

<b>Type of Decision:</b>	<b>Day to Day Operational Decision</b>		
<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Graham Farrant, Chief Executive		
<b>Service Area:</b>	ASC Commissioning	<b>Date:</b>	15/02/24
<b>Contact Name:</b>	Kate Garner	<b>Tel No:</b>	01202 127455
<b>E-mail:</b>	Kate.garner@bcpcouncil.gov.uk		
<b>Subject:</b>	DHSC Accelerating Reform Fund grant		
<b>Decision taken:</b>			
<p>To accept the DHSC Accelerating Reform Fund (ARF) grant allocated to Dorset ICS. The funding will be used to innovate, scale and develop social care activity.</p> <p>BCP Council is the ARF lead authority for Dorset ICS and will receive the full ICS allocation of £737,925.</p> <p>BCP Council will retain £391,403 and £346,522 will be transferred to Dorset Council.</p>			
<b>Options considered:</b>			
<p>To <b>not</b> accept the offer of the ARF grant through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with DHSC.</p> <p>To accept the offer of the ARF grant through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with DHSC.</p>			
<b>Reasons for the decision:</b>			
<p>The ARF grant provides significant additional external funding for the innovation and development of new social care activity in BCP between 2024 and 2026.</p> <p>Under financial regulations, acceptance of funding of this value must come from Cabinet or Chief Executive, under urgency powers. There is a short period of time between the final confirmation of the funding allocation and the date by which a Memorandum of Understanding with the DHSC is to be completed and returned. It is not possible for a decision report to be taken to Cabinet during this period, and as such, the decision to accept the funding is made within this decision, taken by the Chief Executive.</p>			

## Background:

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has launched the Accelerating Reform Fund (ARF), which provides a total of £42.6 million in grant funding over 2023 to 2024 (£20 million) and 2024 to 2025 (£22.6 million), to support innovation in adult social care.

The aim of the ARF is to address barriers to adopting innovative practices and build capacity and capability in adult social care.

- Learn how to successfully tackle the barriers to scaling up innovation in social care
- Build the case for commissioners to innovate and improve outcomes for people drawing upon care and support, and their unpaid carers

The Minister of State for Care has written to all local authorities to set out the department's priorities for innovation and scaling. These 12 priorities cover a broad range of areas under the 3 objectives of our 10-year vision for adult social care reform.

The aim of the ARF is to support the adoption or scaling of projects that deliver these priorities. In order to participate, local authorities have formed consortia with other local authorities in their integrated care system (ICS) geography. Working together with the NHS and other partners, consortia have selected 2 or more projects, with at least one project focused on an unpaid carer option (the priorities which are focused on unpaid carers are noted below), to scale using this funding.

### **BCP Council is the lead local authority for the Dorset ICS consortium**

The ARF is non-competitive and local authorities will receive their funding allocation once their consortium has submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) with the required information about the projects they wish to deliver using the funding.

On approval of the EOI a non-legally binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be agreed with the lead local authority of each consortium. The MOU will include the final funding allocation for the consortium and set out expectations for how the consortium will work with DHSC, the ARF evaluation partner and the ARF support partner (SCIE). DHSC will release the first tranche of funding upon receipt from the lead local authorities of the signed MOU.

### **Accelerating Reform Fund timeline**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date</b>
ARF funding programme opened	24 October 2023
ARF EOI submission deadline	12 <sup>th</sup> January 2024
Confirmation of ARF allocation and DHSC Memorandum of Understanding received	9 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
MOU to be signed by BCP Council and returned to DHSC	16 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
First tranche of ARF funding received	March 2024
First grant report submitted	July 2024
Second tranche of ARF funding received	September 2024
Second grant report submitted	April 2025
ARF programme ends	March 2026

The Dorset ICS consortium led by BCP Council has submitted an ARF EOI detailing projects under three of the 12 priority areas:

Priority 1 – community-based care models such as shared living arrangements.

Develop a Shared Lives Plus offer focussed on carers respite, replacement support and support for sustainable hospital discharge. This is a shared project with Dorset Council.

Priority 3 – investment in local area networks or communities to support prevention and promote wellbeing, enabling people to age well in their communities.

Support the BCP Age Friendly Communities initiative and strengthen the connections to Adult Social Care’s prevention and personalisation programmes. Learn from projects and activity across BCP and create provable project models that can be introduced – with some localisation - into other areas. This is a BCP Council-only project.

Priority 8 – services that reach out to, and involve, unpaid carers through the discharge process.

Improve engagement and communication with carers to support their role through hospital discharge, and the information that is available to them at this time. This is a shared project with Dorset Council and will be led by Dorset NHS.

**BCP Council project summary and costs breakdown summary**

Priority	Project theme	Shared project?	Project costs
Priority 1	Shared Lives	BCP/Dorset	£120,000
Priority 2	Age Friendly Communities	BCP	£72,620
Priority 3	Family carers	BCP/Dorset	£133,387
			£326,007
BCP corporate management costs			£36,896
BCP commissioning team costs			£28,500
			<b>£391,403</b>

**Dorset Council project summary and costs breakdown summary**

Priority	Project theme	Shared project?	Project costs
Priority 1	Shared Lives	BCP/Dorset	£111,735
Priority 3	Family carers	BCP/Dorset	£206,287
			£318,022
Dorset commissioning team costs			£28,500
			<b>£346,522</b>

**Consultation:**

**External consultation –**

Dorset NHS  
Dorset Council

**Internal consultation –**

Director of Commissioning  
Director of Adult Social Care  
Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing  
Head of Strategic Commissioning, Disabilities  
Head of Strategic Commissioning, Long Term Conditions  
Head of LD and MH Services  
Head of Service, Access and Carers  
Head of Direct Care and Support Services  
Head of Strategic Procurement and Commissioning  
Commissioning Managers – Long Term Conditions, Disabilities, Contracts and Brokerage and Prevention and Wellbeing  
Financial Services – ASC Finance Business Partner

A report to ASC DMB on 14/12/23 requested agreement for -

- BCP Council to lead on the Accelerated Reform Fund on behalf of Dorset ICS as the responsible authority
- BCP Council to seek suitable remuneration from the funding to cover associated costs
- BCP Council to submit three project bids detailed within the report.

**Note:** It is the responsibility of the ‘Responsible Officer’ – that is the Officer making the decision – to obtain the comments and signature of the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer **before** taking the decision and then send the completed record of the decision to Democratic Services for publication.

**Finance and Resourcing Implications:**

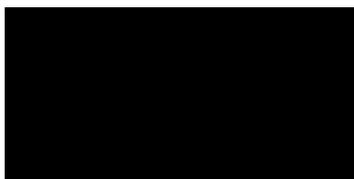
The costs incurred by BCP Council through its lead authority role are covered by a 5% ringfence of the total grant (£36,896) for corporate costs and a 10% ringfence of the start-up grant (£28,500) for ASC commissioning service support.

The projects within the ARF programme will be designed to ensure that there are no ongoing commitments or liabilities.

**Name: Adam Richens**

**Date: 15.02.2024**

**Signature (of Chief Finance Officer)**



**Legal advice:**

This operational decision is taken by the Chief Executive using the Urgency powers delegated to him in Part 3 of the Constitution and set out below.

“Urgency (delegation 68)

In any case that they consider to be urgent, to undertake all action for the purposes of discharging any function and/or delivering any service (including power to authorise the seeking of an injunction / progressing an action for contempt), provided that:

- (a) there is prior consultation with the Monitoring Officer;
- (b) there is consultation with such Executive Member or Chair of an appropriate Committee as they consider is appropriate in the time available; and,
- (c) to the extent it will incur expenditure from working balances and/or reserves, there is the prior approval of the Section 151 Officer.

For the purposes of exercising this power, all restrictions and/or limitations in the Employment Powers and in the Financial Regulations including the Financial Powers and the Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules are deemed waived and any decision may be made regardless of whether it is a Key Decision.

Any action taken in this way shall be reported to the next meeting of Cabinet and Full Council”.

The DHSC has set a short timescale for the acceptance of this grant, limiting the ability for Cabinet to take the decision.

**Name of legal advisor:** Janie Berry

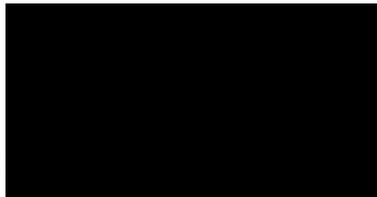
**Date:** 16/02/24

**Sign-off by Monitoring Officer**

**Name:** Janie Berry

**Date:**16/02/24

**Signature (of Monitoring Officer):**

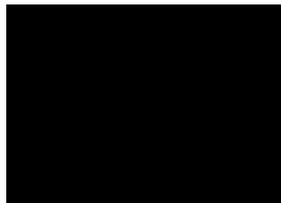


**Risk Assessment:**

**Name:** Kate Garner

**Date:** 15/02/24

**Signature (of Officer Completing Assessment):**



#	Risk Description	Risk Score			Mitigation	Residual Risk		
		L (1-4)	I (1-4)	S		L (1-4)	I (1-4)	S
1	The ARF grant cannot be carried forward into following financial years and funding does not align with programme delivery.	1	4	4	DHSC and SCIE have both confirmed that ARF monies can be carried forward into following financial years, i.e the first tranche received in March 2024 can be carried forward into 2024/25 and the second tranche received in 2024/25 can be carried forward into 2025/26.	1	2	2

#	Risk Description	Risk Score			Mitigation	Residual Risk		
		L (1-4)	I (1-4)	S		L (1-4)	I (1-4)	S
2	BCP Council is unable to commit to the requirements of the DHSC MOU for some reason and therefore cannot sign it.	2	4	8	<p>The MOU is a non-legally binding document. The MOU will be signed on the understanding that funding -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is not ringfenced</li> <li>• can be carried forward into the following financial year</li> <li>• will not be clawed back by the DHSC</li> </ul> <p>Adequate programme/project management costs have been top sliced from the allocation to cover the costs of delivering the requirements of the MOU.</p>	1	2	2
3	Through the lead local authority role BCP Council incurs corporate and operational administration, reporting and co-ordination costs that are not covered by the ARF funding.	2	3	6	<p>5% of the overall grant will be top sliced for BCP Council corporate management and administration costs - £36,868 for the lifetime of the programme.</p> <p>10% of the remaining start-up costs will be top sliced for the BCP Council ASC Commissioning Team's reporting, co-ordination, engagement with DHCS/SCIE and engaging with the evaluations - £28,500 for the lifetime of the programme.</p> <p>There is no requirement for match funding.</p>	1	2	2
4	BCP Council is liable for the exit costs of temporary employees	3	3	9	<p>The BCP programme involves the creation of an additional role within the council for an 18 month period. The design of the project and recruitment options will ensure that any potential exit costs are avoided.</p>	1	2	2
5	BCP Council is liable for additional ongoing costs within the	3	3	9	<p>The plan for the sustainability of the projects is described in the EOI and through the design of the projects we have ensured</p>	1	2	2

#	Risk Description	Risk Score			Mitigation	Residual Risk		
		L (1-4)	I (1-4)	S		L (1-4)	I (1-4)	S
	programme have ended.				that there will not be ongoing costs to the council after 2025/26.			
6	BCP Council as the lead local authority receives the total ICS funding allocation in two tranches but isn't able to transfer the Dorset Council allocation in a timely fashion.	1	4	4	The process for transferring the funding to Dorset Council will need to be agreed in advance so this can happen in a timely manner.	1	2	2
7	There is uncertainty about any responsibilities BCP Council will have in its role as the lead authority for Dorset Council's spend of its ARF.	2	3	6	A joint programme board will be established to oversee the ARF projects and spend and through this an MOU will be created between the councils to reflect the agreement BCP Council has made with the DHSC.	1	2	2

**Impact Assessments:**

An Equality and Impact Needs Assessment (EINA) has not been completed for the decision to accept the ARF grant. Individual EINA's will be completed for each of the projects funding by the ARF.

**Information for publication / not for publication**

Note:

- Set out whether it is in the Public's interest for this decision to be published or not and the reasons

As per the council's Constitution a record of this decision and background information will be taken to the next meeting of Cabinet or Council.

**Background Papers**

None

Any declaration of interest by the Officer responsible for the decision

Nature of Interest

No

**Note:** No Officer having a personal financial interest in any matter should take a decision on that matter. Other interests of a non-disqualifying matter should be recorded here.

Any conflict of interest declared by a Cabinet Member who is consulted by the Officer taking the decision	Name of Cabinet Member	Nature of interest	Details of any dispensation granted by the Monitoring Officer
No			

**Decision taken by: (print name and designation)**

**Graham Farrant – Chief Executive**

**Signature:**



**Date of Decision: 21 February 2024**

**Date Decision Effective:**

**Date of Publication of record of Major Operational decision: As shown on web site**

**Note: A record of this decision should be kept by the Service Area within which the decision falls.**

\* delete as appropriate

**Include additional guidance if considered appropriate**