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| TITLE | Better Care Fund Plan |
| FOR CONSIDERATION BY | Extraordinary Health & Wellbeing Board on 11th September 2014 |
| WARD | None Specific |
| DIRECTOR | Stuart Rowbotham, Director of Health and Wellbeing |

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

The Better Care Fund has been created to promote the integration of health and social care services, to provide a better quality of service to users and greater efficiency across the system.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Health and Wellbeing Board delegates responsibility for the authorisation of the final version of the Better Care Fund Plan to the Chairman of the Health & Wellbeing Board in order to meet the submission deadline to NHS England of 19 September 2014.

Background

A report to the Health & Wellbeing Board on 14th August highlighted the delay in signing off national Better Care Fund plans because of NHS England's concerns that savings from reduced hospital activity would not be sufficient to cover their contribution to the BCF in 2015/6, putting overall NHS finances at risk. In response, the Secretary of State announced the following changes to the conditions and process:

1. The pay for performance element will be linked solely to reducing total emergency admissions to hospitals in 2015/6.
2. Every Health and Well Being Board will be asked to resubmit their BCF Plan by 19th September, and this will be subject to a revised assurance process.

Following the announcement of these changes and new requirements, officers from across the Council and the CCG have been analysing the impact on Wokingham's plan and revising the submission accordingly.

Resubmission of the Better Care Fund Plan

The Better Care Fund Plan has required substantial revision for the new template. NHS England has very recently detailed the external support it will be providing to localities to complete the resubmission.

A 'How to' guide will be circulated nationally some time during the week beginning 1st September. The guide will focus on some specific aspects of BCF planning which NHS England have acknowledged are '*often among the most challenging to crack*'. It will include information that is designed to support all areas with:

- Segmentation and risk stratification
- Reviewing and evaluating the evidence base
- Outcomes and modelling impact
- Financial analysis

A regional workshop facilitated by NHS England will also be provided to locality teams working on the submission on 8th September.

In the meantime, Wokingham have been engaging with the ‘fast track’ meetings with Reading, supported by consultants from Deloitte’s commissioned through NHS England, as so much of our Plan has shared links with Berkshire West strategies.

As we work through the business cases for some of our schemes, we are reviewing them to ensure that they will fully address the identified challenges and meet desired outcomes in line with the revised national guidance.

Delegated final sign off for the BCF Plan

The submission deadline is 19th September and as outlined above, much of the new technical guidance and support will be made available over the first two weeks of that month. Therefore, it will not be possible to finalise the BCF Plan until very close to the submission deadline.

It is therefore requested that the final sign off be delegated to the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

| | How much will it Cost/ (Save) | Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall | Revenue or Capital? |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Current Financial Year (Year 1) | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Next Financial Year (Year 2) | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Following Financial Year (Year 3) | N/A | N/A | N/A |

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| Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision |
| N/A |

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| Cross-Council Implications |
| N/A |

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| Reasons for considering the report in Part 2 |
| N/A |

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| Date 28.08.14 | Version No. 1 |