

**Report to:** CABINET

**Date:** 12<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2008

**Subject:** INTEGRATED COMMUNITY EQUIPMENT SERVICE –  
POOLED BUDGET 2008-09

**Report of:** DIRECTOR OF ADULT SERVICES

**Contact officer:** PAUL STEVENSON EXT 2800

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**Purpose / summary:** To update members on the performance of the Integrated Community Equipment Service in its third year of operation and to seek approval for the Pooled Budget contribution for 2008-09.

**Alternative options considered and reason for selecting the one recommended:** The Pooled Budget has been successful in delivering the objectives set at its inception and it is in the interest of service users and partners that it continues.

**Recommendation / decision:**

1. That the progress made in the third year of the Integrated Community Equipment Service is noted.
2. That the Council's pooled budget contribution for 2008-09 is approved.
3. In future years, the Director of Adult Services is authorised to take any decisions under delegated authority.

**Key Decision:** This report does not involve a key decision. The decision made as a result of this report will be published within **48 hours** and cannot be actioned until **seven working days** have elapsed, i.e. before

**Risks / Implications:**

Financial: The Council's contribution to the Integrated Community Equipment Service budget in 2008-09 will be £453k, which equates to a contribution of 69% to the total budget of £656k

Staffing: None

Policy:

The Integrated Community Equipment Service is in line with national policy on equipment provision.

Equal Opportunities - Has a Diversity Impact Assessment been conducted?  
Wards affected:

The integrated service between the Council and ALWPCT assist all service users of ICES equipment.  
All

**Property Implications – Does the proposal involve a reduction, addition or change to the Council’s asset base or its occupation?**

No

**If yes, have the property implications been agreed with the Corporate Property Officer?**

**Does this proposal have significant implications for the Council and the local population?**

A diversity impact assessment is not necessary at this stage, however, equality and diversity implications have been considered when producing this report.

**Does this proposal involve a new policy or procedure or significant changes to an existing policy or procedure?**

A diversity impact assessment is not necessary at this stage, however, equality and diversity implications have been considered when producing this report.

Has the Service Director - Borough Solicitor confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council’s Constitution?

**Yes / No \***

Has the Executive Director Business Support Services confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council’s budget?

**Yes / No \***

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council?

**Yes / No \***

\* delete which applicable

**For Cabinet reports only :**

Categorisation of the report:	<b>X</b>
Discussion leading to a decision	
Monitoring	
Sharing for corporate understanding	

	<b>X</b>
Discussion	
Decision	<b>X</b>
Information	

**Tracking/Process:**

	Consultation	Ward Members	Partners
Panel	Overview & Scrutiny	Cabinet	Council
		12 <sup>th</sup> June 2008	

List of Background Papers in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972:

Document	Date	File Reference	Place of Inspection

Proper Officer Bernard Walker

Date 15<sup>th</sup> May 2008

## 1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Integrated Community Equipment Service between the Council and Ashton Leigh and Wigan PCT, was established on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2005. The service brought together the community equipment operations formerly separately located within the Adult Services Department and the ALWPCT.
- 1.2 The integrated service is located at Martland Park and employs 10 FTE staff.

### **Third Year of Operation**

- 1.3 The following summarises some of the key achievements for the Integrated Community Equipment Store in 2007-08:
  - Development of a Store Manager post with responsibility for procurement and achieving cost efficiencies in the purchase of equipment.
  - Improvements in the operation of the decontamination unit through the installation of a gas dryer, which provides a quicker throughput in to the process.
  - The roles and functions within the ICES team have been re-organised to deliver greater efficiencies in the service as a whole but more specifically around the collection and delivery parts of the operation.
  - New store racking has been installed to make more effective use of the space within the stores linked with the identification and management of stock.

### **Out-turn spend 2007-08**

- 1.4 The ICES pooled budget out-turn for the year ended 31 March 2008 was £35k, or 5% overspent compared to the budget set for the year, due to additional demand led expenditure on equipment towards year end.
- 1.5 Pooled budget contributions will be in line with the agreement which are split 69 / 31 split between the Council and the PCT. A contingency amount was provided to account for the possibility of increased demand for equipment and the Council's share of the overspend will be accommodated within this contingency.

## 2 PROPOSALS

- 2.1 The original ICES pooled budget agreed between the Council and the PCT was commenced in August 2005 and was scheduled to expire on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008. The memorandum of agreement between the Council and ALWPCT stipulates that the pooled budget contributions are reviewed each year.

- 2.2 There are changes being promoted nationally in the way Community Equipment is stored and distributed under the ICES Transformation initiative. The changes are being piloted in a small number of authorities and one of the main features is a significant involvement of the retail sector in the distribution of certain types of equipment.
- 2.3 The feasibility and potential benefits of roll out in Wigan are currently being assessed, in conjunction with ALWPCT partners and will be the subject of a future Cabinet report.
- 2.4 In the meantime, it was agreed by officers from the Council and ALWPCT, that it would be preferable to roll forward the initial ICES agreement for a further year, whilst the potential position under ICES Transformation is assessed. The table below sets out the proposed pooled budget contributions for 2008-09.

Expenditure	Pooled Budget Contributions 2008-9		
	Adult Services	ALWPCT	Total
	£k	£k	£k
Staffing	104.8	83.5	188.3
Running Costs	83.7	45.9	129.6
Equipment	264.7	73.1	337.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>453.2</b>	<b>202.5</b>	<b>655.7</b>
<b>%age contributions</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>100%</b>

There may be an additional contribution, if so warranted, from the PCT to reflect consequences of the minor adjustments to the agreement noted above.

- 2.5 The Council continues will continue as host organisation for the ICES Pooled Budget, which it administers on behalf of the two parties. The ICES equipment budget has been top sliced from the Aids and Adaptations capital budget. In addition to the contributions above an additional contingency amount of £83k is will be set aside from the Aids and Adaptations budget to hedge against any possible unexpected increase in demand for community equipment during the year.
- 2.6 In accordance with the terms of the memorandum of agreement any underspend or overspend on the pooled budget will be shared between the Council and ALWPCT in the ratio of 69 / 31.

### 3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDED OPTION

- 3.1 The ICES Pooled Budget agreement was scheduled to last for three years, 2007-08 represents the third year of the agreement. In view of the

national proposals to change the way Community Equipment is delivered in future through ICES Transformation, it is proposed that the existing arrangement is rolled forward a further 12 months pending an evaluation of the implementation of ICES Transformation in Wigan.

#### **4 CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 The ICES pooled budget has had a successful third year of operation and the pooled budget contributions proposed represent a continuation of the proportionate contributions agreed by the Council and ALWPCT respectively.
- 4.2 During 2008-09 an evaluation of the ICES Transformation model will be undertaken and a further report will be brought to Cabinet once this has been completed.