

**Excerpt from the Cabinet Minutes relating to the Shared Lives Scheme  
22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025**

**Minutes:**

Councillor Hooper introduced the report and explained that the report is asking cabinet to go out to tender for the Shared Lives contract where families and individuals share their home with a person with disabilities. Councillor Hooper commented that he was a shared lives carer 30 years ago. Supported living costs are around £952 per week and shared lives care is around £460 per week. It is therefore a real saving which also allows individuals of low to medium need the benefits of living with a family. It is hoped the provider will be proactive in recruiting more shared lives carers. The provider will recruit, train and support shared lives carers and find the best possible placements and support them.

Councillor Muldowney stated that she was delighted to support the re-tender and the expansion of the scheme. It is cost effective and enhances the quality of life of residents. Councillor Muldowney queried if there were any risks with the scheme.

Councillor Hooper responded that the length of the contract was considered important so it provides stable support to placements but targets will be monitored at the same time. There is an expectation that there will be growth and if the provider doesn't meet targets there is the possibility to bring the contract to an end.

Councillor Holloway stated that it was an important report and ensures residents can live fulfilling lives.

The Leader commented that it is a wonderful scheme and an example of the human side of Local Authorities and the work they do in Thurrock. The Leader stated that he was pleased they will be trying to provide more of these opportunities.

**RESOLVED:**

2.1 Cabinet Supported the decision that the Council go out to tender for the Shared Lives contract. The proposed start date of this contract would be October 1st, 2025, until March 31st, 2031, with an option to extend for two years in one-year increments. If growth targets are met total during the life of the 7.5-year term the total contract value will rise to £3,920,250.

2.2 Cabinet approved the delegation to award the contract to the Executive Director of Adults and Health in consultation with the Lead Portfolio Holder.

*Reason for the decision: as outlined in the report.  
This decision was subject to call-in.*