

Written statement of a key decision
Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing

Title	Domestic Abuse Commissioning - 2026
Decision maker	Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing Information about cabinet, including the names and contact details of the cabinet members, can be found here: http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=251
Date of decision	11 August 2026
Report exemption class	Open
Reason for being a key decision	This is a key decision because it is likely to result in the council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the council's budget for the service or function concerned. A threshold of £500,000 is regarded as significant. This is a key decision because it is likely to be significant having regard to: the strategic nature of the decision; and / or whether the outcome will have an impact, for better or worse, on the amenity of the community or quality of service provided by the authority to a significant number of people living or working in the locality (two or more wards) affected.
A notice was served in accordance with Part 3 (Key decisions) of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.	
General exception or special urgency (as defined in the constitution)	No
Purpose	To seek approval to recommission Domestic Abuse Support Services in Herefordshire through a competitive procurement process, delivering a sustainable, integrated system of accommodation and support that meets statutory duties and improves outcomes for victims and their children.
Decision	That: a) the commissioning of Domestic Abuse support services be approved through an open procurement process using a lot-based structure (Lot 1: Safe Accommodation Service and Lot 2: Whole-family community-based support, safe accommodation and housing advocacy), for an initial period of up to 24 months commencing on 1 April 2027 and ending on 31 March 2029, with an estimated maximum cost of

	£1.23m across the initial contract period. Provision of an optional 48 month (4 year) extension is also provided taking the full contract value to a potential £5.33m. (Note this is the scope of the council commissioned spend however attention is drawn to point 26 below as eligible providers will be able to draw down additional funding as part of the service delivery); b) authority be delegated to the Corporate Director Community Wellbeing to award the contracts for Domestic Abuse services following completion of the procurement process; approve changes to the commissioning process; manage the contracts once awarded, including varying or terminating them subject to performance, funding availability and compliance with Contract Procedure Rules; and approve any contract extensions provided for within the contracts, for a cumulative period of up to 48 months (four years) beyond the initial term, with an estimated extension value of up to £4.1 million, subject to available funding.
Reason for the decision	As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50055042
Options considered	1. Do not commission support services for victims of domestic abuse. This option is not recommended, as it would place the Council in breach of its statutory responsibilities under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. Part 4 of the Act requires councils to ensure the availability of support for victims and their children within safe accommodation, with dedicated government grant funding provided for this purpose. 2. Commission a single domestic abuse support service. This option is not recommended. Splitting the procurement into two Lots supports competition, encourages partnership and consortium approaches, and enables providers to bid for the areas where they can demonstrate the strongest expertise and value for money. It also provides the Council with greater flexibility to manage different service elements, funding requirements and future demand. 3. To deliver the domestic abuse service within the council. This option is not recommended. Providing services for domestic abuse victim-survivors safely requires specialist knowledge and expertise. At present, the council does not have existing expertise or capacity to deliver the services in-house.
Declarations of interest (see below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	17 August 2026

Councillor:	Date 11 August 2026
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Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing (Councillor Carole Gandy)
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- a record of any conflict of interest declared by any executive member who is consulted by the member which relates to the decision;

and

- in respect of any declared conflict of interest, a note of dispensation granted.