

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

Title	Herefordshire Care Home Partnerships Framework
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	28 September 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 approve the procurement of a new multi provider partnership framework for the provision of care home placements and related services. The Council is looking to formalise partnership arrangements for a minimum of 500-550 placements across all providers. Estimated value of up to £320m across the framework term (maximum of 8 years).
Decision	That: a) the procurement of a Care Home Partnership Framework

	for adults in Herefordshire be approved at a total estimated cost of up to, but not exceeding, £484.3 million over an 8 year period; and b) authority be delegated to the Corporate Director for Community Wellbeing to award and enter into contracts with the successful providers following completion of the procurement process; and c) to approve any operational decisions, extensions, variations and contractual matters within the approved budget and in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.
Reason for the decision	As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Id=50055101
Options considered	1. Do nothing. This is not recommended as the costs of spot purchased beds are rising. The council would remain dependent upon reactive spot purchasing arrangements, reducing its ability to: a. Forecast demand effectively. b. Influence quality and outcomes. c. Support provider sustainability. d. Plan future capacity. e. Respond strategically to increasing demographic pressures. f. Support integrated health and care pathways. 2. Recommission the current 9-year-old Unified Contract. This is not recommended as this would continue spot purchasing and reactive commissioning that does not support long-term market sustainability. The model does not create certainty for providers regarding future occupancy levels and income streams. This uncertainty may discourage investment in workforce development, service innovation and estate improvement, all of which are necessary to meet future demand.
Declarations of interest (see below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency)	2 October 2026

provisions apply)	
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Councillor: Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing (Councillor Carole Gandy)	Date 28 September 2026
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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.