

Written statement of a key decision
Cabinet member health and adult wellbeing

Title	Healthwatch Contract
Decision maker	Cabinet member health and adult 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	27 April 2020
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.
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	The current Healthwatch contract will expire on the 30 September 2020, therefore approval is required to go out to tender to procure a Healthwatch service for Herefordshire. This is a statutory service and a requirement under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, the council must ensure an independent Healthwatch service is available. The service can only be provided by the voluntary sector, independent of the council and partner organisation.
Decision	That: (a) the current healthwatch contract is re-procured through an open competitive tender and awarded to commence from 1 October 2020 for up to seven years with an approx. value of £980k subject to annual inflation. (b) delegated authority is given to the Director to take all operational decision necessary to implement the reprocurement and award of contract.

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=50033212
Options considered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To award a shorter contract. This is not recommended as a shorter contract would not offer the long term stability needed to encourage the successful bidder to make the strategic investment in staffing and resources that would to enable the effective delivery of this statutory service. 2. To directly award a contract through an annual Grant in Aid award used by a minority of local authorities. This is not recommended as with the alternative suggested above, the short term nature of this type of award would not encourage any long term planning by the successful bidder. Such an award could also be open to challenge as it could be seen as giving preferential treatment to a single bidder.
Declarations of interest (see below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	1 May 2020

Councillor: Cabinet member health and adult wellbeing (Councillor Pauline Crockett)	Date 27 April 2020
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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.