

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	To extend the existing blue badge and concessionary travel pass assessment service contract
Date of decision:	27 June 2024
Decision maker:	Hilary Hall - Corporate Director Community Wellbeing
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>Chief Executive scheme of delegation: CW-01</p> <p>Adult social care operation and policy provision of assessment and care management; approved mental health practitioners; deprivation of liberty functions; strategic and operational safeguarding adults policies and procedures; prevention and support services (including welfare rights, occupational therapy, financial assessments, direct payments, telecare, rapid response registered service).</p> <p>The Corporate Director Community Wellbeing is authorised to take all decisions associated with this contract, in line with the original Director decision on 4 May 2021.</p>
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	<p>The following council representatives were consulted, as part of this process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Wellbeing Service Director Communities • Independent Living Services Manager • Talk Community Digital and Engagement Lead • Community Wellbeing Control Panel
Decision made:	To approve a two year extension of the current expert assessor service for blue badges and disabled concessionary travel services contract with NRS Healthcare from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2026.
Reasons for decision:	<p>The extension, which is permissible under the contract terms, will ensure the council continues to meet its statutory obligation to provide an expert assessor blue badge and concessionary travel pass assessment service for residents in Herefordshire.</p> <p>Based on the previous year's service activity, the cost of the service for the next two years, equates to approximately £35,552.</p>
Equality considerations:	<p>Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:</p> <p>A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act b) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a

	<p>relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it</p> <p>c) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.</p> <p>The provision of this service, ensures that those with protected characteristics, particularly those with disabilities and hidden disabilities are supported to live as independently as possible, through the provision of blue badges and concessionary travel passes in Herefordshire.</p>
Highlight any associated risks / finance / legal / equality considerations:	There are no associated risks with extending this contract. The original contract was for three years, from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2024, with an option to extend by a further two years to 30 June 2026.
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	<p>Service re-procurement: This is not recommended. The provider delivers a satisfactory service for both the council and its residents and an extension is permissible under the contract terms. To re-procure the service at this time would not offer value for money.</p> <p>Bring the service in-house: This is not currently a viable option due to staff capacity, resourcing and costs.</p> <p>Do nothing: It is not viable to do nothing and allow the contract to end. The council has a statutory obligation to provide assessments for blue badge and concessionary travel passes and is currently unable to offer this service in-house.</p>
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None

Signed: Hilary Hall

Date: 27 June 2024