

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

Title	Extension of the council's Care Homes (Unified) Contract
Decision maker	<p>Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing</p> <p>Information about cabinet, including the names and contact details of the cabinet members, can be found here:</p> <p>http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=251</p>
Date of decision	16 February 2026
Report exemption class	Open
Reason for being a key decision	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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	<p>To approve the extension of the 'Care Homes Unified Contract (Residential and Nursing DPS Accredited List)' to 23rd Feb 2029.</p> <p>The current Contract is due to expire on 4th September 2026.</p>
Decision	<p>That:</p> <p>a) The period of validity of the existing DPS for the Council's nursing and residential care homes is extended until 23rd February 2029; and</p>

	<p>b) Authority is delegated to the Director for Community and Wellbeing to take all operational decisions to implement recommendation (a) and to terminate the DPS in accordance with its terms on 12 months' notice when new arrangements to deliver nursing and residential care are in place</p>
Reason for the decision	<p>As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at</p> <p>http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Id=50054118</p>
Options considered	<p>1. Alternative Option 1 – Do Nothing</p> <p>If the Council were to do nothing, the period of validity will expire after 5th September 2026. This is not an option as the Council has a statutory responsibility for provision of existing and new placements in line with the Care Act 2014 and Section 5.</p> <p>2. Alternative Option 2 – Re-commission purchasing of adult care home provision</p> <p>This would see the Council re-commission purchasing of adult care home provision by 5th September 2026. The risks identified with this approach include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Timeframe for re-commissioning is limited and would be heavily driven by time as opposed to quality. b. Significant impact to the commissioning resource, where there is critical delivery required across transformation and savings workstreams. c. Owing to a lack of familiarity with varied / new procurement options open to the Council following changes implemented by the Procurement Act 2023 there is additional uncertainty which would make completing an exercise of this scale within a short time frame higher risk. d. Procurement options appraisals work undertaken thus far indicates the most appropriate 'procurement vehicle' may not be aligned to current market conditions in Herefordshire.
Declarations of interest (see ▪ below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	

Councillor:

Date 16 February 2026

Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing
(Councillor Carole Gandy)

- 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.