

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	To extend the council's current commissioned home care framework
Date of decision:	25 June 2025
Decision maker:	Hilary Hall - Corporate Director Community Wellbeing
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>Chief Executive scheme of delegation: CW-08</p> <p>Commissioning, quality assurance and contract management relating to all ages.</p> <p>The Corporate Director Community Wellbeing is authorised to take all operational decisions associated with this contract, in line with the original Cabinet decision on 24 June 2021.</p>
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	<p>The following internal representatives were consulted, as part of this process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Wellbeing Directorate Leadership Team • Legal Team • Procurement Team <p>The council also engaged with home care providers regarding the proposals to extend.</p>
Decision made:	To approve a 12 month extension of the council's current commissioned home care framework from 1 November 2025 until 31 October 2026.
Reasons for decision:	<p>There is a permissible 12 month extension available under the current framework contract. The framework is operating successfully and ensuring Herefordshire's residents are able to obtain care and support in their own home from a choice of commissioned providers.</p> <p>The extension also provides sufficient time to engage with stakeholders and the market to successfully re-commission the framework from 1 November 2026.</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> <ul 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 relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

	<p>c) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.</p> <p>The framework contract extension will have no negative impact on any group with a protected characteristic. The home care framework is available to anyone, including those with an eligible health or social care need and those using private funding for their care, in order to provide choice and independence. Therefore, it positively helps to advance equality of opportunity between different groups.</p>
Highlight any associated risks / finance / legal / equality considerations:	There are no associated risks with extending the home care framework, as it is permissible under the current contract (4 year contract from 1 November 2021 to 31 October 2025, with an option to extend by a further 12 months until 31 October 2026).
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	<p>Re-commission a new framework: This is not recommended at this time. The current framework is operating successfully and providing Herefordshire's residents with a choice of commissioned providers to deliver care and support in their own home. The framework will be re-commissioned during 2025 and 2026, to enable a new home care framework to be in place from 1 November 2026.</p> <p>Do nothing: It is not viable to do nothing. There are approximately 750 individuals currently receiving a commissioned home care service from the council, which enables them to live safely and more independently in their own homes for longer, delaying the need for more formal and costly health or social care interventions. The council also has a statutory obligation to provide or arrange home care services for those with an eligible need, under the Care Act 2014.</p>
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None

Signed: Hilary Hall

Date: 25 June 2025