

## Notice of Non-Key Executive Decision

<b>Subject Heading:</b>	Approval to extend and vary the Home, Settle & Support contract with British Red Cross										
<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Barbara Nicholls, Strategic Director of People										
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr Gillian Ford, Cabinet Member for Adults and Health										
<b>ELT Lead:</b>	Barbara Nicholls, Strategic Director of People										
<b>Report Author and contact details:</b>	Suzanne West, Commissioner Age Well E: <a href="mailto:suzanne.west@havering.gov.uk">suzanne.west@havering.gov.uk</a>										
<b>Policy context:</b>	Delivering integrated services and working in partnerships to achieve improved outcomes and value for money services for residents.										
<b>Financial summary:</b>	<p>The 10-month extension will cost Havering £64,711.17.</p> <p>This is a joint contract with the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, the London Borough of Redbridge and the NHS North East London ICB. The cost of the 10-month extension for each partner will be as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>London Borough of Havering</td><td>£64,711.17</td></tr> <tr> <td>London Borough of Barking and Dagenham</td><td>£52,914.33</td></tr> <tr> <td>London Borough of Redbridge</td><td>£17,700.83</td></tr> <tr> <td>NHS north East London ICB</td><td>£148,526.67</td></tr> <tr> <td><b>Total Contract Value</b></td><td><b>£283,853.00</b></td></tr> </table>	London Borough of Havering	£64,711.17	London Borough of Barking and Dagenham	£52,914.33	London Borough of Redbridge	£17,700.83	NHS north East London ICB	£148,526.67	<b>Total Contract Value</b>	<b>£283,853.00</b>
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<b>Relevant Overview &amp; Scrutiny Sub Committee:</b>	People's Overview and Scrutiny Sub Committee
<b>Is this decision exempt from being called-in?</b>	The decision will be exempt from call in as it is a Non key Decision

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**The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives**

People - Supporting our residents to stay safe and well X

Place - A great place to live, work and enjoy

Resources - Enabling a resident-focused and resilient Council

## Part A – Report seeking decision

### DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION

This report is seeking approval from the Strategic Director of People to agree an extension of the Home, Settle and Support contract provided by the British Red Cross for a period of 10 months from 1st April 2025 to 31st January 2026 at a total cost to Havering of £64,711.17.

### AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

The Havering Constitution:

Part 3 of the Council's Constitution

Scheme 3.3.3 Powers common to all Strategic Directors

1. General:

1.1. To take any steps necessary for proper management and administration of allocated portfolios.

2. Contracts

4. 2 To award all contracts with a total contract value of below £1,000,000 other than contracts covered by Contract Procedure Rule 16.3.

### STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Home, Settle and Support contract is currently provided by The British Red Cross and ends on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. The service started on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 as a three-year contract with the option to extend for a further two years, which has already been utilised. There are no further extensions permitted within the current contract therefore permission is being sought to modify the current contract to allow for a further extension of 10 months.

This paper is seeking approval to modify the contract in compliance with the Council's statutory duties as set out below.

A waiver to the Council's Contracts Procedure Rules (CPR) 19 has been approved by the Cabinet member for Adults and Health.

The 10-month extension to the current provider will allow sufficient time to review the other ASC preventative services, with the intention of tendering for just one Age Well Preventative Service going forward without a loss of the essential elements of the current service until the new service is in place. This will ensure the best value for money and outcomes for residents.

The 10-month extension will be awarded with a reduced contract value. This is due to the changes in the Home First Pathway. From February 2025 referrals to the British Red Cross for Havering will either come directly from the hospital ward staff (pathway 0) only when no other support is being provided or come from a reablement assessor once they have already been assessed at home. With over 60% of the current Havering referrals coming from the Home First Pathway this change will result in a reduction of inappropriate referrals being received by

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the British Red Cross and will significantly reduce the number of calls that are made. Thus resulting in a reduction in the contract value.

### **Background**

The Home Settle and Support service has been provided by the British Red Cross since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020. It is jointly funded by Havering with LB Barking and Dagenham (LBBD) and LB Redbridge (LBR) and NHS North East London, with all Boroughs being party to the contract.

The service supports vulnerable residents from Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge to remain living independently in their own home. This could either be following an admission to hospital, an emergency department attendance or those from the community who have been identified as being at risk of being admitted into hospital. The service provides a smooth transition from hospital to the residents' home supporting individuals to feel safe. Their person centred approach focuses on achieving a range of goals agreed with the service user. Depending on the urgency or type of support required the first visit could be on the same day or within 48 hours of the referral.

The key service functions include:

- Accompaniment to appointments
- Assistance with form filling/bills
- Collection/Delivery of possessions/equipment
- Companionship
- Liaising with family/friends of Service users
- Liaising with professionals
- Light meal/drink preparation
- Light household work/bed making
- Pension/Prescription collection
- Provide advice on benefits reassure/support on ward/A&E
- Shopping
- Welfare Checks

### **Contract Value**

The full 5-year contract value (3 years + 1 year + 1 year) is £2,091,385.

This is broken down as follows:

London Borough of Havering	£776,534
London Borough of Barking and Dagenham	£317,486
London Borough of Redbridge	£106,205
NHS north East London ICB	£891,160
Total Contract Value	<b>£2,091,385</b>

The annual contract value is as follows:

London Borough of Havering	£155,306.80
London Borough of Barking and Dagenham	£63,497.20
London Borough of Redbridge	£21,241

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NHS north East London ICB	£178,232
<b>Total Annual Contract Value</b>	<b>£418,277</b>

The cost of the 10-month contract for each partner will be as follows:

London Borough of Havering	£64,711.17
London Borough of Barking and Dagenham	£52,914.33
London Borough of Redbridge	£17,700.83
NHS north East London ICB	£148,526.67
<b>Total Contract Value</b>	<b>£283,853.00</b>

This is a reduction to Havering of £77,653.40 PA which equates to a saving of £64,711.17 for the 10-month contract term.

#### **Recommendation**

The Council are seeking a modification to the contract to allow a 10 month extension for this service to the current provider, which will allow sufficient time to review the other ASC preventative services, with the intention of tendering for just one Age Well Preventative Service going forward without a loss of the essential elements of the current service but with a reduced contract value. This will ensure the best value for money and outcomes for residents until the new service is in place.

### **OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

#### **Option 1 - *Do nothing***

There is the option to do nothing and stop providing Home, Settle and Support when the contract ends on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. This option is not advised due to some of the services being provided by this contract not being provided anywhere else at present and it could leave service users at risk.

#### **Option 2 – *Recommissioning***

The contract ends at 31st March 2025, so there will not be sufficient time to complete a full recommissioning. This option has been rejected as there is not sufficient time to complete the recommissioning exercise to a good standard and this service needs to be recommissioned in conjunction with the other ASC preventative services, to ensure the best value for money and outcomes for residents.

### **PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION**

None

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**NAME AND JOB TITLE OF STAFF MEMBER ADVISING THE DECISION-MAKER**

Name: Suzanne West

Designation: Commissioning Age Well

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SW', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Date: 24/02/2025

## **Part B - Assessment of implications and risks**

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

This report seeks approval to extend an existing contract with British Red Cross for the Home, Settle and Support contract for the reasons set out within the body of this report.

The Council has a general power of competence under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 to do anything an individual may generally do subject to any statutory limitations. The arrangements now sought are in accordance with these powers. The total value of the original 5-year contract for all 4 boroughs is £2,091,385. Havering's spend under the contract is £776,534 over 5 years. The contract is above the threshold for light touch contracts as stipulated in the Public Contracts Regulations (as amended) 2015 (PCR). Therefore, any variations must be in accordance with Regulation 72 PCR.

Havering's share of the proposed extension is £64,711.17. The total value of the extension is £283,583. The extension falls under regulation 72(1)(e) where the modifications, irrespective of their value, are not substantial within the meaning of paragraph (8). An extension for a period of 10 months is unlikely to be considered substantial as the extension is on the similar terms, with a slightly reduced service and at a lower cost. Further the extension does not change the economic balance between the parties. Therefore, none of the scenarios listed in 72(8) are triggered.

As the proposed extension is not compliant with the modification provisions in Rule 19 of Council's Contracts Procedure Rules (CPR), officers have sought a waiver in accordance with CPR 14.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

This request is to extend the contract for Home, Settle, and Support run by the British Red Cross, for a further 10 months and with a cost of £64,711.

The extension contract value is for 10 months with a 50% value reduction, for the London Borough of Havering, from the current contract costs of £155,306. This reduction is due to a change in the client pathway reducing the expected demand.

The costs are paid by the London Borough of Havering and then the London Boroughs of Redbridge and Barking and Dagenham are invoiced. The ICB is funded through the BCF grant that the council receives yearly.

The current contract for Havering carried out 747 face to face visits and an additional 1081 welfare calls. The extension has removed the welfare calls leading to the reduction in the contract cost. However, If numbers didn't decrease as much as expect, or were to increase, the contract cost would not vary. The provider would be expected to manage the referrals to prioritise the most urgent and create a waiting list.

The extension is to give time to carry out a review of the ASC Preventative service and to go forward with one contract potentially at a reduced value. Due to the contract expiring at the end of March 2025 there is not enough time to carry out a full recommissioning and the extension is needed to bring it in line to be able to potentially combine with the other preventative ASC preventative contracts.



**HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS  
(AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS WHERE RELEVANT)**

The recommendations made in this report do not give rise to any identifiable Human Resources implications or risks.

**EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have 'due regard' to:

- (i) The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (ii) The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;
- (iii) Foster good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.

Note: 'Protected characteristics' are age, sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnerships, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity and gender reassignment.

The Council is committed to all of the above in the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and the employment of its workforce. In addition, the Council is also committed to improving the quality of life and wellbeing for all Havering residents in respect of socio-economics and health determinants.

An EqHIA (Equality and Health Impact Assessment) is usually carried out and on this occasion this isn't required.

The Council seeks to ensure equality, inclusion, and dignity for all in all situations.

There are not equalities and social inclusion implications and risks associated with this decision. The decision will enhance equality aspects of our provision.

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

The recommendations made in this report do not give rise to any identifiable environmental implications or risks.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

**APPENDICES**

None

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**Part C – Record of decision**

I have made this executive decision in accordance with authority delegated to me by the Leader of the Council and in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution.

**Decision**

Proposal agreed

**Details of decision maker**

Signed



Name: Barbara Nicholls

CMT Member title: Strategic Director of People

Date: 11/03/2025

**Lodging this notice**

The signed decision notice must be delivered to Committee Services, in the Town Hall.

**For use by Committee Administration**

This notice was lodged with me on \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_