



Havering
LONDON BOROUGH

Notice of Non-Key Executive Decision

Subject Heading:	Approval to accept 2025-26 government support grant for Local Stop Smoking Services enter into contract with the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID)
Decision Maker:	Mark Ansell Director of Public Health
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Gillian Ford, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Care Services
ELT Lead:	Mark Ansell, Director of Public Health
Report Author and contact details:	Alain Rosenberg, Commissioner E: alain.rosenberg@havering.gov.uk
Policy context:	<p>This grant supports Havering Council to meet its People Theme priorities of ensuring that people are helped to live independent, socially connected and healthier lives as set out in the Corporate Plan 2022/23 – 2026/27.</p> <p>Stop Smoking projects are part of Havering's Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities and Partnership agenda to reduce smoking-related harms and reduce inequalities caused by smoking across the borough.</p>
Financial summary:	<p>Funding to enhance local stop smoking provision is from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) via Office for Health Improvement & Disparities (OHID) to Havering.</p> <p>The Council will be allocated a grant total of £315,471 The grant expenditure will be on revenue costs starting in the first quarter of the financial year 2025/26</p>

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Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Sub Committee:	People's Overview & Scrutiny Sub Committee
Is this decision exempt from being called-in?	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 decision paper seeks approval:

- i) To accept the grant of £315,471 for 2025 to 2026 financial year from the Office of Health Improvement & Disparities (OHID) to invest in enhancing local stop smoking services and support; and
- ii) To delegate approval to The Director of Public Health to enter into and sign the grant terms and conditions letter from OHID

AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

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, and take any decisions, necessary for the proper management and administration of their allocated directorate

5. Grants

5.1 To apply for, accept, and thereafter spend/allocate any grant funding connected with their directorate provided that any match funding or residual liabilities can be met from the existing budget of the directorate. For the avoidance of doubt this delegation shall allow the acceptance of any grant offered/ allocated to the Council without any application.

STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Local authorities currently fund the provision of local stop-smoking services and support through the public health grant. The government is investing an additional £70 million per year to support local authority led stop smoking services and over the five financial years of 2024 to 2025 through to 2028 to 2029. In the first year, 2024-25 Havering was allocated £307,543. Havering allocation for the financial year 2025 to 2026 is £315,471. This new funding will be provided through a new section grant on top of the current public health grant allocations. The funding is ring fenced for stop smoking activities. To receive the funding, local authorities must maintain their existing spend on stop smoking services through the public health grant.

This additional allocation is part of the government’s announcement to create a ‘smoke free generation’ by stopping young people from starting smoking through legislation, and by supporting existing smokers to quit. This is through ensuring a nationwide comprehensive offer to help people stop smoking across England and to increase the number of smokers engaging with effective interventions to quit smoking. Additional funding will be provided to local authorities with the highest smoking rates to level up the communities that need the support the most and to address health disparities.

This will be achieved by:

- stimulating more quit attempts by providing more smokers with advice and swift support

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- linking smokers to the most effective interventions to quit
- boosting existing behavioural support schemes designed to encourage smokers to quit (for example the 'swap to stop' scheme)
- building capacity in local areas to respond to increased demand
- strengthening partnerships in local healthcare systems

The 2025 to 2026 grant will be paid to the local authorities every 6 months in bi-annual instalments. In the first 6 months of the financial year, local authorities will receive 70% of their allocated financial year's funding as below.

Quarter 1 – April to June 2025 £220,830

Quarter 4 – Jan to March 2026 £94,641

They will be expected to provide grant reporting to the DHSC grants team to receive the second payment. Local authorities received the grant agreement on the 12th March 2025 set out in appendix (i). The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has determined that the grant will be paid based on the understanding that the funding will be used to:

- Invest in enhancing local authority commissioned stop smoking services and support, in addition to and while maintaining existing spend on these services and support from the public health grant. This should not replace other/existing programmes which support smokers to quit, for example the tobacco dependency programme delivered within the NHS Long Term Plan;
- Build capacity to deliver expanded local stop smoking services and support;
- Build demand for local stop smoking services and support; and
- Deliver increases in the number of people setting a quit date and 4 week quit outcomes, reporting outcomes in the Stop Smoking Services Collection.

The key success indicators for this funding are:

- number of recorded quit dates set per 100,000 smokers
- percentage of people engaging with services who successfully quit smoking (recorded quit rate)
- number of recorded quits per 100,000 smokers

Local authorities will need to report data throughout the life cycle of the grant.

The proposal is to spend the grant across a number of existing and new services as follows:

Intervention	Proposed Spend 2025-2026
Scale up Community Pharmacy Stop Smoking Service across the borough- Deliver of Community Pharmacy Stop Smoking across 6 pharmacies in Havering.	£75,000.00
Varenicline Training- Training for pharmacists within pharmacies who will be offering Varenicline. A provider has been sourced for this training	£1,000.00
TDA Stop Smoking Service- Advisor led Stop Smoking Service (SSS) support for priority groups	£159,286.00
Severe Mental Illness Stop Smoking service- A dedicated SSS for people with SMI- target 60 smoker	£36,000.00
Communications campaign- To raise awareness of tobacco harm and the services available	£8,000.00
Social Change Artwork/Assets	£2,000.00

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London Digital & Helpline- 5% of allocation to pilot project from London Boroughs. This covers cost of London helpline and additional cost for 170 Smokefree App licenses for LBH	£22,525.00
CGL intervention Dec 24-May 25- Vape intervention plus kits for 100 clients	£11,000.00
TOTAL (36K PH fund inclusive)	£314,811

Please note that the above figures may fluctuate subject to service requirements during the course of the financial year.

Following approval of this decision, Havering Council will proceed with signing the statement of grant usage and accepting the grant allocation. Havering currently provides a range of stop smoking support interventions across the borough, strategically targeting priority groups through outreach in local libraries, community centres, pharmacies, and clinical settings. The proposed service model aims to expand upon the achievements of the existing program by incorporating the distribution of Varenicline. This medication, strongly recommended by pharmacists and NHS professionals, is expected to substantially increase both the number of individuals utilizing the Community Pharmacy Stop Smoking Service and the number of successful quit attempts.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Doing nothing was an option that was considered but rejected because by not accepting the funding from this grant programme, the Council will miss out on a significant opportunity to secure external funding for the Council's stop smoking services.

PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION

There is no statutory duty to consult on this decision outside of the Council's governance processes

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

Name: Alain Rosenberg

Designation: Commissioner

28/03/2025

X



Alain Rosenberg

Signed by: Alain Rosenberg

Signature:

Date: 28th March 2025

Part B - Assessment of implications and risks

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The Council has a statutory duty under the National Health Service Act 2006 (as amended by section 12 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012) to take such steps as it considers appropriate for improving the health of the people in its area. This includes a range of public health responsibilities to promote healthy living initiatives and prevent illnesses.

Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 gives the Council a general power of competence to do anything an individual can do. The recommendations in this report are in keeping with this power and the Council has the power to receive grant funding.

The use of the grant sums will need to be made pursuant to the grant terms and conditions including but not limited to the use of the grant funding and the monitoring requirements. Appendix (i) to this report sets out the main terms of the Grant Agreement including the circumstances for funding clawback (see section 23-24 Breach of conditions and recovery of grant).

The Grant is allowable under the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

For the reasons above, the Council may proceed to accept the grant funding of £315,471 for the 2025 to 2026 financial year from the OHID to invest in enhancing local stop smoking services and support.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

This decision paper seeks approval to accept the S31 local authority grant of £315,471 for 2025 to 2026 financial year from the Office of Health Improvement & Disparities (OHID) to invest in enhancing local stop smoking services and support.

The government is investing an additional £70 million per year to support local authority led stop smoking services and over the five financial years of 2024 to 2025 through to 2028 to 2029. Indicative allocations to local authorities were published on 30th December 2024. Havering allocation for second year 2025 to 2026 is £315,471. This will be paid in 2 instalments.

Quarter 1 – April to June 2025 £220,830 Quarter 4 – Jan to March 2026 £94,641. This funding will be provided through a new section 31 grant on top of the current public health grant allocations. The funding is ring fenced for stop smoking activities. To receive the funding, local authorities must maintain their existing spend on stop smoking services through the public health grant- for Havering this is £36k per year.

There are no adverse financial implications to the London Borough of Havering in accepting this funding.

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

The recommendations made in this report do not give rise to any identifiable HR risks or implications that would affect either the Council or its workforce.

EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

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Havering has a diverse community made up of many different groups and individuals. The council values diversity and believes it essential to understand and include the different contributions, perspectives and experience that people from different backgrounds bring.

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, gender, race and 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.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The recommendations made in this report do not give rise to any identifiable Environmental and Climate Change risks or implications.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

APPENDICES

Appendix (i) Letter from Office for Health Improvement & Disparities including the following 4 annexes:

Annex A: Local stop smoking services and support ring-fenced grant determination including;
Appendix 1 – Grant conditions

Annex B: Programme expectations

Annex C: Payment Arrangements

Annex D: Statement of Grant Usage (SOGU) Assurance Template example

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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


mark ansell (Mar 28, 2025 18:30 GMT)

Name: **mark ansell**

Cabinet Portfolio held:

CMT Member title:

Head of Service title

Other manager title:

Date: **28/03/2025**

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 _____






Approval of 2025-26 grant

Final Audit Report

2025-03-28

Created:	2025-03-28 (Greenwich Mean Time)
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"Approval of 2025-26 grant" History

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