

## Notice of Non-Key Executive Decision

<b>Subject Heading:</b>	Permission to vary the current adult drugs and alcohol treatment and recovery service contract to include the provision of a 10-month vaping stop smoking initiative.
<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Kathy Freeman, Strategic Director of Resources
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Gillian Ford, Cabinet Member for Health, and Adult Care Services
<b>ELT Lead:</b>	Kathy Freeman, Strategic Director of Resources
<b>Report Author and contact details:</b>	Alain Rosenberg, Commissioner <a href="mailto:Alain.rosenberg@havering.gov.uk">Alain.rosenberg@havering.gov.uk</a>
<b>Policy context:</b>	<p>This initiative will support 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>The vaping stop smoking initiative is part of the local Stop Smoking project within 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>
<b>Financial summary:</b>	<p>Funding for this vaping initiative will come from the government allocation for local stop smoking provision and is from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) via Office for Health Improvement &amp; Disparities (OHID) to Havering. The vapes provided will be provided by the national Swap to Stop Scheme also funded by OHID.</p> <p>This funding is part of the government's national commitment to achieve a smoke</p>

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	<p>free generation by 2030 by supporting local authorities to enhance their stop smoking provision. The grant will be made available under section 31(3) and section 31(4) of the Local Government Act 2003.</p> <p>The Council has been allocated a grant total of £315,741 for smoking cessation activities in the financial year 2025-26.</p> <p>Change, Grow, Live (CGL) will offer vapes as a standalone initiative within their current treatment service offer. The variation of the contract with Change, Grow, Live will be for the sum of £24,035.00. It will take place from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025- 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.</p>
<b>Relevant Overview &amp; Scrutiny Sub Committee:</b>	People
<b>Is this decision exempt from being called-in?</b>	No

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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**

## **Non-key Executive Decision**

### **DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION**

This decision paper seeks approval to vary the existing Adult Treatment & Recovery Service contract with Change, Grow, Live (CGL) to include provision of a 10-month vaping service initiative from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 at the cost of £24,035.00.

### **AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE**

Part 3.3 of the Constitution

Scheme 3.3.3

Powers common to all Strategic Directors

#### **4. 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. This delegation shall include the ability to extend or vary a contract up to and including a value of £1,000,000 (provided that the extension is in line with the existing contractual provisions.)

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### **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. Indicative allocations to local authorities were published on 4 October 2023. The Havering allocation for first year 2024 to 2025 was £307,543. In 2025 to 2026 this increased to £315,741.

This new 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. Acceptance of this grant has been authorised through a separate non key ED.

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. 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

In order to boost existing behaviour support schemes to encourage smokers to quit, particularly those from one of the groups with highest smoking prevalence, those receiving treatment for drug and alcohol addiction (smoking prevalence 60% for alcohol and non-opiates misuse, 69.7% all opiate misuse), a specialist vape service (using the government Swap to Stop scheme) will be delivered by the current treatment provider Change, Grow Live. The vape provision will be available to all individuals engaged with the service, as well as those entering treatment within the period of the pilot.

The intervention model will include:

- Very Brief Advice (VBA+) to service users identified as smokers,
- Carbon Monoxide (CO) level testing
- Provision of a vape starter kit and follow on liquids via direct delivery.
- Referrals for onward support made to the Specialist Advisor Stop Smoking Service currently delivered by Barking and Dagenham Council's Healthy Lifestyle team. This service will contact the client and offer a full, tailored, 12 week programme of support to further support them in making a successful quit.
- Follow up consultation at 4 weeks for confirmation of smoking status
- Monitoring of uptake and referrals

Following approval of this decision, Havering Council will proceed with a 10-month variation (1<sup>st</sup> June 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026) to the existing CGL contract for the provision of the adult drugs and alcohol treatment and recovery service.

The Council have a contract with CGL, which commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 for a period of 5 years (with an option to extend for a further three years), to provide drug and alcohol treatment and recovery service. The value of the contract is £1.4M per annum. In December 2024, the Council varied the contract so that CGL Havering delivered the vape intervention to reduce smoking at a cost of £31K. Since its launch, the service has been running successfully, achieving the target of distributing 80 vape kits over a period of 6 months. Two new staff members were recruited to support delivery of the service, which is now offered from both CGL hubs and satellite locations. These staff members have completed NCSCT Level 2 training, and the wider team has also undertaken vape training delivered by the Elfa Pro Team.

In addition to the initial stock received in December 2024, CGL has recently received further vape supplies to support ongoing service delivery. The specialist stop smoking service continues to provide fortnightly satellite support from the CGL premises acting as a smooth pathway for people requiring more intensive support than the lighter touch approach being offered by CGL. The service has been instrumental in assisting residents to reduce their dependence on smoking, which in turn has enhanced their financial resilience by significantly lowering cigarette-related expenses. Furthermore, it has offered vital support for substance dependency reduction and provided comprehensive care to pregnant residents, leading to beneficial results for both the mother and the child.

Data shows that drug and alcohol misuse and smoking are closely linked, thus having one provider deliver the service means resources can be used more efficiently.

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

This is the only provider in the borough working with people with substance misuse and provides a treatment programme. In addition, CGL has achieved the targets agreed for the initial 6-month vaping stop smoking initiative and the 10-month programme would provide a welcome opportunity for residents to reduce their dependency on tobacco. The provider will be able to continue identifying smokers, providing harm reduction advice (making every count count), promoting the vaping provision, and facilitating engagement.

Provide the service in –house – this is not possible as the Council do not have the resources in house to deliver this service.

Undertake a procurement – due to the need for the funding to be spent within this financial year and the funding amount being relatively small, this is not appropriate and would take too long for delivery of service.

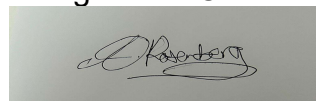
### **PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION**

None required

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

Name: Alain Rosenberg

Designation: Commissioner



Signature:

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> June 2025

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

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

The Council has an existing contract with Change, Grow, Live (CGL) for adult treatment and recovery services and it is making a decision to vary the contract. The Council has the power to vary the contract for these services through section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, which allows the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of its functions. Additionally, the Council has the power to vary the contract through its general power of competence in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 to do anything that individuals generally may do. There are limitations on the general power of competence, but the limitations do not apply to this decision.

The existing contract is for a value of £1.4M per annum or £10.6M over the maximum life of the contract. This is above the threshold for light touch services under the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (as amended) (PCR) and therefore any variation must be in compliance with Regulation 72 PCR and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules (CPR).

The proposed variation has a value of £24K which is below the threshold for light touch services and less than 10% of the original contract value. The proposed variation is in accordance with Regulation 72(1)(f) and CPR 19.3 and thus the Council can vary the contract as set out in the body of the report.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

This decision paper seeks approval to vary the existing Adult Treatment & Recovery Service contract with Change, Grow, Live (CGL) to include provision of a 10-month advice and vaping service initiative from 1st June 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 at the cost of £24,035. The spend will be funded from the Council's smoking cessation grant for which the council has been allocated £315,741 in 2025-26. The contract spend of £24,035.00 can be accommodated within the overall planned expenditure associated with this grant and meetings the grant conditions. Any associated financial risk has been successfully mitigated, as the provider demonstrated value for money and achieved expected outcomes within the six-month period of 2024-2025. The total expenditure for this period was £31,007.76.

CGL are the only substance misuse treatment provider working within the borough at this time and a variation of our existing contract with them represents the most expeditious way of reaching the required group within the timeframes required (i.e. by the end of this financial year). This is the first time the Council will have employed CGL to undertake smoking cessation activities, but CGL has experience of delivering stop smoking initiatives in other boroughs. Secondly, substance misuse clients seen by CGL are among the groups with high smoking prevalence in the borough and therefore provision of support to stop smoking will benefit their health. Contract management will monitor the effectiveness of the service against key metrics such as the number of people offered kits and the number abstaining from smoking at 28 days.

### **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.

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### **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.

The action undertaken will include monitoring how the service meets the needs of all eligible users, including those from ethnic minority communities and the disabled. The Council will also ensure that potential providers have undertaken equality training and adhere to the Council's Fair to All Policy or their own equivalent.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

None

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**



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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 Kathy Freeman  
Kathy Freeman (Jun 20, 2025 13:30 GMT+1)

Name: **Kathy Freeman**

Cabinet Portfolio held:

CMT Member title:

Head of Service title

Other manager title:

Date: **20/06/2025**

**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 \_\_\_\_\_