

Notice of Non-Key Executive Decision

Subject Heading:	Permission to end the Active Homecare Framework early on the 31st of March 2026 instead of the 31 st of July 2026.
Decision Maker:	Barbara Nichols, Strategic Director of People.
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Ford, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Care Services.
ELT Lead:	Barbara Nichols, Strategic Director of People.
Report Author and contact details:	Alain Rosenberg, Commissioner Alain.rosenberg@havering.gov.uk
Policy context:	At a local level, this contract supports Havering Council meet its priorities in its Corporate Plan 2024/25. This plan sets out how the Council intends to invest and transform the borough with an emphasis on improving the lives of vulnerable children, adults and families. In summary, this framework ensures the Council fulfils its aim of ensuring that the needs of the most vulnerable are met and that people are supported to be healthy and active.
Financial summary:	There are no costs associated with ending the Active Homecare Framework early.
Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Sub Committee:	People
Is this decision exempt from being called-in?	Yes

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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 from the Strategic Director of People to end the Active Homecare Framework early on the 31st of March 2026 instead of the 31st of July 2026.

AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

The Havering 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, in accordance with applicable Council policies and procedures.

STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

This decision paper is seeking approval to end the Active Homecare Framework ahead of schedule in order to align the conclusion of the current arrangements with the launch of a new, consolidated Adult Social Care framework.

Advancing the end date to 31 March 2026 will prevent any overlap or gaps between contractual periods and enable a smooth transition to the more comprehensive system that will cover Residential and Nursing Care, Homecare, and Supported Living Placements.

The decision to seek early termination is primarily driven by our commitment to streamlining service delivery and improving outcomes for those who rely on adult social care. Continuing the existing framework until its original end date would result in a misalignment with the implementation of the new, unified framework, which could create operational challenges, confusion for providers, and potential discontinuity in care. By concluding the current framework early, we can ensure all services transfer seamlessly into the new arrangements, supporting continuity and stability both for providers and service users.

Additionally, this approach simplifies the procurement process, reduces fragmentation in commissioning, and allows us to establish clear, robust contractual arrangements across all sectors of adult social care from 1 April 2026. Ultimately, requesting this decision enables us to optimise resources, support quality of care, and safeguard the interests of our residents as we move towards a more integrated and effective care system.

In summary, it is recommended that approval be granted to end the Active Homecare Framework early. This will facilitate a coordinated transition to the new Adult Social Care framework, ensuring uninterrupted service provision and a stronger, more unified approach to meeting the needs of those who depend on our care services.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

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Option 1 – Allow the Active Homecare Framework to Continue to End Date

An alternative option is to permit the Active Homecare Framework to continue until its current end date, maintaining existing contractual arrangements until their scheduled conclusion. However, this approach is not recommended as it would create a mismatch between the expiry of the present framework and the start of the new consolidated Adult Social Care framework. This misalignment could lead to operational challenges, such as service overlaps or discontinuities, increased complexity for providers, and confusion for service users, while also postponing the advantages of streamlined commissioning and integrated service delivery. Therefore, early termination of the current framework is preferred to ensure a smoother transition and to deliver improved outcomes for residents.

PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION

As part of the process for replacing the existing Active Care Framework, a series of market engagement events have taken place.

During these online engagement sessions, care providers have gained a thorough understanding of the framework's structure, including placement cost guidelines, the adoption of the System C Marketplace brokerage platform, and instructions for updating their details via the Provider Portal. Providers have access to key contacts such as Alain Rosenberg, Commissioner, and Laura Wheatley, Portfolio Manager, who serve as primary points of contact to address specific queries and facilitate information flow. This coordinated approach aims to streamline the commissioning process, maintain market stability, and ensure client-centred service delivery.

The sessions delved into key aspects of the procurement framework, such as provider participation criteria, contractual obligations, and expectations for service delivery. Providers had the opportunity to pose questions, share their insights, and provide feedback on specific elements of the specifications and contract requirements. Discussions addressed operational challenges, including geographical coverage, cost structures, and quality assurance mechanisms, fostering a cooperative approach to future service delivery.

This extensive engagement process is designed to incorporate provider expertise into the framework, ensuring the final structure effectively meets the needs of both service users and care providers, while upholding transparency and market sustainability.

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

Name: Alain Rosenberg

Designation: Commissioner

Signature:



Date: 26.08.2025

Part B - Assessment of implications and risks

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The current Framework Agreement provides for the termination by giving the service provider no more than 3 months' notice to terminate the contract.

Mitigations should be put in place if the new procurement is delayed so that there will be no service disruption between the termination of this Framework Agreement and the commencement of the new consolidated Adult Social Care services framework agreement.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

This decision is paper is seeking approval to end the Active Homecare Framework early on the 31st of March 2026 instead of the 31st of July 2026.

This decision is being taken in order to align the conclusion of the current arrangements with the launch of a new, consolidated Adult Social Care framework.

The recommendations in this report do not give rise to any identifiable financial risks or implications for the council.

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

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, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnerships, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex/gender, and sexual orientation.

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

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

There are no 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 Environmental or Climate Change implications or risks.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

Barbara Nicholls

[Barbara Nicholls \(Aug 26, 2025 17:17:02 GMT+1\)](#)

Name: Barbara Nicholls

Cabinet Portfolio held:

CMT Member title:

Head of Service title Strategic Director of People

Other manager title:

Date: 26/08/2025

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 _____