

## Notice of NON KEY Executive Decision containing exempt information

This Executive Decision Report is part exempt and Appendices 1 is not available for public inspection as it contains exempt information within the meaning of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information

<b>Subject Heading:</b>	Approval to abandon the procurement for the Integrated Community Smokefree Support Service
<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Kathy Freeman, Strategic Director of Resources
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Gillian Ford, Cabinet Member for Adults and Health
<b>ELT Lead:</b>	Kathy Freeman, Strategic Director of Resources
<b>Report Author and contact details:</b>	Alain Rosenberg Email: <a href="mailto:alain.rosenberg@havering.gov.uk">alain.rosenberg@havering.gov.uk</a>
<b>Policy context:</b>	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. 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.
<b>Financial summary:</b>	There are no financial implications.

**Non-key Executive Decision**

<b>Relevant Overview &amp; Scrutiny Sub Committee:</b>	Resources Overview & Scrutiny Board
<b>Is this decision exempt from being called-in?</b>	<b>The decision will be exempt from call in as it is a Non key Decision</b>

**Non-key Executive Decision**

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

People - Supporting our residents to stay safe and well

Place - A great place to live, work and enjoy

Resources - Enabling a resident-focused and resilient Council X

## **Part A – Report seeking decision**

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

This decision paper seeks the approval of the Strategic Director of Resources to abandon the procurement of the Integrated Community Smoke Free Support service.

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

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**

Following the launch of the tender for an Integrated Community Smoke free Support service, additional central Government funding for smoking cessation services was announced. This funding was not confirmed at the point of publication of the tender and therefore was not incorporated into the procurement. Introducing it retrospectively would have compromised the core procurement principles of fairness, transparency and equal treatment.

At tender publication, both the service specification and financial envelope accurately reflected the funding available at that time. Since publication, a material change in the financial envelope has fundamentally altered the commissioning context from that set out in the original tender.

Proceeding with the current procurement would not allow the Council to transparently incorporate this increased funding into the contract value or specification without risk of challenge to the decision, nor to test the market's response to a revised financial offer. Abandoning the procurement therefore enables the Council to align the service scope and contract value with the updated funding position and to run a competitive process that better supports value for money, deliverability and long-term sustainability.

The Director of Public Health has been consulted on this decision and has confirmed approval for the proposed expenditure from the allocated OHID funding, as set out in this report. In his role as the Council's senior strategic lead for health improvement, the Director of Public Health provides leadership on preventing ill health, reducing health inequalities, and improving population health outcomes. This includes setting the overall direction for health improvement activity, ensuring that priorities are evidence-led, aligned with national and local strategies, and focused on population need, while overseeing the effective and appropriate use of the Public Health Grant to support delivery of agreed health improvement objectives.

In summary, it is recommended that the current procurement process for the Integrated Community Smoke Free Support service be formally abandoned.

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It is envisaged that the service specification will be updated with the contract value increased to £1,200,000 over four years to reflect new central Government funding and the opportunity re-tendered through a new competitive process that ensures fair and effective market participation, better addresses financial constraints, and aligns the commissioning approach with the revised funding envelope. This course of action will enable meaningful market engagement, ensure compliance with procurement regulations, and support value for money and deliverability.

**Further approval will be sought for the revised procurement at a later stage.**

The Public Health Grant is a ring-fenced national funding allocation provided by the Department of Health and Social Care, via the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, to support local authorities to improve population health and reduce health inequalities. From 2026 onwards, the grant brings together previously separate funding streams into a single consolidated Public Health Grant, including dedicated allocations for smoking cessation, drug and alcohol treatment, and other prevention services. The purpose of the grant is to enable the Council to commission and deliver evidence-based prevention and early intervention services that address the leading causes of poor health, target health inequalities in priority populations, and support residents to live longer, healthier lives, while ensuring clear accountability, value for money and compliance with national grant conditions.

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

Continue with procurement – bids would need to be evaluated and awarded as tendered, which would mean the increased funding would not form part of the contract.

### **PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION**

No formal consultation required

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

Name: Alain Rosenberg

Designation: Commissioner

Signature:



Alain Rosenberg (Apr 29, 2026 14:14:58 GMT+1)

Date: 29.04.2026

## Non-key Executive Decision

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

#### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

The Council has the general power of competence under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 to do anything an individual can do provided it is not prohibited by other legislation.

Further, regulation 15 of The Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023, permits the Local Authority to abandon a procurement at any time before an award is made.

The Council can rely on both of these provisions to abandon the procurement due to an increase in the budget now available for this contract.

Further, legal implications are included in Exempt Appendix 1.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

This decision paper is seeking approval to abandon the procurement of the Integrated Community Smoke Free Support service.

There are no costs associated with the abandonment of the procurement process. The alternative services of Community Pharmacy Stop Smoking Service and the Smokefree App which residents will be sign posted to in the absence of an integrated community smoke free support service are existing service provisions and no increase in costs are envisaged at this stage.

With a significant element of 26/27 now likely to have no Integrated Community Smoke Free Support service being offered the spend of public health grant in this year is likely to be less than expected. The Public Health Grant is ringfenced and as such any underspend at year end will be transferred to the Public Health Reserve for use in future years. In order to make the best use of the grant, it is recommended that spending plans are reviewed. Consideration should be given to whether the funds will be utilised on other services in year or allocated to the Public Health Reserve and utilised in future years on Integrated Community Smoke Free Support service.

The final implications associated with any revised procurement process will be assessed as part of that decision making process.

#### **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**

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.

## **Non-key Executive Decision**

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:

the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;

the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;

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 socioeconomics and health determinants.

An EqHIA (Equality and Health Impact Assessment) has been carried out.

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 or climate change implications or risks.

## **HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

There are no Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) implications arising from the decision to abandon this procurement. The impact will be mitigated through a subsequent procurement exercise for a new service that will continue to support residents to quit smoking. The service is not being discontinued without replacement; rather, the current procurement is being abandoned to secure a revised service model through a new procurement process.

In the interim, and prior to the commencement of the new service, residents will be able to access smoking cessation support through the Community Pharmacy Stop Smoking Service, which is being expanded from four to ten pharmacies to ensure broad coverage across the borough. In addition, residents will have access to the Smokefree App, which provides 24/7 real-time support, online resources, and up to 12 weeks of free nicotine replacement therapy or vapes, delivered directly to the individual's home at no additional cost.

Upon implementation of the new service, the existing interventions will be maintained and delivered alongside the Integrated Community Smokefree Support Service.

**Non-key Executive Decision**

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Not Applicable

**APPENDICES**

Legal Implications (Exempt)

**Non-key Executive Decision**

**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 (May 1, 2026 16:56:20 GMT+1)

Name: Kathy Freeman

Cabinet Portfolio held:

CMT Member title:

Head of Service title: Strategic Director of Resources

Other manager title:

Date: 01/05/2026

**Lodging this notice**

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

**For use by Committee Administration**

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

Signed \_\_\_\_\_