

Officer Decision Record – Executive Decision

If Key Decision: Decision Ref. No.

B081/25

OFFICER DECISION RECORD ⁱ

Officer Key Decisions are subject to the Council's Call-In Procedure (Annex 9 of the Council's Constitution <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/freedom-of-information-and-council-data/open-data-statistics-about-hertfordshire/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/who-we-are-and-what-we-do.aspx>)

Subject: Request for a further one-year contract extension (to March 2028 if required) to the Provision of Housing Related Support (Hostels) for Young People aged 16 to 25 years (current services to continue from 1 April 2025 until 31 March 2027) via Single Tender Action

Type of Decision: Executive

Key Decision (Executive Functions only): Yes

Executive Member/Committee Chairman: Jo Fisher

Portfolio (Executive Functions only): Childrens Services

Officer Contact: Veronica Bennett

Tel: 07580 742865

1. Decision

Request for a further one-year contract extension (to March 2028 if required) to the Provision of Housing Related Support (Hostels) for Young People aged 16 to 25 years (current services to continue from 1 April 2025 until 31 March 2027) via Single Tender Action.

2. Reasons for the decision

This decision has previously been approved (in 2025) to award 5 Providers for 2 years (1 April 2025 to 31 March 2027), but a contract extension for a possible 3rd year (to March 2028) is now being requested due to Local Government Reorganisation proposals. This is formal notice is pursuant to Regulation 32 of the 2015 Contract Regulations (for Hightown Housing Association and Peabody) - Award of Single Tender Action contracts to provide Housing Related Support for 16- and 17-year-olds, Hightown Housing Association, One YMCA, Paradigm Housing Group, Peabody Trust and Sapphire Independent Housing will rely on HCC Contract Regulations in accordance with 6.3. A 1-year contract extension / variation is being requested to cover April 2027 to March 2028).

- Hightown Housing Association
- One YMCA
- Paradigm Housing Group
- Peabody
- Sapphire Independent Housing

The contract extension / variation to be delivered from the 1 April 2027 with all five Providers previously agreeing to a 2-year contract to continue their Housing Related Support services to young people aged 16 to 25 years (including Care Leavers aged 18+) to 31st March 2028. HCC's CS Board recently (February 2025) approved additional spend initially for 2025 to 2026 (including a rise in National Insurance rates) to maintain the current service, but subsequently the Executive Director for Children's Services and Education has agreed to the optional 3rd year if required.

3. Alternative options considered and rejected

A delay to commencement of contract was considered, but this was not possible due to requirement of a continuation of HRS services to Young People (including Care Leavers), including the new request for a possible 3rd year in answer to the issues related to Hertfordshire County Council becoming a unitary authority.

HCC's CS Board recently (February 2025) approved additional spend initially for 2025 to 2026 (including a rise in National Insurance rates) to maintain the current service and in response to this optional 3rd year.

4. Consultation (see *Summary of Requirements below*)

Was any Councillor consulted?

No (Previously consulted)

If yes:

(a) Comments of Executive Member/Committee Chairman (*delete as applicable*)

(b) Comments of other consultees

5. Any conflict of interest declared by a councillor who has been consulted in relation to the decision

No

6. I am proceeding with the proposed decision.

Signed: ...Jo Fisher.....

Title: Executive Director for Children's Services and Education

Date: 22/07/2025

Copies of record to:

- All consultees
- hard & electronic copy (if required to be made available for public inspection) to Democratic Services Manager - Room 213 County Hall.ⁱⁱ

Summary of Requirements to Inform/Consult Councillors

Significance of Proposed Action	Controversial	Relevant Councillor(s) to be Consulted
Technical/Professional/ Routine	No	No need to inform or consult councillors
Technical/Professional/	Yes	Executive Functions:

Routine		Consult relevant Lead Executive Member and, where appropriate, Local Councillor Non-Executive Functions: Relevant Committee Chairman and, where appropriate, Local Councillor
Local	No	Executive Functions: Inform Lead Executive Member and Local Councillor Non-Executive Functions: Inform Local Councillor
Local	Yes	Executive Functions: Consult Lead Executive Member and Local Councillor Non-Executive Functions: Consult Local Councillor
General or County-wide	No	Executive Functions: Consult relevant Lead Executive Member (s) Non-Executive Functions: Consult relevant Committee Chairman
General or County-wide	Yes	Executive Functions: Consult relevant Lead Executive Member (s) and the Leader of the Council Non-Executive Functions: Consult relevant Committee Chairman/Leaders all Political Groups