

OFFICER DECISION RECORD (ODR2)

This form records an officer decision and is published in accordance with the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014.

Date of Decision	21.10.2025
Decision Taker (including Job Title)	Helen Charlesworth-May: Executive Director of Adults, Health and Integration.
Specific Delegation	Chapter 2 Part 5 of the Constitution sets out the Scheme of Delegation to officers of the Council. Paragraph 12 of Part 5 enables any officer given delegations under the Constitution to authorise other officers to undertake the functions delegated to them, in writing through a Local Scheme of Delegation. The decision taker is authorised under the Adult Social Care, Health & Integration Directorate Scheme of Delegation as Acting Director of Commissioning and Integration (Adults, Health and Integration).
Brief Description of Decision	Our commissioning intentions for the recommission of the 'Accommodation with Care' contract (Residential and Nursing Care Homes) was recently approved at Committee on 22.09.25, ahead of the contract expiry date 31st March 2026. Our commissioning intentions are to Direct Award any existing AWC Providers who have already been awarded a place on the framework, via the CHEST portal tendering process. Any care homes in Cheshire East who are not currently onboarded on to the AWC framework will need to complete the full tender process on the CHEST in order to be onboarded. More details below.
Reasons for the Decision and alternatives considered	As a result of recommissioning this AWC contract, residents will be able to remain in their current care homes and would not risk the Council not satisfying its statutory duties. By recommissioning this service, we will be alleviating the concerns and risk of homelessness. We intend to direct award any existing in borough AWC providers who have already been awarded a place on the framework via the CHEST tendering process (Framework A). This will mean they won't have to go

	through the full tendering process again, which will help our existing providers and act as an incentive for them to want to sign up to the new AWC contract. However, any care homes in Cheshire East who are not currently onboarded on to the AWC framework will need to complete the full tender process on the CHEST (Framework B) to ensure the new homes understand the Council's expectations and deliver the high standard of care our residents require. If necessary, we will open Framework C at a later date for any additional providers who wish to join the AWC framework. These could be homes who have previously chosen to not join, previously failed to be awarded a place on the framework, or any new care homes who have been built after April 2026. This will ensure no homes are excluded and will all have a chance to bid for a place on the AWC framework. All providers listed on framework A & framework B above, will all have access to E-Brokerage and have the opportunity to bid for care packages (for the specific LOTs they are signed up to) regardless of which framework they are listed against. In order to abide by the Care Act, we promote the efficient and effective operation and sustainability of a market in services for meeting the care and support needs of individuals. We are working towards transforming the care and support offer to ensure we have greater capacity and an improved range of services that are value for money. We will work with providers to reset, reimagine and reshape care homes, so they can deliver services that are more responsive, innovative and aligned with the needs of our residents.
Member consultation and interests declared	Our commissioning intentions above were recently approved at DLT and Adults Committee
Significant Decision	YES
Legal Implications	I approve and endorse this ODR on the following basis: • It complies with the Council's constitution; and • Is entered into further to the appropriate

	authority and delegation. We have considered the procurement implications of taking the approach of having separate frameworks. We have acknowledged the practical considerations in requiring the existing providers to rejoin a framework and we have highlighted the requirement that the frameworks provide equal opportunities to bidders so as not to disadvantage any of them.
Financial Implications	This decision will not create new expenditure; it continues current commitments as part of the Council's duties under the Care Act. Actual expenditure incurred during the next 7 years is likely to vary due to inflation, demand shifts, and commissioning changes. It's difficult to quantify the impact of the many variables influencing the total expenditure with any certainty at this stage.
Background Papers	Approved Committee Paper: September 2025



Signed

21.10.25

Dated

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