

RUSHMOOR BOROUGH COUNCIL RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION



Decision Taken: Grosvenor Road Intensive Housing Support Contract Direct Award to Home Group

DECISION MAKER

Keith Dibble Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning

DECISION AND THE REASON FOR IT

The Council's Cabinet agreed that, following Hampshire County Council's decision to withdraw social exclusion funding on 31st March 2026, a direct award contract be made to Home Group on 20th January 2026 to deliver intensive housing related support at Grosvenor Road in Aldershot. The value of the contract is £460,000 over the financial years 2026/27 and 2027/28 and is therefore a key decision.

Soft market testing was carried out, however due to time constraints and Home Group, as building owner, requesting to deliver the service within budget an exemption request under the council's contract standing orders has been made and approved.

The economic and practical arguments, including the fact that "... *Home Group confirmed on 18th December, that as building owners, they are not willing to enter into a lease agreement with another service provider*" are valid grounds for seeking an exemption in order that the Council can continue to supply the necessary services to this vulnerable group without reducing the quality of services and without increasing costs.

The pressures to supply the services and make a direct award are, pursuant to s41 Procurement Act 2023 necessary, unavoidable and cannot be awarded on the basis of a competitive procedure given the property owner's refusal to grant a lease to another provider. In any event the only other local provider capable of supplying the services is "*generally supportive*" of the Council's approach which means there is, de facto, only one supplier to manage Grosvenor House. The other potential supplier operates separate sites within the borough and, as per the Cabinet report, this is "...*particularly beneficial where one provider needs to exclude a resident who then has an alternative place to stay run by a different organisation*". Thus, this affords some protection for staff working at the sites as well as affording another option for vulnerable residents.

Although the published guidelines for making a direct award do not reference a homelessness service, the unusual nature of the services and consequence of not supplying them in the proposed manner could have serious potential adverse human consequences within the Borough which the Procurement Act 2023 is not designed to address.

It can also be argued that this is a contract for social services with accommodation which is subject to the Light Touch regime pursuant to para 1 of Schedule 1 to the Procurement Act 2023, in which case the proposed total contract value of £460,000 for the current, proposed 2-year period is sub-threshold under that regime. It is understood that the proposed extension of two years is included only at the behest of Hampshire County Council to allow for LGR rather than being a Council requirement.

The contract has been prepared by the council's contract and procurement solicitor and agreed by Home Group. The council's Executive Head of Operations can sign the contract, and the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Planning is asked to authorise sign off.

DATE DECISION TAKEN

22-2-26

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Two alternatives were considered by Cabinet and are set out in the Cabinet report dated 20th January 2026. Both options were rejected based on potential risks to the council.

ANY CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

(conflict of interests of any executive member who is consulted by the officer which relates to the decision. A note of dispensation should be attached).

None

Signed _____


(Decision Maker –Keith Dibble Portfolio Holder Housing and Planning)

Signed _____


(Executive Head of Service – James Duggin)**Designation: Key Decision**

Please send completed form to Chris Todd, Democratic and Customer Services

Guidance notes for using this form**Recording executive decisions**

New regulations¹ came into effect on 10 September 2012, under which council officers and cabinet members are required to record every decision they take which is connected to the discharge of a function which is the responsibility of the executive (Cabinet). This applies whether the decision is taken by an officer or an individual cabinet member. This record must be published on the Council's website.

Which executive decisions must be recorded?

The regulations state that any decision connected to the discharge of a function, which is the responsibility of the Cabinet, must be recorded and published. However, at Rushmoor we are restricting the recording requirement to those decisions that are 'closely' (rather than remotely)

¹ The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

onnected with the discharge of a function of the Cabinet. For guidance, this includes any decision that is either:

- A 'key decision'; or
- Delegated to an officer(s)/cabinet member at a Cabinet meeting; or
- Delegated to an officer in consultation with a cabinet member (within the scheme of delegation or authorised at Cabinet); or
- Any executive decision, whether or not it is in the Cabinet Scheme of Delegation, where there is a reasonable expectation of public interest in the matter being decided because it may have an impact on a community living or working in Rushmoor; or
- The subject of urgent action outside the Scheme of Delegation

Decisions which are administrative in nature – for example, purchasing low value items or are otherwise minor or routine, need not be recorded.

In addition, some decisions would be considered exempt from publication because, for example, they affect particular individuals rather than the public in general, or concern the business affairs of any person (including the Council) where the information could be claimed to be commercially sensitive.

What are key decisions?

Key decisions are not taken by individual cabinet members and are not usually taken by officers, unless specifically delegated by the Cabinet.

A key decisions is one which is likely to:

- result in the Council incurring expenditure or making savings which are significant in as much as they will have a material effect on the level of Council tax or balances or contingencies in relation to the Council's overall budget; or
 - be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards within the Borough