

	Decision for Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Leisure 27 March 2025
	Report from the Director of Public Health, Leisure and Parks
	Lead Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Leisure
APPROVAL TO WAIVE CONTRACT STANDING ORDERS TO PERMIT PROCUREMENT OF THE PROVISION OF SOFTWARE SOLUTION FOR DELIVERY OF THE NHS HEALTH CHECKS PROGRAMME THROUGH A DIRECT AWARD.	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Non-Key Decision
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
List of Appendices:	None
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Raafia Arshad Butt Senior Public Health Strategist Email: raafia.butt@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report concerns the procurement of a technical IT and software solution to support the delivery of the 40–74-Year-Old NHS Health Checks Programme for Brent residents. The current contract will end on the 31st of March 2025.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to seek member approval to waive Contract Standing Orders to enable a direct award of a contract for the provision of software for delivery of the NHS health checks programme through a direct award route. The case for direct award, as opposed to a full tender process, is set out in the detail below.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

That the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Leisure, having consulted with the Leader:

- 2.1 Approves an exemption pursuant to Contract Standing Order 84(a) of the requirement to tender a contract for the provision of an IT and software solution to support the technical delivery of the NHS Health Checks Programme for a duration of three years in sum of £552,950 in accordance with paragraph 13 of Part 3 of the Constitution.

3.0 Detail

3.1 Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context

- 3.1.1 The Brent Borough Plan Priorities 2023 – 2027 that are most relevant to the procurement of the NHS Health Checks IT solution are *A Healthier Brent* and *Thriving Communities*.

3.2 Preventative Health:

- 3.2.1 The programme enables early identification of cardiovascular risks and promotes prevention. A bespoke IT system, integrated with GP practices, will enhance patient management and referrals. With higher local rates of diabetes (8.0% compared to 7.7% nationally) and hypertension in Black and Asian communities, tailored digital tools are essential to address inequalities.
- 3.2.2 This procurement is also in alignment with Brent's Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities: *"Healthy Lives"*, *"Staying Healthy"* and *"Healthy Ways of Working"*.

3.3 Background

- 3.3.1 Officers are seeking the approval for a waiver of the Contract Standing Orders (CSO) to allow for a direct award of the contract for the software solution required for the NHS Health Checks Programme in Brent. Due to the technical nature, bespoke requirements and the unique capabilities needed, it is necessary to waive the CSOs.
- 3.3.2 The NHS Health Checks Programme is designed to provide preventative health checks to individuals aged 40-74, focusing on early detection and intervention for cardiovascular diseases. This programme is critical in addressing health inequalities in the borough, and it is essential that the solution procured not only seamlessly integrates with GP clinical systems but also enhances service delivery through a tailored and scalable digital infrastructure. The preferred software solution offers:
- Seamless GP System Integration – Ensuring minimal administrative burden and reducing the risk of fragmented data management.
 - A Referral Marketplace – Direct pathways to lifestyle services, including exercise referral schemes, the National Diabetes Prevention Programme, and social prescribing.
 - Real-Time Data Analytics – Allowing Public Health Officers to monitor uptake, identify health trends, and target interventions more effectively,

ultimately improving health outcomes across the borough.

3.3.3 The technical specifications of the required solution are highly specialised, and generic off-the-shelf IT systems cannot meet the level of customisation required. The bespoke nature of the solution ensures:

- Compliance with NHS Information Governance (IG) standards and clinical safety requirements, which are non-negotiable for safeguarding patient data.
- Custom-built functionality tailored to Brent's specific health priorities, unlike other systems that offer fixed, one-size-fits-all models.
- Integration with the EMIS system, ensuring continuity of care and reducing the risk of duplicated or missing health data, a key issue in previous systems.
- A user-centric design that improves patient engagement and facilitates seamless referrals between services.

3.3.4 The decision to pursue a direct award is based on the unique and highly specialised nature of the required solution, rather than solely on time constraints. Market research has indicated that while alternative providers exist, they lack the bespoke development capabilities necessary to align with Brent's strategic vision for NHS Health Checks. The selected provider is the only one that can deliver a solution that is fully tailored to Brent's needs, integrating seamlessly with GP systems, supporting patient referrals, and providing real-time data analytics to improve health outcomes.

3.3.5 Therefore, a waiver of the CSO is justified in this case as the expiration of the current contract on 31st March 2025 highlights the critical need for a smooth transition. It is essential for the new contract to be in place promptly to ensure the timely transfer of data from the previous provider to the new provider during the mobilisation period.

4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

4.1 Consultation has been undertaken taken with the Corporate Director of Strategy and Reform, stakeholders including Northwest London ICB as well as the relevant cabinet member and the Leader.

5.0 Financial Considerations

5.1 The total value of the three plus one-year contract is £552,950 exclusive of VAT. Due to the development costs; the costs are considerably higher in year 1, but this reduces to £120k for year 3.

5.2 The full cost of the Contract will be funded from the existing Public Health budget.

- 5.3 Brent Financial Services were consulted to review the costings for the contract. This included the development and design costs in year one, as well as the ongoing maintenance costs for the subsequent years.

6.0 Legal Considerations

- 6.1 In accordance with paragraph 13 of Part 3 of Brent's Constitution, the Leader has delegated certain functions to Cabinet members to be exercised within their portfolio area in consultation with the Leader. This delegation includes agreement of waivers of Contract Standing Orders for Medium and High Value Contracts.
- 6.2 The service Officers are proposing to procure are valued at £552,950 plus VAT over the contract term and the proposed contract is thus classified as a Medium Value Contract under Contract Standing Orders. Contract Standing Orders provide that a Medium Value Contract should be procured by way of a tender process but for the reasons detailed in the body of the report, Officers do not consider it is possible to procure the contract by way of a tender process.
- 6.3 The granting of an exemption does not breach domestic law or the Council's own procedures.
- 6.4 In reaching any decision to waive Contract Standing Orders, the Cabinet Member in consultation with the Leader should have regard to the reasons Officers have set out in Section 3 of the report.

7.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

- 7.1 Pursuant to s149 Equality Act 2010 (the "Public Sector Equality Duty"), the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
- 7.1.1 Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act
- 7.1.2 Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
- 7.1.3 Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it,
- 7.1.4 The Public Sector Equality Duty covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, marriage and civil partnership, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 7.2 Having due regard involves the need to enquire into whether and how a proposed decision disproportionately affects people with a protected

characteristic and the need to consider taking steps to meet the needs of persons who share a protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it. This includes removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by persons who share a protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.

7.3 There is no prescribed way the council must exercise its public sector equality duty but having an adequate evidence base for its decision is necessary.

7.4 The proposals in this report have been subject to screening and officers believe that there are no adverse equality implications.

8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

8.1 The proposal in this report does not impact the Council's environmental objectives and climate emergency strategy.

9.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)

9.1 This service is currently provided by an external contractor and there are no implications for Council staff arising from the procurement of the contract.

9.2 There are no property or accommodation implications.

10.0 Communication Considerations

10.1 The proposal in this report does not require a communication strategy or campaigns.

Report sign-off:

Councillor Neil Nerva

Lead Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Leisure