



OFFICIAL EXECUTIVE DECISION NOTICE PUBLISHED BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Notice is hereby given that the following decision(s) have been made today by Cabinet Members at the London Borough of Hillingdon:

Title of decision	BETTER CARE FUND SECTION 75 AGREEMENT EXTENSION
Reference No.	1267
Date of decision	Wednesday 8 January 2025
Call-in expiry date	Wednesday 15 January 2025
Relevant Select Committee	Health and Social Care Select Committee
Relevant Wards	All

Decision made

Cabinet Members making the decision	Cllr Ian Edwards, Leader of the Council Cllr Jane Palmer, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care
Decision	<p>Approved</p> <p>That the Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approved the extension to the 2023/24 Better Care Fund agreement between the Council and the North West London Integrated Care Board (NHS North West London/ICB) under section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006 approved by Cabinet in November 2023 to cover the period from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 at a value of £100,025,164.2. Approved the variation to the 2023/24 Better Care Fund agreement between the Council and the North West London Integrated Care Board under section 75 of the National Health Service Act, 2006, as described in this report.3. Delegated to the Corporate Director of Adult Social Care and Health authority to amend the terms of the agreement with NHS North West London during 2024/25, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care.
Reason for decision	<i>Extension of Section 75 agreement:</i> At its meeting in November 2023, Cabinet delegated authority to the Leader of the Council with the Cabinet Member to extend the section 75

	<p>(s75) agreement for 2024/25 and a one-year extension is permitted under the 2023/24 agreement.</p> <p>The Leader and Cabinet Member are advised that NHS England makes the release of the £24,164k element of Hillingdon's Better Care Fund (BCF) that is under its control conditional on a pooled budget being established between the Council and North West London Integrated Care Board (ICB) through an agreement established under section 75 (s75) of the National Health Service Act 2006 (NHS Act). This is in accordance with its powers under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.</p> <p>Local authorities and ICBs can enter into s75 agreements once written notification has been received from NHS England that plans have 'assured' status. Written confirmation of assured status was received on 21st August 2024.</p> <p>The Leader and Cabinet Member are being requested to approve the recommendations in this report at such a late stage in the year as a result of a timetable set by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). This is consequently not a matter that the Council has any control over.</p> <p><i>Variation to the 2023/24 BCF s75 agreement:</i> The 2024/25 BCF is largely a roll forward of that for 2023/24 and therefore much of the s75 remains the same; however, there are some changes, and these are detailed in this report. Approval of the recommendation will therefore ensure that the agreement addresses the necessary changes for 2024/25, including amendments to financial arrangements. The details of the proposed changes to the agreement are set out in variation form attached as Appendix 1.</p> <p><i>Delegated authority to amend s75 agreement in-year:</i> This delegated authority recommendation will enable the Council and ICB to respond quickly to any opportunities presented by evolving national policy, such as additional funding.</p>
Alternative options considered and rejected	<p><i>Not extending the s75 agreement:</i> The Leader and Cabinet Member could decide not to extend the 2023/24 agreement to cover 2024/25 BCF plan arrangements. This is not recommended as it would impact on the availability of £24,869k in 2024/25 NHS funding to support the local health and care system, including £8,812k to protect adult social care. It could also impact on the £5,575k Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) that is paid directly to the Council by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and also the £7,468k Improved Better Care Fund Grant (iBCF) that is also paid directly to the Council by MHCLG. In each case, grant conditions require that the Council has an agreed BCF plan in</p>

	<p>place that meets national conditions, one of which is having a s75 agreement in place.</p> <p>Not delegate authority to amend s75 agreement in-year: The Leader and Cabinet Member could decide not to approve delegation arrangements or to add some additional requirements. This option is not recommended as the recommendation is intended to create agility within the health and care system to respond to evolving circumstances, including new funding opportunities.</p>
Classification	Part I - Public
Link to associated report	Here
Relevant Officer contact & Directorate	Gary Collier – Adult Social Care and Health
Any interest declared by the Cabinet Member(s) / dispensation granted	N/A

Implementation of decision & scrutiny call-in

[Internal Use only]	
When can this decision be implemented by officers?	<p>Officers can implement Cabinet Member decision in this notice only from the expiry of the scrutiny call-in period which is:</p> <p>5pm on Wednesday 15 January 2025</p> <p>However, this is subject to the decision not being called in by Councillors on the relevant Select Committee. Upon receipt of a valid call-in request, Democratic Services will immediately advise the relevant officer(s) and the decision must then be put on hold.</p>
Councillor scrutiny call-in of this decision	<p>Councillors on the relevant Select Committee shown in this notice may request to call-in this decision. The request must be before the expiry of the scrutiny call-in period above.</p> <p>Councillors should use the Scrutiny Call-in App (link below) on their devices to initiate any call-in request. Further advice can be sought from Democratic Services if required:</p> <p>Scrutiny Call-In - Power Apps (secure)</p>

Further information	<p>These decisions, where applicable, have been taken under The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.</p> <p>This is the formal notice by the Council of the above executive decision, including links to the reports where applicable.</p> <p>If you would like more information on this decision, please contact Democratic Services on 01895 250636 or email: democratic@hillingdon.gov.uk.</p> <p>Circulation of this decision notice is to a variety of people including Members of the Council, Corporate Directors, Officers, Group Secretariats and the Public. Copies are also placed on the Council's website.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Democratic Services London Borough of Hillingdon Civic Centre High Street Uxbridge UB8 1UW</p>
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