

Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Adults

17 September 2026

Live Well at Home Framework (LWAH) Extension

Report by the Director of Adult Social Care

RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet Member is **RECOMMENDED** to:

- a) **Note the recommendations and background from the previous Cabinet paper of 16 June 2026, as set out in Annex 1.**
- b) **Note that, since that decision, the Council has received the Government's Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) decision for Oxfordshire. This has implications for the proposed Staying Well at Home (SWAH) model, including future service design, demand, provider capacity, lot structure and geographical zones. As the LGR decision was published in the very early stages of the SWAH procurement, the procurement has been paused so that the Council can review the available options and determine the most appropriate future commissioning route.**
- c) **Approve the extension of the current Live Well at Home (LWAH) framework to 31 March 2028, in accordance with the existing contractual extension provisions, to maintain continuity of care and ensure continued lawful sourcing of domiciliary care and reablement services beyond 31 March 2027.**
- d) **Approve the decision to start the SWAH procurement process as per key decision made on 16 June 2026 but with a later timetable. The timetable and award of framework agreement to be delegated to the Director of Adult Social care for approval.**

Executive Summary

1. This paper seeks approval to extend the current Live Well at Home framework to 31 March 2028 and to delegate authority to the Director of Adult Social Care, in consultation with legal, procurement and finance colleagues, to determine the next steps for the future commissioning route for home care and reablement services. The extension is a precautionary and proportionate step to protect continuity of care while the Council reviews the implications of Local

Government Reorganisation for future service arrangements. The current framework ends on 31 March 2027. To use the available contractual extension, the Council must give six months' notice, which means the decision is required by the end of September 2026.

2. The Council currently uses the LWAH framework to source home care and reablement services, including support for people returning home from hospital, people requiring longer-term care at home, and reablement services that help people regain independence. The framework is currently in place until 31 March 2027, with an available contractual extension to 31 March 2028.
3. In June 2026, Cabinet approved procurement of a new SWAH framework for home care. That model was developed following review of the current LWAH framework and was intended to improve outcomes for residents, deliver better value for money, align capacity to demand, support health and social care integration, and strengthen quality requirements.
4. Since that decision, the Government's Local Government Reorganisation decision for Oxfordshire has created a material change in the planning context. As the SWAH procurement was at an early stage, it has been paused so that the Council can review the implications for future service design, demand, provider capacity, lot structure and geographical zones before confirming the most appropriate route.
5. The proposed extension will ensure that people receiving home care and reablement continue to receive support without disruption while this review is completed. It will also avoid the Council having to rush a major procurement during a period of significant local government change and will allow future arrangements to be developed in a way that is legally compliant, operationally deliverable, and suitable for residents, providers and the future unitary authorities.
6. During this period, the Council also became aware that West Berkshire intends to go to the market imminently to procure a home care framework. This is significant because, under the proposed Local Government Reorganisation arrangements, West Berkshire is expected to form part of the future Ridgeway unitary authority. Any framework procured now may therefore affect the future commissioning landscape, provider market and potential alignment of home care arrangements for that future authority. The Council has shared the details of the SWAH framework with West Berkshire and will use this opportunity to explore areas of alignment where appropriate, while recognising commercial and local market differences.
7. Without extending the current framework, the Council would not have a compliant framework in place to source home care and reablement services from 1 April 2027. This would create risks to continuity of care, hospital discharge, market stability and the Council's ability to meet statutory duties under the Care Act 2014. Any proposal to extend LWAH beyond 31 March

2028 would require further legal and procurement advice and, where required, further governance approval.

8. The LWAH framework includes the following Lots:

a) Lot 1A Reablement and Homecare – following hospital discharge

These services enable people to return home as quickly and as safely as possible following an in-patient stay. They can also prevent or delay admission or readmission to hospital, thus reducing the use of inpatient hospital care. This is aligned with Oxfordshire's Home First approach

b) Lot 1B Long Term Homecare – following community referral

Long term homecare has a key role in enabling people to live and age well and can delay the need for residential care by providing the right level of support at the right time to keep people independent for longer

c) Lot 2 Extra Care Housing (care elements only)

Extra Care Housing (ECH) is self-contained housing, primarily for older people, that offers care and support on site. It is intended to be the person's long-term home, offering the person their own home with personalised care on site that promotes choice and control in all aspects of daily living. The provision of care in a person's own home helps avoid more costly admissions to care homes and admissions to hospital and supports effective, appropriate and timely discharge from hospital.

9. This paper relates to Lots 1A and 1B only: reablement and home care following hospital discharge, and longer-term home care following community referral. Lot 2, Extra Care Housing, is covered by a separate decision; its extension to 31 March 2029 was approved by Cabinet on 14 July 2026.

10. Home care and reablement services support the Council's statutory duties under the Care Act 2014 and the Council's Home First approach, helping residents to remain independent at home for longer and reducing avoidable admissions to hospital or long-term care.

11. The current LWAH contains a small number of call off contracts for block arrangement for the delivery of home care. These contracts end on 31 March 2027. The contracts were established to provide home care capacity and quality to the Council when a reduced number of providers were on the framework. Currently there is a large pool of providers on the framework who have capacity to deliver home care. The Council therefore does not intend to extend the call off contracts and will instead award individual call off contracts to procure home care

Table 1- Decision table for Extension of LWAH August 2026

Board	Date	Decision
Adult Social Care Directorate Leadership Team	24 th August 2026	Agreed
Cabinet Member Key Decision	17 th September 2026	

The updated timetable for re-procuring SWAH will be delegated to the Director of ASC.

Table 2- Decision table for new framework model SWAH as agreed in June 2026

The new SWAH model was approved earlier this year:

Board	Date	Decision
Commercial Board	9 th April 2026	Agreed
Adult Social Care Directorate Leadership Team	5 th May 2026 26 th May 2026	Agreed
Joint Commissioning Executive	14 th May 2026	Agreed
Cabinet Member Key Decision	16 th June 2026	Agreed

Table 3- Previous decision table for LWAH extension until 31 March 2028

Board	Date	Decision
Commercial Board	22 nd August 2024	Agreed
Adult Social Care Directorate Leadership Team	2 nd September 2024	Agreed
Joint Commissioning Executive	12 th September 2024	Agreed
Cabinet Member Key Decision	17 th September 2024	Agreed

Background

12. Please refer to Annex 1 for further details on the review of the LWAH contract and the rationale for developing the new SWAH (Staying Well at Home) home care model, which was submitted to Cabinet on 16 June 2026. The new model focused on three main goals: improving individual outcomes, delivering better value for money, and improving system flow.
13. Since publication of the LGR decision, it has become clear that the proposed zones and service model should be reviewed considering the future unitary authority arrangements. The SWAH procurement was paused to allow time to consider the above elements. The SWAH procurement timescale no longer allows a new contract to commence from 1 April 2027. Extending LWAH is therefore required to maintain a compliant sourcing route and continuity of service while future options are reviewed.

14. The Council will review the available options, including:
 - re-launching the SWAH procurement with amendments in early 2027;
 - continuing with LWAH up to March 2028 while a revised future model is developed;
 - considering whether any further lawful continuation of LWAH is available, subject to legal and procurement advice and any required governance approval;
 - considering whether framework reopening arrangements or permitted variations could address immediate operational, market or LGR-related issues.
15. It should be noted that the provision for Health to access the LWAH is already within the contract but has not been enacted until recently. From July 2026 CHC packages of care have been sourced via the LWAH; this option will be available during the extension period.
16. Any consideration will need to account for the requirements of the Home First team which delivers reablement support at home. Outcomes following reablement remain high, with an average of 76% of people achieving independence following a period of reablement, and an additional 10% achieving a reduction in care needs. This indicates that the LWAH framework is delivering high-quality care which supports people's independence. The Council wants to maintain this in any future or interim service.
17. Demand for home support has increased during the LWAH framework, both in the number of people supported and in the volume of care hours delivered. Current projections assume 2% growth per year, with increasing complexity in the care required. These pressures will need to be addressed whether the Council continues with LWAH during the extension period or proceeds with a revised SWAH model.

Contract Value and Pricing

18. The LWAH contract is an existing service, and the extension does not require any additional costs by extending the service. The full year extension of LWAH from April 2027- March 28 will cost £60,873,507. This is very much an indicative cost and will also be dependent on operational activity and any increase to the ICB contribution. It is anticipated that the new SWAH model is likely to commence in autumn of 2027 therefore the full year costs for LWAH may not be required.
19. For costs related to the SWAH Model please refer to the "Contract value and pricing" section within the Annex 1. This details the pricing and forecasts for the next 8 years. It should be noted that home care is mostly funded through Council funding, with contributions from the Better Care Fund (BCF). Thames Valley Integrated Care Board (ICB) also contribute to the costs of the contract to support system flow.

20. The current home care rates are in the table below. These will be updated for 2027-28 via the Council's usual process for determining contractual uplifts:

Care type	26/27 rate
Home care	£30.87 per hour
Reablement episode	£1246.94 per episode
Live in (with break)	£1600.64 per week
Live in (without a break)	£1168.35 per week
Waking night	£242.48 per night

Business need

21. The LWAH Framework - the Council's current contractual framework to purchase domiciliary care and reablement – is due to expire on 31 March 2027. The Council must provide 6 months' notice to extend the LWAH framework which is due at the end of September 2026.
22. The proposed extension of the LWAH Framework until March 2028 will enable the Council to re-assess available options in light of LGR, assess demand and service requirements across the three unitary authorities, determine the most suitable approach for the future, and maintain continuity of care beyond April 2027.

Corporate Policies and Priorities

23. The LWAH framework supports the Council's priorities by enabling people to remain independent at home, supporting timely hospital discharge, reducing avoidable admissions to long-term care, and maintaining a sustainable local care market.

Financial Implications

24. The proposed extension maintains the current commissioning route and does not, in itself, create a new service model or change eligibility. Spend under the framework will continue to be driven by assessed need, demand, inflation and agreed fee rates. The extension will need to be managed within approved Adult Social Care budgets, including relevant Better Care Fund and Integrated Care Board contributions. Any additional financial pressures arising from demand, inflation, market sustainability or changes to rates will need to be considered through existing budget monitoring and Medium-Term Financial Plan processes.

Comments checked by:
Lucy Moore, Finance Business Partner

Legal and Procurement Implications

25. The Council has a statutory duty to provide the adult social care homecare services delivered under the LWAH framework under the Care Act 2014.
26. The extension to 31 March 2028 is proposed on the basis that it is a unilateral contractual right of the Council within the existing LWAH contractual extension provisions. Any extension must be on the same terms as the original framework agreement. Whilst it is possible to make some changes to the call-off contract award procedure (as a unilateral contractual right of the Council) it is not possible to vary the framework agreement as a whole. This is because it is not possible to guarantee that all framework providers would agree to any proposed change and the framework terms must be the same for all framework providers. Any proposal to extend LWAH beyond 31 March 2028 is not approved by this report and will require further legal and procurement advice and, where required, further governance approval.
27. There is some procurement risk if the LWAH framework is extended but not re-opened as it was advertised as an “open” framework in the original procurement documents. This risk is mitigated if the intention to procure the replacement SWAH framework is communicated to the market as soon as practicable. If the Council does receive a challenge from a provider not on the LWAH framework during the extension period then it will need to re-open the framework at that point.
28. The block call-off contracts under the framework are set to expire in April 2027. It is not intended that these will be extended. So call-off contracts going forward will only be in respect of individual care packages rather than block call-off contracts.

Comments checked by:
Jonathan Pool, Solicitor (contracts)

Staff Implications

29. There are no new or additional staffing implications on the Council’s workforce. The contract management and operational delivery of the LWAH framework will continue to be completed using existing resources, supported also by the improvements to internal processes.

Equality & Inclusion Implications

30. The proposed extension does not change eligibility criteria, the assessed-care process or the service offers available to people requiring home care and reablement. It maintains the existing sourcing route while future options are reviewed. The LWAH framework supports adults aged 18 and over who require home care, including people with eligible needs under the Care Act

2014, and supports the Council's priority to tackle inequalities and help people live independently at home.

31. Provider and service user feedback gathered through the existing LWAH framework will inform the review of future options. Any future proposal that would materially change the service model, access or delivery arrangements will need to consider equality impacts at that stage.

Local Government Reorganisation Implications

32. The proposed extension is required because LGR creates a material change in the planning context for future home care and reablement services. The review will consider whether the future model, zones, demand assumptions and provider capacity should be aligned to the future unitary authority arrangements.
33. The extension period provides time to assess the most appropriate commissioning arrangements for the transition to future unitary authority structures, and to ensure that any revised procurement or continuation route is operationally deliverable, legally compliant and proportionate to the LGR timetable.

Sustainability Implications

34. Please see "Sustainability" section within the Annex 1.
35. The review of options will consider sustainability in the context of LGR, including the potential impact of geographical zones, travel time, provider operating models and the ability to support local care provision.

Risk Management

36. The main risk of not extending LWAH is that the Council would not have a compliant sourcing route in place for home care and reablement services after 31 March 2027. There are also risks associated with pausing and revising the SWAH procurement, including provider uncertainty, the time needed to review the impact of LGR, and the need to ensure any future commissioning route is legally compliant, operationally deliverable and affordable. These risks are being managed by extending LWAH to 31 March 2028, limiting the SWAH pause to the period required to complete the review, maintaining legal, procurement and finance oversight, and engaging with providers before any revised procurement or continuation route is confirmed.

Consultations

37. Formal public consultation is not required for the extension because this decision maintains existing arrangements while future options are reviewed. There is no proposed change to eligibility, assessed need, service entitlement or the current service offer.
38. Provider engagement will be undertaken ahead of any decision in early 2027 on the future commissioning route, including any amended SWAH procurement, permitted LWAH continuation route, framework reopening arrangements or operational variations.

Karen Fuller: Director Adult Social Care

Annex: Annex 1 – SWAH Cabinet Paper 16.06.26

Background papers: Nil

Other Documents: Nil

Contact Officer: Sakina Bi, Strategic Commissioner – Age Well

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