

Executive Committee 2025

10 June

Promoting Independent Living Service Contract Proposals

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Bill Hartnett
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Assistant Director	Judith Willis, Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services
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Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	N/A
Relevant Council Priority	Community & Housing
Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	
This report contains exempt information as defined in Paragraph(s) 3 & 4 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Committee RESOLVE that:-

- 1) The report be noted;**
- 2) Officers to work towards ensuring the continuation of the Promoting Independent Living Service.**

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Home Improvement Agency, known as Promoting Independent Living (PIL) service works closely with the other five Local Housing Authorities and Worcestershire County Council to provide a range of services including Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) and discretionary grants for Home Repairs Assistance, Dementia Dwelling Grants, Minor Adaptations and Hospital Discharge Grants.
- 2.2 Since April 2020 the PIL service has been delivered by a private company Millbrook Healthcare.
- 2.3 The Council has a mandatory duty to provide Disabled Facilities Grants to eligible residents and may provide other discretionary assistance through its Housing Assistance Policy. Adaptations to Council housing

properties are delivered through the Housing Service not the PIL service.

- 2.4 Funding is received from the Government via the Better Care Fund (BCF), which is passported through to the Local Housing Authorities (LHA) from Worcestershire County Council annually.
- 2.5 In 2024 the six LHAs and Worcestershire County Council went out to procurement (as the current contract expired in March 2025) with a broadly similar specification, but reducing some of the wider asks of the contractor to make the service more cost effective. At the end of this process, a further year's contract extension was agreed with the existing provider.

3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

- 3.1 Officers have considered options for the service following the end of the current contract in March 2026.
- 3.2 It is important to ensure that a PIL service continues to be made available to vulnerable residents.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 In 2025/26 the Council received £1,181,745 of BCF funding for the service, and it is expected to be at least this amount for 26/27.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council has a statutory duty to provide mandatory DFGs and must have a Housing Assistance Policy in place to utilise the BCF funding flexibly.

6. OTHER - IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Reorganisation

- 6.1 Any new authority or authorities will have a statutory duty to provide disabled facilities grants.

Relevant Council Priority

- 6.2 The PIL service supports the Council priority of Community & Housing to enable people to live safely and comfortably in a home that meets

their needs, through adaptations that help them to remain independent, healthy and well.

Climate Change Implications

- 6.3 The installation of more efficient equipment via DFG will reduce energy usage and provide higher levels of thermal comfort for dwellings benefitting from these measures thus reducing carbon emissions. The use of modern methods of construction will be considered for works where value for money can be demonstrated as well as carbon reduction.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 6.4 A previous Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken and has been reviewed and updated.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 It will be critical to deliver this service whilst maintaining a high level of customer satisfaction. This risk will be managed through the specification and contract.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 Appendix 1 contains confidential information.

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2025**

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9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Bill Hartnett, Portfolio Holder for Housing	23/05/2025
Lead Director / Assistant Director	Judith Willis, Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services	27/05/2025
Financial Services	Debra Goodall, Assistant Director of Finance and Customer Services	20/05/2025
Legal Services	Nicola Cummings, Principal Solicitor – Governance	20/05/2025