

**KEY DECISION NOT INCLUDED IN THE FORWARD PLAN
(GENERAL EXCEPTION RULE 15)**

The following information must be provided for the general exception rule to apply

- Clear reasons why it is impractical to defer the decision until it has been included in the next Forward Plan; and
- Confirmation that the Chief Executive has informed the Chairman of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and
- 3 clear days have elapsed since that notification was given.

Date	15/07/2025
<p>Details of Decision to be taken:</p> <p>Lancashire County Council (LCC) currently provides Minor Adaptations in Rossendale as part of its statutory duty, distinct from the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG). In July 2025, LCC confirmed its intention to delegate this responsibility to district authorities under a Section 101 agreement, effective from 26th August 2025, with a possible revised start date of 1st December 2025 (awaiting confirmation).</p> <p>Four Lancashire districts have in-house Home Improvement Agencies (HIAs) for Minor Adaptations. Two additional partners operate countywide — one of whom currently serves Rossendale.</p> <p>To date, Rossendale Borough Council has had no involvement in delivering Minor Adaptations and is assessing the potential resource impact on the Housing Renewal team. Last year, there were 264 referrals (approx. 5 per week), a figure expected to rise with demand. Some adaptations require rapid delivery to facilitate hospital discharges, and contractors are subject to KPIs for timely response.</p> <p>Since the Council lacks an in-house delivery model, it is proposed to procure an external contractor to continue the service post-transition. The incumbent provider will operate until 31st March 2026, ensuring no disruption to residents.</p> <p>The proposed contract will cover the period 26th August 2025 to 31st December 2026 (subject to change). The Council will manage both referrals from LCC's Occupational Therapists and the contractor, with management costs factored in. These fees will be agreed upon with LCC. If demand exceeds available funding, the service will pause until alternative funding is secured, ensuring no financial liability for the Council.</p>	
<p>Clear Reasons why it is impractical to defer the decision until it has been included in the next Forward Plan:</p> <p>The proposal must be implemented and operational by 26 August 2025 (subject to confirmation), giving just five weeks to complete procurement.</p>	
<p>Decision Taker: Cabinet</p>	
<p>Portfolio Holder and Date Consulted: Communities, Housing Health and Well-being 18th July 2025</p>	

Proposed Consultees and Method(s) of Consultation: Cabinet 6th August and Corporate Management Team

Documents to be considered by the decision taker: Report

Status – For Publication

Date the Chief Executive informed the Chair of the Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 18th July 2025

Where the above cannot be satisfied, the date on which written notice was given to all members of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee: N/A

NOTES

Status - Is the issue an open and public matter or is it a private and excluded matter as described in Schedule 12 A of the Local Government Act 1972. If it is an open matter it is for publication. If it is a private matter it is not for publication and you state the reason why and the appropriate paragraph number of Schedule 12A details of which are in this part of the General Folder.

1. **A Key Decision means an executive decision which is likely:**
 - a) to result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are significant having regard to the budget for the service or function to which the decision relates, or
 - b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising of two or more Wards in the Borough.
2. For the avoidance of doubt, the Council would regard any of the following as 'significant':
 - Any decision by the Cabinet in the course of developing proposals to the full Council to amend the policy framework.
 - Any single item of in-budget expenditure or savings in excess of £100,000.
 - Any decision which is likely to have a permanent or long term (more than 5 years) effect on the Council and the Borough.
3. When the decision has been made and the form signed by the decision taker and the portfolio holder the form should be sent to the Committee and Member Services Manager

Date Notice Published: 18th July 2025