

**OFFICER DELEGATION SCHEME
RECORD OF DECISION**

Date: 25.03.2026	Ref No: 2351
Responsible Officer: Stephanie Boyd, Commissioning Manager for Older People and Ageing Well	
Title/Subject matter: Age UK Bury Handyperson Service Grant Agreement Extension	
Budget/Strategy/Policy/Compliance:	
(i) Is the decision within an Approved Budget?	Yes
(ii) Is the decision in conflict with the Council's policies, strategies or relevant service plans?	No
(iii) Does the decision amend existing or raise new policy issues?	No
Is publication still required? (see guidance)	Yes
Item for decision:	
<u>Background Summary</u>	
<p>Age UK Bury currently delivers a small Handyperson service at a cost of £38k per year. It is currently funded via the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) up until 31 March 2026.</p> <p>Tasks are small, non-specialist and generally achievable within one hour, for example, fitting handrails and security locks; putting up shelves; curtain rails and wall decorations; assembling flat pack furniture; minor plumbing; painting and decorating work and changing light bulbs.</p> <p>The service signposts to trusted organisations for larger or specialist pieces of work, for example, gas or electrics. They also signpost to other sources of support, for example, Older People's Staying Well Team, when needed.</p> <p>In addition, the service has strong links to other Age UK Bury services, particularly the Home from Hospital Service to ensure timely and safe discharges.</p>	

The service aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- Improved health and wellbeing
- Improved independence
- Improved choice and control
- Improved dignity and respect
- A feeling of safety and security
- Prevention in the need for care and support
- Improved quality of life
- Reduction in inequalities

Recommendation

It is proposed that the DFG continues to fund the Age UK Bury Handyperson Service up until 31 March 2028 at the current cost of £38k per year (£76k for the 2-year period).

Rationale

The rationale for the service to continue with Age UK Bury via a grant up until 31 March 2028 is to afford Council Officers the opportunity to explore the development of a Home Improvement Agency in line with the Foundations Report and Recommendations. The Community Commissioning Team will:

- Benchmark with other authorities
- Research good practice
- Analyse if a handy person service is needed locally
- Feed into the future Housing Assistance Policy

In the meantime, Age UK Bury will continue to work as a well-known and trusted organisation within the community.

The Handyperson Service provides essential preventative support that enables older residents to live safely and independently in their own homes. The service supports hospital discharges, prevents hospital admissions, delays or avoids the need for social care, and maintains wellbeing. It is a practical, early-intervention service that protects older people and reduces pressure on the wider health and social care system.

Commercial Approach

Procurement guidance obtained from the department:

Under the UK Procurement Act 2023, grants are generally not considered "covered procurement" and therefore do not fall within the scope of the Act.

The Act defines "covered procurement" as the process by which a contracting authority awards a public contract, concession contract, or utilities contract that meets certain value thresholds. Grants, however, are not contracts for the supply of goods, services, or works in the same way as public contracts, they are typically



financial assistance provided without a direct contractual obligation to deliver specific outputs.

Next Steps

- The Handyperson service grant arrangements are extended with Age UK Bury to 31 March 2028.
- The service is funded by the DFG fund as guidance allows this flexibility for services that promote independence for people that are disabled and require adaptations.
- Council Officers will explore the development of a Home Improvement Agency in line with the Foundations Report and Recommendations.

Approval to recruit to newly created vacancies
 NB: Chief Officer graded roles require AD HR and AD Finance approval

Not Applicable

Decision made by:	Signature:	Date:
Director of Adult Social Services and Community Commissioning:		26 March 2026
Advised by HR Business Partner	NA	
Advised by Finance Business Partner	NA	
Lead Member (for noting)		2 April 2026
Chief Officer graded roles: Assistant Director of HR	NA	
Chief Officer graded roles: Advised by Assistant Director Finance / Chief Accountant	NA	
Member Consulted (only if applicable) [see note 4 below]		

Notes

1. In most cases a single signature is required in accordance with the Table below.
2. The form must be published if expenditure is over £100K. However, this must be after all the required contract documentation has been completed. This is to avoid publishing exempt confidential information.
3. A report to Cabinet must be made if expenditure is over £500K.
4. In a small number of cases in accordance with the requirements of the Officer Delegation Scheme, consultation is required from the appropriate Cabinet Member who must sign the form to confirm that they have been consulted and that they agree with the proposed action. Please refer to the Guidance.
5. This form must not be used for urgent decisions.
6. Where there is any doubt officers should always err on side of caution and seek advice from Democratic Services, the Monitoring Officer or Corporate Procurement where applicable.

EXPENDITURE APPROVAL TABLE

Approval Limit	Approval By
Over £500,000	Cabinet
Over £250,000 to £500,000	Chief Executive
Over £100,000 to £250,000	Executive Director
Over £50,000 to £100,000	Director/Assistant Director
Over £10,000 to £50,000	Head of Service
Up to £10,000	Service Lead

For Chief Officer Graded Roles:

Assistant Director HR Approval

Assistant Director Finance / Chief Accountant Approval