RECORD OF EXERCISE OF DELEGATED AUTHORITY BY OFFICER PURSUANT TO REGULATION 13 OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS) (MEETINGS AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2012 & THE OPENNESS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES REGULATIONS 2014

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2">SUBJECT OF DECISION

Approval to extend the current notice period for withdrawal as Host Authority for HEART Partnership</td></tr>
<tr><td>DECISION REFERENCE

DO/58/2026 (SC)</td><td>SOURCE OF AUTHORITY AND REFERENCE

3D OFFICER DELEGATIONS- Part A- General Delegations
3D.1 General
3D.2 Financial Resources

b) Take any action on matters relating to the day to day administration of services within their unit
c) Take any action to maintain the operation and effectiveness of services within their unit.
d)Take any action incidental to, or to give effect to, decisions taken by elected Members within their sphere of responsibility.

3E.2 Assistant Director –
a) Exercise any power of the Local Authority under the following statutory provisions or pursuant to regulations made (now or in future) under them.

Data Protection Act 2018 – Data Protection obligations and structure contains the appointment of the Data Protection Officer (DPO).

e) To be the Council nominated Senior Information Risk Officer (SIRO) with corporate responsibility for information risk management and information governance assurance.</td></tr>
<tr><td>DATE OF DECISION

4th November 2026</td><td>DECISION MAKER

Sharon Clinton

Sharon Clinton, Assistant Director – Housing Services</td></tr>
</table>

RECORD OF THE DECISION

a) The issue

On 4 March 2026, Cabinet approved the Council's intention to withdraw as Host Authority for the Home Environment Assessment and Response Team (HEART) Partnership and delegated authority for the management of the transition process. The formal notice served is due to expire on 31 March 2027.

Since the decision was taken, there has been a change in administration and a delay to the Local Government Reorganisation programme. The work required to assess future hosting arrangements for HEART and the implications of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council's withdrawal has recently recommenced through a multi-agency sub-group.

A report setting out the available options and recommendations is expected by the end of November 2026. Given the limited time remaining before the existing withdrawal date of 31 March 2027, there is insufficient time for the current administration to fully consider the options, engage with partners, obtain any necessary approvals and implement any agreed transition arrangements.

b) The Decision

To extend the current notice period for withdrawal as Host Authority for the HEART Partnership by a further 12 months, moving the withdrawal date from 31 March 2027 to 31 March 2028.

To notify HEART partner authorities of the extension and continue to work through the established governance arrangements and sub-group to determine the most appropriate long-term solution for the future of HEART.

REASON FOR THE DECISION

The extension will provide sufficient time for:

Completion of the current options appraisal exercise.
Consideration of the findings by the current administration.
Engagement with partner authorities.
Determination of future hosting arrangements.
Implementation of any agreed service transition in a planned and controlled manner.

The decision does not reverse the Council's intention to withdraw as Host Authority but ensures that any future decisions are informed by a comprehensive assessment of options rather than being constrained by timescales.

The extension supports continuity of service delivery for vulnerable residents whilst strategic decisions regarding HEART's future are considered.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED IN MAKING THE DECISION

Option 1: Allow the current notice period to expire on 31 March 2027.

Rejected.

The options appraisal will not be completed until late 2026, leaving insufficient time for the administration and partner authorities to properly consider the findings, agree a future position and implement any resulting changes.

Option 2:

Rejected.

This would remove the Council's ability to consider the findings of the options appraisal and determine the most appropriate future operating model for HEART. An extension of the notice period provides greater flexibility whilst maintaining the Council's previously agreed position that alternative arrangements should be explored.

WARD RELEVANCE

All wards

FINANCIAL AND BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no immediate financial implications arising from this decision.

The extension will allow sufficient time for a full assessment of the financial implications of all future HEART delivery options, including continued hosting, transfer to an alternative host authority, or alternative service delivery arrangements.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN WITH MEMBERS/OFFICERS

Portfolio Holder for Housing
Strategic Director for Communities and Place
Strategic Director for Corporate Resources
Assistant Director for Housing Services
Assistant Director for Finance
Assistant Director for Democracy and Governance
Warwickshire Heads of Housing
Finance Business Partner
Senior Transformation Officer
Head of Home Environment
Legal Services
Heart Future Options Sub Group
Partner Chief Officers

ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARED BY ANY MEMBER CONSULTED

None

IN RESPECT OF ANY DECLARED CONFLICT BY A CABINET MEMBER, ANY DISPENSATION GIVEN BY THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE (Note if the decision is a non-executive decision, no dispensation can be given).

None

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS (including any Equality Impact Assessment)

None

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

None

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

See above

HEALTH EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

None

SECTION 17 CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

None

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The extension mitigates risks associated with:

Insufficient time to complete the options appraisal process and evaluation of future models.
Inadequate consideration of future hosting arrangements by the current administration.
Service disruption arising from an accelerated transition.
Potential impacts on vulnerable residents who rely upon the service.
Reputational risks associated with implementing significant service changes within an unrealistic timescale.

Overall risk is considered lower through a managed extension than proceeding within the existing timetable. The extension provides additional time to identify, assess and mitigate risks around the future hosting arrangements.

SME (SMALL/MEDIUM ENTERPRISES) & LOCAL ECONOMY IMPLICATIONS

None

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The decision has been made under the Assistant Director's delegated authority and gives effect to the Council's existing decision to withdraw as Host Authority whilst managing the transition process.

The Council continues to be the Host Authority under the HEART Partnership arrangements until any alternative arrangements are put in place. A new Legal agreement is not created by extending the withdrawal date, but it continues with the current arrangements until any future decisions are made.

The extension provides additional time to ensure that any future arrangements are developed and implemented in accordance with the HEART Partnership Agreement and the Council's governance requirements.

ANY OTHER COMMENTS

This decision reflects the changed circumstances since the original Cabinet decision, including the delay to Local Government Reorganisation and the need to provide the current administration with adequate time to consider the future of HEART following receipt of the options appraisal report.

PLEASE RETURN TO THE MONITORING OFFICER AS SOON AS A DECISION IS MADE OR AS REASONABLY PRACTICABLE THEREAFTER