

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health
Date:	11 January 2021
Title:	Cobots in Care Programme
Report From:	Director of Adults' Health and Care

Contact name: Sarah Snowdon
Mark Allen

Tel: 07855 855194 /
07872 827285

Email: Sarah.Snowdon@hants.gov.uk
Mark.allen@hant.gov.uk

1. The decision:

1.1 That the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health give approval to spend up to £4.1million over 5 years to source cobots to support the delivery of the Hampshire Cobots Transformation Programme.

2. Reasons for the Decision

2.1 Adults' Health and Care undertook an initial pathfinder throughout 2020 to explore the viability of using cobots in care settings. A cobot is a device that is worn by a person (in this case around the lumbar region) that assists the wearer to carry out normal manual functions, like moving an object or person, with more ease. The purpose of the pathfinder was to establish the extent to which cobots could contribute to greater efficiency in care delivery, in particular impacting on the levels of 'double up care' delivered (where two formal carers are required) as well as delivering additional benefits including reduced sickness rates, more attractive working conditions and ultimately staff retention.

2.2 Based on findings from the pathfinder there is a strong economic and outcome efficacious business case for the mainstream deployment of cobots across both internal and external Social Care settings

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1 Do nothing. This was rejected as the pathfinder showed clearly that there was benefit in adopting cobots to support care delivery in Hampshire and the underlying issue to be addressed would remain if we did nothing.

3.2 Very limited adoption. This option was rejected as it would severely reduce our ability to utilise the cobot devices and address the underlying issues of

Carer workforce (both capacity and support to paid carers) and reducing double-up care packages. The pathfinder programme demonstrated that there were significant benefits to be gained for carers and the County Council in adopting a more extensive adoption of the devices.

3 Conflicts of interest

3.1 Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None

3.2 Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: Not applicable

4. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.

5. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

6. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

11 January 2021

**Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health
Councillor Liz Fairhurst**