

SPECIAL URGENCY DECISION

Leader of Council:

Name: Councillor Alyson Barnes
Date agreed: 31/07/2023

Chair of Overview and Scrutiny:

Name: Councillor Samara Barnes
Date agreed: 31/07/2023

Decision Taker:

Head of Housing and Regeneration

Details of Decision and Reasoning:

Decision to:

- Accept the £429k Local Authority Housing Fund grant
- Approve the addition of a new £429k capital scheme to the capital programme, fully funded by the above grant.

The decision request falls outside of the forward plan timescales and there is not a Cabinet meeting within the required timescale to approve the decision.

On the 9th of June 2023, Rosendale Borough Council was advised that it could be allocated £429k from the Local Authority Housing Fund round 2 subject to completing an expression of interest.

The Expression of Interest was submitted and confirmation of the funding was provided on the 29th June 2023. The forward plan was published on the 20th of June for July Cabinet, and therefore the date for publication was missed.

This funding is capital funding announced by the government to support the Afghan cohort.

We now require an urgent decision to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding by the 14th of August 2023.

This is not a legally binding document but sets out the understanding of the grant.

In summary, the funding aims are:

1. Provide sustainable homes for those on Afghan resettlement schemes
2. Provide better temporary accommodation to those owed a relief duty
3. Reduce temporary accommodation costs
4. Reduce impact on the social housing waiting list

The funding is to be spent by March 2024.

Rossendale Council's funding must support:

1. 4 x properties to meet the Afghan resettlement scheme criteria.
2. 1 x property for Temporary Accommodation for families

It is likely the £429k needs to be further supported by other match funding to bring forward the 5 properties and there are some ways to do this, such as through section 106 purchases and expanding the pipeline for social housing providers.

A clear plan of how this money will be spent and the objectives of the fund will be presented to Full Council in November 2023.

Decision to be taken by:

Megan Eastwood Head of Housing and Regeneration

Documents to be considered by the decision taker:

[Local Authority Housing Fund: Round 2 prospectus and guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Memorandum of understanding

Implications:

Legal - In order to meet the deadlines for receipt of the funding it is imperative that the MOU be signed prior to the next meeting of Cabinet or Council.

HR - Delivery of this MOU will be supported by the Property Services Team.

Finance - Entering the MOU will provide the Council with an initial payment of £129k in August 2023 and a further payment of £300k upon demonstration that 60% of the initial payment has been committed (Dec 2023).

Status:

Open – for publication

Date:

1st August 2023

NOTES

A Key Decision is defined as one that either:

- a) is, in value worth more than £100,000, or
- b) has a **significant impact** because (for example) it either:
 - (i) affects individuals or organisations outside the Borough; or
 - (ii) will have a long term (more than 5 years) or permanent effect on the council or the borough.

1. 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.
2. Implications – List any financial staffing and legal implications and remember to consult with legal, human resources and finance. Also consider implications such as LA21 Environment, Human Rights Act 1998. Equal opportunities, Community Safety, IT, Land and Property and Partnership Working.
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 Services Manager.