

## SPECIAL URGENCY DECISION

Leader of Council:

Name: Councillor Alyson Barnes  
Date agreed: 07/03/2024

Chair of Overview and Scrutiny:

Name: Councillor Samara Barnes  
Date agreed: 07/03/2024

Decision Taker:

Rob Huntington  
Date: 07/03/2024

Details of Decision and Reasoning:

Decision to:

- Accept the additional £257,940 Local Authority Housing Fund grant

In July 2023 a special urgency decision was made to accept £429k from the Local Authority Housing Fund to provide 4 homes for Afghan families and an additional unit to relieve homeless pressures.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024, Rosendale Borough Council was allocated a further £257,940 from the Local Authority Housing Fund, which requires the Council to commit to the provision of a further 3 temporary accommodation units. The Council is required to accept the amount by the 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2024 and return the MOU by the 11<sup>th</sup> of March 2024.

Under normal circumstances and within the constitution, the decision to accept the grant would be via Full Council however, the decision request falls outside of the forward plan timescales and there is not a Council meeting within the required timescale to approve the decision. The next Full Council is the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and there is not time to convene a meeting of Full Council prior to 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

Under the Constitution, the Chief Executive may agree action due to an emergency which must be taken to safeguard the interest of the Council.

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 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

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 additional funding is to be spent by August 2024.

The total allocation of funding from the LAHF is now £686,940.

Decision to be taken by:

Rob Huntington, Chief Executive

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 Council.

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

Finance-  
Signing the updated MOU will release the revised Tranche 2 payment which includes the additional grant award and increase the temporary accommodation units target by a further 3 properties

Status:

Open – for publication

Date:

8<sup>th</sup> March 2024

## 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.