

Ref:

Called in

Yes/No

THE THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISION OF CABINET

Cabinet Member

Councillor Helen Whitehead

Relevant Portfolio:

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing

Date of Decision:

16 November 2023

Subject:

Local Authority Housing Fund Round 2

Key Decision

Yes

In Forward Plan

Yes

Brief summary of matter:

In March 2023, it was announced that the Local Authority Housing Fund would be expanded by £250m for a second round of funding (LAHF R2), with the majority of the additional funding used to house those on Afghan resettlement schemes (ARAP/ACRS) currently in bridging accommodation and the rest used to ease wider homelessness pressures.

Thanet has been identified as eligible for capital grant funding with an indicative allocation of £694,000 in funding to purchase 4 homes for the resettlement element and 1 home for the Temporary Accommodation element.

A Memorandum of Understanding was returned to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) in August 2023 which registered the council's interest in the scheme. In order to utilise the grant it will be necessary to match fund the acquisitions with £788,860k of additional borrowing within the HRA capital programme. The properties must be purchased by 31st March 2024.

Decision made:

Cabinet approved the purchase of the 5 homes in line with the grant guidelines of LAHF R2.

Reasons for decision:

These recommendations will enable the council to purchase the units for Affordable Housing and participate in the Local Authority Housing Fund Scheme.

Alternatives considered and why rejected:

Council could decide to not purchase the identified units as part of the Local Authority Housing Fund. This option is not recommended as it would require the council to seek alternative units, which would put our compliance to complete on purchases by 30th March 2024 at risk. We would then have to advise the central government that we are unable to participate in the scheme and the allocated grant funding will not be taken up.

Details of any conflict of interest declared by any executive Member who has been consulted and of any dispensation granted by the Standards Committee:

None

Author of Officer report:

Ashley Jackson, Head of Housing and Planning

Background papers

Cabinet Paper - Local Authority Housing Fund R2 - Google Docs

Statement if decision is an urgent one and therefore not subject to call-in:

None

Last date for call in: 24 November 2023