

# West Suffolk Council

## Portfolio Holder Decisions Notice

(Published: Thursday 21 September 2023)

The following decisions were taken by the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Portfolio Holder for Housing, and, if not called in by councillors, will come into operation on Friday 29 September 2023. An executive decision may be called in, in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules contained within Part 4 of the Council’s Constitution, by at least five councillors submitting the required call-in request form to the Director (Human Resources, Governance and Regulatory) (e-mail: [democratic.services@westsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@westsuffolk.gov.uk)) **by 5.00 pm on Thursday 28 September 2023**. Should you have a query regarding any of the decision taken, contact should be made with the named officer in the first instance, the relevant portfolio holders or via Democratic Services, West Suffolk Council, West Suffolk House, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk, IP33 3YU.

Agenda item and report number	Declarations of interest	Decision(s) (including recommendations to Council)	Reason(s) for decision(s)	Other options considered and reasons for rejection	Contacts
No agenda item number as portfolio holder decision  Report number: CAB/WS/23/033	None	<b>Acquisition of Property for Temporary Accommodation</b>  Resolved: That:  1. the purchase of the freehold interest of one unit of temporary accommodation to be funded through  a. the Local Authority Housing Fund Two and  b. Government grant, discount or relief	The Council is experiencing an increasing demand for temporary accommodation due to rising case numbers of families and individuals presenting as homeless or at risk of homelessness, mainly due to the cost-of-living crisis. The Council also likely to see increased demand due to a range of Government schemes including asylum dispersal, support for Afghans including those leaving bridging hotels and Ukrainians presenting as	The Council could choose not to provide this accommodation however, this would mean not taking the opportunity to provide an additional unit of temporary accommodation with Government funding at 40	<b>Portfolio holders:</b>  Diane Hind Resources 07890 198957  Richard O’Driscoll Housing  <b>Officers:</b> Rachael Mann Director (Resources) 01638 719245

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		<p>schemes, any other options for external funding and the Investing in Growth Fund, be approved.</p> <p>2. A capital budget of up to £320,000 (three hundred and twenty thousand pounds) be established funded as per funding streams set out in (1) above, to be made available to facilitate the purchase of one unit of temporary accommodation including fees, survey and valuation costs, and any required works to bring the property up to standard.</p> <p>3. It be acknowledged that in line with recommendations (1) and (2) above, officers will proceed in line with the Council's agreed Scheme of Delegation.</p>	<p>homeless.</p> <p>The acquisition of one unit of temporary accommodation will be funded partly through the Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) 2 together with the Council's Investing in Growth Fund and Government grant, discount or relief schemes, any other options for external funding. Further details are provided in Report number <a href="#">CAB/WS/23/033</a>.</p> <p>Acquisition of such accommodation is included in the Council's acquisition policy and meets the requirements from central government to make temporary accommodation available. Any resettlement properties acquired through LAHF would be through a registered provider, with any temporary accommodation being owned and managed by the council. The grant</p>	<p>per cent of the capital cost.</p>	<p>Davina Howes Director (Families and Communities) 01284 757070</p>

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		<p>4. It be agreed for the Council's Section 151 Officer to make the necessary changes to the Council's prudential indicators as a result of recommendation (2).</p>	<p>funding for the temporary accommodation is only available if a registered provider agrees to take part in the scheme and purchases as least one unit of resettlement accommodation.</p> <p>A suitable property for temporary accommodation will be sought and this is likely to be in one of West Suffolk's five towns. Due diligence will be carried out as part of any potential purchase, and it is expected the council will purchase a property to the value in line with funding illustrated in section 2.6 of Report number CAB/WS/23/033, with a maximum funding request of £300,000.</p>		

Jennifer Eves  
 Director (Human Resources, Governance and Regulatory)  
 21 September 2023