



URGENT DELEGATED DECISION

Date: 27 March 2024

Request to the Head of Paid Service to exercise delegated authority as per Responsibility of Functions in Part IV, page 28 of the Constitution.

“to determine any matter within the referred or delegated powers and duties of a committee / sub-committee / board / working which is so urgent that a decision must be made before the next meeting of that committee / sub-committee / board / working group is due to be held.”

Limits on delegation: -

- Before making a decision using this delegated power, The Head of Paid Service shall consult with and take cognisance of the views of the Chairman (or in his absence the VC) of the relevant Committee (s) / Sub-Committee (s) etc; and
- Any decision taken by the Head of Paid Service under this delegated power shall be reported to Members within five working days of the decision taken.
- The Authority has also committed to consult with the Leader of the Opposition on such decisions.*

** The Leader of the Opposition was unavailable for the meeting, but was provided with all relevant documentation*

Usual Decision Maker: -

This decision would normally have been taken by the Prosperous Communities Committee, with a recommendation to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee

Expressions of Interest for Round 3 Funding must be submitted by 28 March 2024 and as the funding is above the £50k threshold delegated to the Section 151 Officer the urgent delegated decision provisions has been used.

Call-in does not apply.

Background Information provided in support of the Decision

The background to this decision is as detailed in the exempt report titled “**Local Authority Housing Fund Round 3 – Expression of Interest** ” which is appended to this decision.**

Reason for Urgency and Rationale for use of urgent Delegated Decision

An urgent decision, outside of Committee is required to ensure that an Expression of Interest can be submitted prior to deadline. Potential funding is above the £50k threshold delegated to the Section 151 Officer.

Financial Detail and Implications - DD/18/24/SL

Full financial details and implications are contained within the appended report.

The forecast cost of the project is capital spend of £1.491m against the potential funding set out in the EOI invitation of £1.393m – a shortfall of £0.098m.

There are several ways this gap in potential funding for the units could be met which are compliant with the published guidance, these include:

- Utilisation of held S106 funding.
- Utilisation of reclaimed capital grant received from the Housing Infrastructure Funding for the Southern Urban Extension
- Capital reserves.

Should the EOI be successful, a full business case detailing costings and funding options would be determined prior to signing of the MOU to ensure the costs are accurate, the funding gap can be financed and the proposal deliverable within the timeframes.

The full business case will require sign off from the Prosperous Communities/ Corporate Policy and Resources Committee.

Notes of Consultation Relevant to the Decision

Officers outlined the intention and background of the Local Authority Housing Fund, providing details of how funding could be used previously and how Rounds 1 and 2 Funding had been allocated across the country (Sections 1 and 2 of the report).

The purpose of Round 3 Funding was shared with Members and included opportunity for authorities to submit an expression of Interest. The Objectives of the Fund were detailed in Section 2.2 of the report along with a not exhaustive list of the types of housing schemes which could be deemed acceptable, as advised in the DLUHC prospectus published on-line.

LAHF 3 funding would require the local authority to deliver both properties for resettlement within the Afghan or Homes for Ukraine Cohort, alongside the opportunity to fund additional units of temporary accommodation to relieve some of the pressures of meeting statutory obligations in relation to temporary accommodation.

The West Lindsey position in relation to resettlement and temporary accommodation needs was shared with Members and outlined in Section 4 of the report, which also included the outline proposal on which the Expression of Interest would be based.

Summarised as a total of 12 units (8 temporary and 4 resettlement)

Members were advised that this was a high level EOI at this stage, and it was stressed that a full Business Case would need to be prepared and submitted to Committee. The projected costs were best indications at this stage and the project would have both revenue and capital costs.

All were in agreement sourcing and accessing any funding which could help deliver additional housing units to support those in need of temporary accommodation was to be welcomed.

Decision Made: -

1. That an Expression of Interest (EOI) be submitted as per the draft EOI included at Appendix 1.
2. That a further report be submitted to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee on the Project should the Expression of Interest be successful.



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Ian Knowles
Head of Paid Service

As the Chairman of the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee I have been fully consulted on this matter



.....
Councillor Trevor Young

As the Chairman of the Prosperous Communities Committee I have been fully consulted on this matter



Councillor Mrs Lesley Rollings

Date all Members were notified of the decision: 4 April 2024

** the exempt report has been excluded from the public website due to containing commercially sensitive data