

Cabinet

9 July 2024

Delegated Authority – Temporary Accommodation Purchasing

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Naushabah Khan, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Property

Report from: Mark Breathwick, Assistant Director, Culture and Community

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Summary

On 16 January 2024 Cabinet recommended that £41,925,000 be added to the Capital Programme for the purchasing of Temporary Accommodation (TA) as well as taking on leases of properties for use as TA and the set-up of an internal lettings department. This was approved by Full Council on 24 January 2024. This report seeks to add delegated authority for the purchasing of properties for TA use.

1. Recommendations

1.1. The Cabinet is requested to agree to delegate authority to the Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Property to purchase properties for the use as Temporary Accommodation, subject to these being made within the existing budget agreed by full council on 24 January 2024 (Decision number 2/2024).

2. Suggested reasons for decisions

2.1. Agreeing the recommendations above will enable the service to purchase property for TA purposes, using the capital addition already agreed by full Council as set out above.

2.2. In addition to the decisions taken in January, providing this delegated authority will further assist the Council in delivering its services to address demand relating to homelessness and temporary accommodation.

3. Budget and policy framework

3.1. There is a statutory duty to rehouse homeless households found to be in priority need in line with part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 (as amended).

3.2. The current demand for TA is significant and has already been identified as an identified budget pressure. Without this delegation in place, no purchases can currently be progressed to alleviate this budget pressure.

4. Background

4.1. On 16 January 2024 Cabinet recommended that £41,925,000 be added to the Capital Programme for the purchasing of Temporary Accommodation (TA). This was subsequently approved by Full Council on 24 January 2024.

4.2. It has since become apparent that a recommendation was not made to establish the delegated authority required for the purchasing of properties. This means that potential purchases cannot be progressed until delegated authority is in place.

4.3. In keeping with the original TA purchasing pilot scheme, approved by Cabinet on 13 December 2022, the addition of a delegated authority to the Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Property has therefore been put forward by this report.

5. Options

5.1. Option 1 – To delegate authority for the purchasing of properties for use as TA. This will enable the purchasing of properties within the TA project to continue beyond the pilot project.

5.2. Option 2 - To not delegate authority for the purchasing of properties for use as TA.

6. Advice and analysis

6.1. As set out in the original Cabinet report dated 16 January 2024, which is attached as Appendix 1 to this report for ease of reference.

7. Risk management

7.1. Associated risks and risk mitigation are detailed below.

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk	Risk rating
Properties cannot be purchased for use as TA	Without delegated authority in place, properties cannot be purchased and budget pressures from TA expenditure will continue	This risk cannot be avoided/mitigated	All

For risk rating, please refer to the following table:

Likelihood	Impact:
A Very likely B Likely C Unlikely D Rare	I Catastrophic II Major III Moderate IV Minor

8. Consultation

8.1. No formal consultation is required.

9. Climate change implications

9.1. As set out in the original Cabinet report dated 16 January 2024.

10. Financial implications

10.1. As set out in the original Cabinet report dated 16 January 2024.

11. Legal implications

11.1 As set out in the original Cabinet report dated 16 January 2024.

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Appendices

Appendix 1 – Cabinet report dated 16 January 2024

Background papers

[Temporary Accommodation Purchasing \(13 December 2022/19 January 2023\)](#)