
Council

20 June 2023

Name of Cabinet Member:

N/A

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Interim Chief Executive (Chief Operating Officer)

Ward(s) affected:

City wide

Title:

Exercise of Emergency Functions

Is this a key decision?

N/A

Executive Summary:

This report informs Council of the following decisions to exercise emergency functions undertaken by the Interim Chief Executive (Chief Operating Officer), in accordance with the Constitution and after consultation with the Leader of the Council, Councillor G Duggins:-

- a) To accept a grant of £2,565,696 from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)
- b) To accept a grant of £23,855,688.70 from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero ("DESNZ") (formally known as the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy).

List of Appendices included:

None

Background papers:

Copies of the signed decisions have been published on the Council's website at:

<https://edemocracy.coventry.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13299>

Other useful documents

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel, or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

Yes – 20 June 2023

Report title: Exercise of Emergency Functions

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 Part 2M of the City Council's Constitution provides for the Scheme of Functions delegated to Employees including the Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service.
- 1.2 Paragraph 3.8(a) of Part 2M of the Constitution enables the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Leader, to make decisions required in an emergency.
- 1.3 On 14 March 2023 and 27 April 2023 respectively, the Interim Chief Executive (Chief Operating Officer) was satisfied that the following decisions were required to be taken pursuant to the emergency provision and that the circumstances constituted an emergency as the signing of the grant funding letters was time critical:-

- a) Acceptance of a grant in the sum of £2,565,696 from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to ensure the recent humanitarian schemes offering sanctuary to Afghan and Ukrainian peoples provided sufficient longer-term accommodation to those they support; mitigated the increased pressures on local authority homelessness and social housing resources arising as sponsorship/family placements/bridging accommodation arrangements for Ukrainian refugees comes to an end and; concurrently support wider local authority housing and homelessness responsibilities to UK nationals.

The decision was critical to the Council's ability to provide housing needs within Coventry.

- b) Acceptance of a grant in the sum of £23,855,688.70 from the Department of Energy, Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) (formally known as the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy) in respect of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Wave 2.1. In conjunction with Citizen Housing Group Limited, the grant funding, together with Citizen's own investment, will deliver energy efficiency measures to approximately 2,000 social housing properties in Coventry. Works on the homes will predominately improve the fabric and ventilation of a property including cavity/external wall insulation, increased loft insulation, improved windows and doors and improving ventilation to reduce the potential for mould.

The decision was critical to support the energy efficiency improvements to houses in Coventry.

- 1.4 The above decisions, including the reasons for the decisions taken, have been published on the City Council's website.
- 1.5 If appropriate, further reports on matters arising from these decisions will be considered by the relevant Council body.

2. Options considered

- 2.1 The Interim Chief Executive (Chief Operating Officer) agreed that the circumstances constituted an emergency and was satisfied that the decisions to be taken pursuant to this emergency provision were critical to the Council's ability to deliver housing needs and improve social housing in the City.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 In accordance with the Constitution, the exercise of emergency functions was undertaken in consultation with the Leader of the Council, who confirmed his agreement to the course of action.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 In light of the urgent nature of the matter detailed in paragraph 1.3 above, the decisions were implemented immediately.

5. Comments from Interim Chief Executive (Chief Operating Officer) and the Chief Legal Officer

Financial implications

Where decisions made involve the receipt of grants and making of expenditure, this has been identified in the decision summary. The City Council maintains detailed records and forecasts of the financial impacts. Alongside regular financial management activity, the financial implications are included within the Council's financial monitoring reports

Legal implications

Part 2M of the City Council's Constitution provides for the Scheme of Functions delegated to Employees, including to the Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service. Paragraph 3.8 of Part 2M enables the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to make decisions in an emergency.

Report author:

Name and job title:

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Contributor/approver name	Title	Service Area	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
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Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Barry Hastie	Interim Chief Executive (Chief Operating Officer – Section 151 Officer)	Finance	26/05/23	09/06/23
Julie Newman	Chief Legal Officer	Law and Governance	26/05/23	01/06/23
Councillor G Duggins	Leader of the Council	-	01/06/23	09/06/23

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