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Council

5 December, 2023

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

N/A

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Chief Executive

**Ward(s) affected:**

City wide

**Title:**

Exercise of Emergency Functions

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**Is this a key decision?**

N/A

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**Executive Summary:**

This report informs Council of a decision undertaken by the Chief Executive in accordance with the Constitution and following consultation with the Leader of the Council, Councillor G Duggins, to exercise emergency functions to accept and allocate a grant of £2,539,200 from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (“DLUHC”) pursuant to the grant scheme known as the Local Authority Housing Fund Round 2 (LAHF2).

**List of Appendices included:**

None

**Background papers:**

A copy of the signed decision has been published on the Council’s website at:

<https://edemocracy.coventry.gov.uk/ecSDDisplay.aspx?NAME=Housing%20Emergency%20Powers%20LAHF2%2010-11-23&ID=3557&RPID=20400564>

**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 – 5 December, 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 10 November, 2023 the Chief Executive was satisfied that the following decision was required to be taken pursuant to the emergency provision in connection with the acceptance and allocation of a grant of £2,539,200 from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities ("DLUHC") pursuant to the grant scheme known as the Local Authority Housing Fund Round 2 (LAHF2). The Council received a Memorandum of Understanding to receive the grant from the DLUHC on 3 November, 2023 which was required to be signed by 13 November, 2023.
  - Accept a grant in the sum of £2,539,200 and use the grant in line with the grant determination issued
  - Approve that Stonewater Limited (via a legal agreement) will be transferred up to £423,200 in grant to deliver upon the purchase of 4 properties purchased for families on an Afghan resettlement scheme.
  - Approve that the grant of £2,539,200 is added to the City Council's Revenue Budget
  - Delegate authority to the Director of Adults and Housing to administer the grant in accordance with the grant determination referenced above.
- 1.4 The purpose and objectives of the grant are to:
  - Provide sustainable housing to those on Afghan resettlement schemes at risk of homelessness so that they can build new lives in the UK, find employment and integrate into communities.
  - Reduce local housing pressures beyond those on Afghan resettlement schemes by providing better quality temporary accommodation to families owed homelessness duties by Local Authorities.
  - Reduce emergency, temporary and bridging accommodation costs.
  - Reduce impacts on the existing housing and homelessness systems and those waiting for social housing.
- 1.5 The City Council (in accordance with the requirements of the grant) will purchase 20 properties for use as temporary accommodation. The LAHF2 funding will be match funded by the City Council utilising capital funding to purchase family temporary accommodation units which was approved by Cabinet in March 2022. The City Council appointed the registered housing provider (Stonewater Limited) to deliver the requirements of LAHF 1. The Council will extend the arrangement with Stonewater Limited so that the Council (in accordance with the requirements of the grant) deliver upon the requirements of the purchase of 4 properties purchased for families on an Afghan resettlement scheme.
- 1.6 The above decision, including the reasons for the decision taken, has been published on the City Council's website.
- 1.7 If appropriate, further reports on matters arising from this decision will be considered by the relevant Council body.

## **2 Options considered**

- 2.1 The Chief Executive agreed that the circumstances constituted an emergency and was satisfied that the decision to be taken pursuant to this emergency provision was critical to the Council's ability to deliver the Afghan resettlement scheme.

## **3 Results of consultation undertaken**

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 this course of action.

## **4 Timetable for implementing this decision**

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

## **5 Comments from Chief Operating Officer (Section 151 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(s):**

### **Name and job title:**

Suzanne Bennett, Governance Services Co-ordinator

### **Directorate:**

Law and Governance

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Legal: Julie Newman	Chief Legal Officer	Law and Governance	14/11/23	15/11/23
Chief Executive: Julie Nugent	Chief Executive		15/11/23	21/11/23
Members: Councillor G Duggins	Leader of the Council		15/11/23	15/11/23

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[www.coventry.gov.uk/councilmeetings](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/councilmeetings)