INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER DECISION - 27 March 2024

Decision by Councillor Mahfouz

Subject Approval of one year lease for temporary accommodation

Portfolio Safe and genuinely affordable homes

Authority Constitution part 3 Section 3

Decision: That, the Cabinet Member for Safe and genuinely affordable homes:

Agreed to enter into a lease for one year for the provision of emergency accommodation to homeless households.

Delegated authority to Strategic Director for Housing and Environment to finalise the terms of the lease following consultation

with the S151 Officer.

Reason for decision And Options Considered: The Council continued to experience a high level of statutory homeless acceptances generating a requirement to provide emergency and temporary accommodation.

Please see report attached

report Due to the shrinking private rental market and reduced availability of properties for use as temporary accommodation the Council was placing an increasing number of households into bed and breakfast and hotel accommodation. The commercial hotel accommodation was procured on a 'spot purchase' basis which meant that these increased (from rates that were already well above subsidy) due to demand from other events and this had increased the pressure on budgets as the cost fluctuated according to demand.

Leasing this hotel for one year would give the Council cost-certainty and offer savings in comparison to renting the room equivalents on an ad-hoc basis over this length of time, but more importantly, would provide the Council with a secured amount of space in order to meet Ealing's statutory requirements.' There was still an expectation and focus on moving people on from this type of accommodation, but the leasing of this hotel would enable the Council to secure better financial rates and larger rooms with the relevant facilities.

Date of Implementation: 28 March 2024

Report published 19 March 2024

Opposition consulted 19 March 2024

Decision recorded 27 March 2024

Decision published 27 March 2024

Reason for urgency Urgent, pursuant to the following procedures:

Please see repattached

report Rule 16 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules (impractical to comply with Forward Plan requirements)

Rule 5 of appendix to the Access to Information Procedure Rules (urgent ICMD)

Rule 16 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules (special urgency and exemption from call-in)

The reason for urgency is that by reason of the current housing crisis, the council is spending huge sums of money accommodating homeless families and individuals in emergency accommodation. This report proposal represents an opportunity to provide 72 units of dedicated hotel accommodation at a fixed rate. The council needs to move quickly to secure this rare opportunity.

The reason for lateness is that this opportunity has only become available very recently; officers are bringing it forward for decision as soon as possible after becoming aware of it.

Councillor Mahfouz Cabinet Member for safe and genuinely affordable homes

Merkesha Grant
Designation
Democratic Services