

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director (Planning and Property) Introduced by (Executive Member (Homes and Housing))	Council	Tuesday, 17 September 2024

Local Authority Housing Fund - Grant Acceptance

Is this report confidential?	No
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Is this decision key?	No
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Purpose of the Report

1. Council to accept Local Authority Housing Grant of £654,000 and approve the budget for this allocation. Part of this funding is for the purchase of 3 residential properties for the Afghanistan Refugee Resettlement Programme, these will be 2/3 Bedrooms dispersed around Chorley close to local amenities on Affordable rents. The other part is for converting commercial units at 17-23 Gillibrand Street into 3 Residential units for Temporary Accommodation for larger families.

Recommendations

2. To seek member approval to accept the LAHG funding.
3. Establish new capital programme budget to commence acquisition of housing stock and repairs to 17 – 23 Gillibrand Street.
4. Approval of future Acquisitions for 3 Afghanistan resettlement properties.
5. Approve the acceptance of the grant for 3 new Afghanistan refugee families following the acquisition of 3 new properties.
6. To delegate the decision to award the contract for the repairs to Gillibrand Street to the Executive Member for Resources'.
7. To authorise the Executive Member for Housing to take further decisions on the acquisitions of refugee properties.

Reasons for recommendations

8. Members have previously expressed a desire for Chorley Council to build upon its housing stock and the assets will likely only increase in value.

9. LCC will provide grant funding to Calico Homes for the resettlement programme to cover revenue costs associated with the rehoming.

Other options considered and rejected

10. Refuse the grant funding, this option was rejected as the Chorley will benefit from additional temporary accommodation for larger families.
11. Member have previously expressed a desire to increase the housing portfolio, refusing the grant would go against previous member aspirations.

Corporate priorities

12. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

Housing where residents can live well	A green and sustainable borough
An enterprising economy with vibrant local centres in urban and rural areas	Healthy, safe and engaged communities

Background to the report

12. The Deputy Prime Minister set out the Government's commitment to deliver the biggest increase in social and affordable housebuilding in a generation. As part of the measures announced to support housing delivery and create long-term stability, it was confirmed that the £450m third round of the Local Authority Housing Fund would continue.
13. Chorley Council submitted a bid for round three of the LAHF allocations and have been awarded £654,000
14. For additional information please see appendix A for the memorandum of understanding

Climate change and air quality

15. All Improvement works will be undertaken to current Building Control standards improving the energy efficiency of the proposed properties.
16. An impact assessment will be undertaken as part of this project.

Risk

17. If the projects are not undertaken there will be a greater pressure on Cotswold House, the Council may find itself unable to assist those in need.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

18. The creation of the new capital expenditure budget of £654,000 will be fully supported by the capital grant of the equivalent amount referred to above. This will be monitored as part of the capital programme and included in the quarterly corporate capital monitoring reports to Executive Cabinet. The Local Authority Housing Grant also includes a sum of £4,356 for revenue related expenditure associated with the scheme.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

19. Approval of acceptance of the grant is required as is the establishment of a budget code. Members will note this is a purposive grant and must be used for the purposes identified in the report.

Appendices

Appendix A LAHF R3 MOU Project.

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