

GENERAL EXCEPTION NOTICE TO THE CHAIR OF THE CORPORATE PERFORMANCE PANEL OF A KEY DECISION TO BE MADE BY THE CABINET NOT PREVIOUSLY INCLUDED ON THE PUBLISHED FORWARD PLAN

Under Regulation 9 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, local authorities are required to publish a Forward Plan of key decisions to be made by the Executive at least 28 clear days before the date of the meeting at which the decision is to be taken.

In the event that the publication of the intention to make a key decision at least 28 days before the meeting is impracticable, the local authority must inform the Chair of the relevant overview and scrutiny committee (Corporate Performance Panel) of “*the matter about which the decision is to be made*”, in accordance with Regulation 10 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

The following notice is hereby provided:

Matter about which the decision is to be made

Cabinet may make the following key decision at its meeting on 21st July 2025:

To accept the additional Local Authority Housing Fund grant of £568,000 and deliver the scheme for provision of housing based on the prospectus for the Local Authority Housing Fund issued by MHCLG.

For reference, the proposed recommendations are set out below:

Recommendations

1. The Council will enter a Memorandum of Understanding with MHCLG based on the attached prospectus for the Local Authority Housing Fund (see appendix 2). Authority is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for People and Communities to agree the final terms of the Memorandum of Understanding with MHCLG
2. The Council will accept the total sum of £568,000 offered to the Council by MHCLG under the Local Authority Housing Fund to deliver the programme, understanding the external match funding requirements as set out in the report and attached prospectus.
3. Cabinet agrees that, subject to agreement from West Norfolk Housing Company, the properties will be acquired by West Norfolk Housing Company, funded by the grant, debt financing and other available funding.
4. The Council requests that West Norfolk Housing Company works with the Council to deliver the properties through the fund.
5. Authority is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer in consultation with the Leader for the acceptance of further funding offered to the Council under the Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) or successor programme.

Reason for Decision

The recommendations will ensure that the opportunity presented by the Local Authority Housing Fund to deliver affordable housing in the borough will be fully realised and will help to relieve pressures on the council's homelessness services.

Reasons why compliance with Regulation 9 was impracticable

The Council's constitution defines a key decision as follows:

an executive decision which is likely –

(a) to result in the local authority incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or

(b) to be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in the area comprising two or more wards and electoral divisions in the Council's areas where significant under a) above is £500,000 or more and significant under b) above is one third of the resident population in a ward.

MHCLG contacted Strategic Housing in June offering the Council additional LAHF R3 grant of £568,000 for the delivery of 4 extra homes. The relevant acceptance documents for the scheme have to be entered by 29 July 2025, which mean that in the cycle of meetings, this needs to be considered by Cabinet at its 21 July 2025 meeting, accounting for the time taken to deal with any valid call-in. This means that insufficient notice of a key decision has been provided if this decision is made by Cabinet on 21 July 2025.

This notice is to be published 5 clear days before the identified key decision may be taken by Cabinet on 21 July 2025.

Name Alexa Baker, Monitoring Officer

Date: 11 July 2025