

RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET 27 JUNE 2023 FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY PANEL MEETING HELD ON 20 JUNE 2023

EC8: CABINET REPORT – LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSING FUND ALLOCATIONS POLICY

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Officers presented the report and provided information on the allocation of properties delivered via the Local Authority Housing Fund, a programme established by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to support Local Authorities to acquire homes to accommodate households with housing needs who had arrived in the UK via Ukrainian and Afghan resettlement and relocation schemes. Information on how allocations would be made based on existing policies and in accordance with housing needs was provided to the Panel along with detail of the tenancy options available. The Panel was informed that the Government allocation had been received in January and Cabinet had agreed to accept the funding and deliver the homes via West Norfolk Housing Company.

The Panel was informed that Government had now announced a second round of funding allocations which would be considered by Cabinet at a future meeting.

The Chair thanked officers for the report and invited questions and comments as set out below.

In response to a question from Councillor Bullen it was explained that allocations would be focussed on the three towns as there would be access to services. Availability and price was also a factor in determining where the homes would be allocated.

In response to a further question from Councillor Bullen, it was explained that the funding was allocated based on the number of arrivals in the area and to meet their needs.

Councillor Ratcliffe asked what support was available for those needing to register for the scheme and it was explained that support and advice would be provided on how to join the register. Lily had also been involved in working with individuals.

In response to a question from Councillor Ratcliffe, it was explained that the 16 homes to be provided through this scheme were only a small percentage of the housing stock available and it was important to note that it would result in an additional 16 affordable homes being provided in the Borough.

Councillor Bhondi asked for clarification on the types of homes to be provided. Officers provided detail on the match funding requirements and that there would be a mix of housing available, dependant on household needs, with a mix of bedrooms. For the Afghan Resettlement Scheme it was confirmed that four bedroom houses would be provided in accordance with Government criteria.

RESOLVED; That the Panel support the recommendation to Cabinet as set out below.

That Cabinet endorse the approach set out in this report on the allocation of the properties delivered via the Local Authority Housing Fund.