



## North Devon Council

### **Title of Decision Requested: Local Authority Housing Fund - Round 2**

Decision requested by decision maker: To submit a validation form request to DLUCH providing details on the Council's proposals to take advantage of the LAHF Round 2 funding allocation by the 5 July 2023 deadline.

#### 1. BACKGROUND / REASONS FOR THE DECISION REQUEST

- 1.1. The Council previously was awarded £1,001,081 funding through the Local Authority Housing Fund first round and Members approved the use of this funding at Strategy and Resources Committee in March 2023.
- 1.2. We are progressing on the acquisition of properties under Round 1 and an update report will be brought to members at the July Full Council meeting.
- 1.3. DLUCH have announced a further allocation of funding (Round 2) for North Devon Council of £552,000 capital grant to provide a minimum of 3 home(s) for the resettlement scheme and a minimum of 1 home(s) for the temporary accommodation element.
- 1.4. The scheme objectives are to;
  - 1.4.1. Provide sustainable housing to those on Afghan resettlement at risk of homelessness so that they can build new lives in the UK, find employment and integrate into communities
  - 1.4.2. Reduce local housing pressures beyond those on Afghan resettlement schemes by providing better quality temporary accommodation to those owed homelessness duties by local authorities
  - 1.4.3. Reduce emergency, temporary and bridging accommodation costs
  - 1.4.4. Reduce impacts on the existing housing and homelessness systems and those waiting for social housing
- 1.5. To progress the Round 2 funding, DLUCH need to confirm the outcome of a validation process and then the Council will be required to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to confirm the final allocation.
- 1.6. The decision above is to submit the validation paper for consideration by DLUCH by 5 July 2023 deadline.



2. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: (NOTE: Please state if there are any financial implications. If so, state whether there are sufficient funds within the agreed budget. If there are insufficient funds please state how the decision will be financed).
  - 2.1. The Round 2 grant allocation for North Devon Council is £552,000; which equates to 40% of the capital costs per property. Match funding from the NDC Capital Programme (as with Round 1) will be provided from already approved Capital budget for Acquisition of Temporary Accommodation.
3. ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED?
  - 3.1. Option of not taking advantage of the grant award considered and rejected, the Council have already approved to acquire further properties for temporary accommodation as part of its plans and the grant award enables the Council to maximise this programme.
4. ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARED?
  - 4.1. None
5. DISPENSATION IF GRANTED
  - 5.1. None
6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this request (The background papers are available for inspection and kept by the author):

  - 6.1. Local Authority Housing Fund Round 2 prospectus and guidance notes.
7. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN (Please note all who have been consulted on this decision):
  - 7.1 Leader of North Devon Council plus all Strategy and Resources Members informally have been consulted following meeting on 3 July 2023; steer provided for this decision to be taken.
8. OFFICER REQUESTING DECISION TO BE TAKEN: (please insert name and job title): Jon Triggs, Director of Resources and Deputy Chief Executive
9. NAME OF DECISION TAKER: (please insert name and job title): Ken Miles, Chief Executive
10. DATE DECISION TAKEN: 3/7/23



11. APPROVED BY DECISION TAKER: Yes

12. DECISION TAKER'S COMMENTS: I agree that we should submit a validation and take part in the scheme