

Meeting: Council

Date: 5 March 2025

Subject: General Fund Accommodation Programme

Report of: Councillor Peter Diplock on behalf of the Cabinet

The Council is asked to consider the minute and resolution of the Cabinet meeting held on 12 February 2025 as set out below.

The Council is recommended to: -

Approve making an initial allocation within the 2025/26 General Fund Capital Programme of up to £3.17m.

Minute extract
Cabinet – 12 February 2025.

The Cabinet considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration and Planning, seeking to establish a new programme to acquire and/or develop additional accommodation within the General Fund to meet immediate housing priorities including reducing the pressures of homelessness.

Resolved (Key decision):

(1) To approve the General Fund Accommodation Programme in-line with the following business case principles:

- i. Each scheme must reduce overall cost to the Council;
- ii. Any HRA land used shall be appropriated into the General Fund;
- iii. Acquisitions will be limited to the freehold;
- iv. Third-party leases must be value for money;
- v. All arrangements are subject to full legal and financial due diligence.

(2) To approve making an initial allocation within the 2025/26 General Fund Capital Programme of up to £3.17m, subject to Full Council approval.

(3) To approve entering into a Nominations Agreement with Eastbourne Housing Investment Company Ltd.

(4) To authorise the Assistant Director – Property and Development, in consultation with the Director of Finance and Performance (S151 Officer) and Lead Member for Housing and Homelessness, to take all necessary actions to deliver the programme,

including acquisitions, appropriations, and developments, as well as determining and executing all leases, contracts, funding agreements, nominations agreements and fees, and other related documentation.

Reason for decisions:

- (1) To lessen the reliance and cost of nighty paid emergency accommodation.
- (2) To increase the provision of better quality, more affordable alternative accommodation.
- (3) To make best use of council land, assets, and resources, including Eastbourne Housing Investment Company Ltd.
- (4) To provide autonomy and resilience in the programme delivery, enabling the council to be responsive and competitive to opportunities as they arise and in accordance with the business case principles.

For a copy of the report please contact Democratic Services:

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A copy may be downloaded on the [Council's website](#).