

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

2023/24  
Decision No.  
2500

### Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 8 January 2024

<b>Portfolio</b>	Housing
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Emergency and Temporary Accommodation Pressure</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	Director of Housing
<b>Corporate Priority:</b>	Provides Housing Choices

**Purpose:**

To seek Executive approval for additional capital budget to be made available to the Capital Programme for the purpose of acquisitions or other forms of provision that will provide emergency and temporary accommodation opportunities.

The provision of emergency and temporary accommodation is a statutory function of the authority. Costs of providing this are primarily met through the General Fund. The overall expenditure on this by the Council has increased dramatically in recent years. This is reflective of similar trends experienced at other district and unitary authorities.

To mitigate this unsustainable and rising cost it is proposed that further capital budget is made available to allow for property acquisitions or long lease arrangements which will provide a more cost-effective solution. Council provided accommodation in the Borough will often also be better for our customers, decreasing the reliance on B&B use outside of the Borough, and providing accommodation with access to cooking and laundry facilities.

**Options Considered:**

At the invitation of the Executive Leader, Councillor Mrs C Bainbridge addressed the Executive on this item.

During the discussion on this item, Councillor Mrs S Walker requested that thanks be placed on record to the Director of Housing and the Teams involved.

As recommendation.

**Decision:**

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- (a) agrees an increase in capital budget, to purchase or directly provide further emergency accommodation, to a level of expenditure as set out in Confidential Appendix A to the report; and
- (b) delegates authority to the Director of Housing, following consultation with the Executive Member for Housing, to agree the final acquisition cost, terms of purchase and/or long lease arrangements (subject to the purchase being within affordable levels), of any suitable property or properties identified.

**Reason:**

To enable the Council to pursue, in a timely manner, appropriate opportunities for new emergency housing provision directly by the Council.

**Confirmed as a true record:**

Councillor SDT Woodward (Executive Leader)

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