

# Cabinet

## Confirmed Decision list

### Leader's Urgent Decision

If you have any queries about this decision please contact Katia Neale on 07776 672 956 or e-mail [katia.neale@lbhf.gov.uk](mailto:katia.neale@lbhf.gov.uk)

**The call-in has expired and this decision can now be implemented.**

1. **TITLE:** New homes for refugee communities

2. **DECISION MADE BY:** Leader of the Council

3. **DECISION:**

That the Leader of the Council:

1. Notes the Director of Finance's approval to accept grant funding from the Refugee Housing Programme and the Local Authority Housing Fund Round 2
2. Approves the creation of a capital budget of £16,800,000 for the Refugee Housing Programme, to be partly funded by £8,400,000 capital grant from the GLA;
3. Approves the creation of a further capital budget of £2,655,000, of which £1,062,000 will be partly funded by capital grant from DLUHC's Local Authority Housing Fund Round 2;
4. Approves the acquisitions under these budgets and delegate authority to the Strategic Director of Economy, in consultation with the Director of Finance, to select and complete acquisitions of properties under each capital acquisition budget and approve associated expenditure;
5. Notes that each individual acquisition will require a delegated authority report seeking approval from the Strategic Director of Economy, in consultation with the Director of Finance.

4. **REASON FOR URGENCY:**

An urgent decision is required due to the short timeframes within which the grant must be spent. This is because completion on acquisitions under the RHP

funding must have taken place by the end of November 2023 while LAHF2 funding requires completion to take place within this financial year; the council first received notice of its funding allocations in May 2023 and therefore has not been able to follow standard governance arrangements. Approval of this Leader's Urgency Decision will enable the council to complete property acquisitions within the time limits of each funding source.

This decision is required in order to comply with the council's Financial Regulations 2021, according to which increases in borrowing of above £300,000 require Cabinet approval. The decision is also required to establish a series of delegations that will enable the council to both respond flexibly to opportunities that may arise within the market, and to deliver within the timeframes of grant funding conditions.

**5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:**

Refugee Housing Programme – Options

**RHP Option 1: Do nothing**

**RHP Option 2: Approve the creation of a match funding budget only**

**RHP Option 3: Approve the creation of a match funding budget and associated delegations (recommended option)**

Local Authority Housing Fund Round 2 – Options

**LAHF2 Option 1: Do nothing**

**LAHF2 Option 2: Approve the creation of a match funding budget only**

**LAHF2 Option 3: Approve the creation of a match funding budget and associated delegations (recommended option)**

**6. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED AND DISPENSATIONS GRANTED:**

None

<b>Date of Decision</b>
20 July 2023

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