

Appendix 1 – List of Urgent Executive Decision made by the Leader Decisions from 1 May 2023 to 10 May 2024

1. New Homes for Refugee Communities

Date of decision: 21/07/2023

Status: Open report

Link: <https://democracy.lbhf.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=4663>

Summary:

The council successfully secured indicative allocations of £8.4m and £1.062m from the GLA's Refugee Housing Programme and DLUHC's Local Authority Housing Fund Round 2 respectively. The purpose of both funding sources is to acquire new housing to support refugee resettlement and relocation programmes.

In order to benefit from this grant funding, the council is required to contribute match funding and to complete all acquisitions by the end of the current financial year. This report requests urgent approval of match funding budgets for both programmes and a series of delegations to enable the council to act quickly in acquiring vital new homes within this timeframe.

Recommendations:

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.

Reasons 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.