

Time started	15.30 pm
Time ended	15.46 pm

## **Urgent Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Meeting 20 November 2018**

Present: Councillor Poulter (Chair)

Other councillors present: Councillor Webb

Officers: Clare Mehrbani (Head of Operations, Derby Homes) and Alex Hough (Democratic Services Manager).

### **26/18        Apologies**

There were no apologies for absence.

### **27/18        Identification of Urgent Items to which Call-in will not                  apply**

It was noted that Item 5 (MHCLG Private Rented Sector Access Fund 2018 grant application) was not a key decision and therefore call-in did not apply.

### **28/18        Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **29/18        Minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2018**

The minutes were approved as a correct record.

### **30/18        MHCLG Private Rented Sector Access Fund 2018                  grant application**

The Leader of the Council considered an urgent report of the Strategic Director of Communities and Place seeking approval to bid for funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Private Rented Sector Access Fund 2018.

It was reported that a bid for up to a maximum of £608,000 had been prepared in anticipation of the deadline for submissions of 21 November 2018. The report also sought approval to delegate acceptance of funding to the Strategic Director for Communities and Place and relevant Cabinet Member, in consultation with the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources, should the bid be successful.

It was noted that the bid was intended to widen access to private rented sector (PRS) housing for those at risk of homelessness. Details of the intended use for the funding were provided at Appendix 1 of the report: this included the employment of four PRS Officers and one supervisor as well as three tenancy sustainment staff. The package also included a feasibility study for a social lettings agency; extension of a mediation service and planned

incentives for landlords. Taken together, the proposal intended to mobilise an additional 250 PRS tenancies.

The Leader queried the extent to which 250 number of properties could be identified and the associated risks of funding being clawed back. It was reported that the proposed marketing strategy intended to target landlords who may not be aware of the incentives that were available for taking on tenants at risk of homelessness.

Further clarification was also sought on the recruitment of staff; it was stated that the employees may be sub-contracted through a network of existing providers or the roles may prove attractive for those currently working for private letting agents.

It was suggested that the Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Housing was consulted on the terms of the service level agreement for the transfer of grant awards to third parties by Derby Homes. Subject to this amendment, the recommendations contained in the report were agreed as printed.

**Resolved:**

- **To approve submission of a Private Rented Access Scheme bid to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), for revenue funding up to a maximum of £608,000.**
- **To delegate approval to the Strategic Director of Communities and Place and the relevant Cabinet Member, following consultation with the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources, to accept the Private Rented Sector Access grant subject to acceptable grant conditions.**
- **To approve the transfer of any Private Rented Sector Access grant received, from Derby City Council to Derby Homes, on terms to be set out and agreed in a service level agreement**
- **To authorise the Strategic Director of Communities and Place, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member, to agree the terms of the service level agreement to give effect, amongst other issues, to the transfer to, and award of grants to qualifying third parties by, Derby Homes.**

MINUTES END