

HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL

GENERAL EXCEPTION NOTICE

(under regulations 10(1) and 10(3) of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 (“the Regulations”))

Notice is hereby given that the Cabinet intends at its meeting to be held on Thursday 26 January 2023 at 5.30pm at Parkside to make an executive decision regarding the Local Authority Housing Fund 2022-23 and 2023-24.

This decision is regarded as a ‘key decision’ and ordinarily under regulation 9 of the Regulations at least 28 clear days’ notice is required to be given in advance on the Forward Plan, setting out that a key decision is to be made, the matter in respect of which the decision is to be made, the name of the decision-making body and its members or the name of the individual decision maker, the date on which, or the period within which, the decision is to be made, a list of the documents submitted, the address from where copies of documents may be obtained, notice that other documents may be submitted to the decision maker and the procedure for requesting details of these documents (if any) as they become available.

Where the publication of the intention to make a key decision under regulation 9 is impracticable, that decision may be made where (i) the Chief Executive has informed the chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the matter about the decision is to be made, (ii) the Chief Executive has published on its website the notice to the Overview and Scrutiny Chairman, and, (iii) after five clear days’ notice have elapsed following the day on which the Chief Executive made available the aforementioned notice.

Accordingly, the Chief Executive has by written notice informed the Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee of the matter about which the decision is to be made, namely to approve and accept the allocation of £2.656m funding from Government and add £3.67m of its own funding to provide 14 standard homes and 2 larger homes by the 30 November 2023 deadline.

The reason why it was impracticable to have complied with the standard advance notice requirement is that the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) only recently announced a new £500m Local Authority Housing Fund for financial years 2022-23 and 2023-24 and a decision is needed by the end of this month.

The background is that in late December 2022 (DLUHC) announced a scheme to support authorities who are helping with providing accommodation to families fleeing conflict in Ukraine and Afghanistan. The Council has provisionally been identified as eligible for capital grant funding (under section 31 of the Local government Act 2003) and with this funding DLUHC expects the Council to provide a minimum of 14 homes. More detailed information emerged in January to enable a decision to be made to take this forward.

A copy of this notice has been made available for inspection by the public and published on the Council’s website.

Dated 18 January 2023

Jane Eaton, Chief Executive Officer