

**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 to make an executive decision regarding the Local Authority Housing Fund 2022-23 and 2023-24 at its meeting on Thursday 23 March 2023 at 5.30pm at its Parkside offices.

The subject decision constitutes a “key decision” and Local Authorities are required to publicise certain information at least 28 clear days before a key decision is made (“the Publication Requirements”). The Council’s constitution and Regulation 9 of the Regulations refer.

However, where it is impracticable to comply with the Publication Requirements, a key decision may still be made (i) where the proper officer has informed the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (“the Chairman”) of the matter about which the decision is to be made (“the Notice”), (ii) where the proper officer has made available for public inspection and published on its website a copy of the Notice, and, (iii) after five clear days have elapsed following the day on which the proper officer made available the Notice. The Council’s constitution and Regulation 10 refer.

The Chief Executive of Horsham District Council is the “proper officer” for the purposes of the Regulations as contained in its constitution.

Accordingly, the acting Chief Executive provides this Notice to the Chairman. A key decision must be taken to (i) approve the acquisition of 16 properties using the funds earmarked for the Local Authority Housing Fund initiative, and, (ii) recommend to full council that the Shareholder’s Agreement of Horsham District Homes (Holdings) Limited is varied so that this company can take leases of the subject properties from the Council.

Further, it is impracticable to have complied with the Publication Requirements because (i) 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, (ii) the Council needed to undertake a review, requiring external tax advice, in relation to how best to structure the provision of the required housing, and, (iii) a decision is required prior to month end.

The background to this initiative is contained in the Cabinet Reports dated 26 January 2023 and the one attached hereto.

This Notice will be made available for public inspection at Parkside offices as well as published on the Council’s website.

Dated 13 March 2023

Signed: Lauren Kelly, Monitoring Officer