

COUNCIL – 19TH JUNE 2023

Report of the Chief Executive

URGENT EXECUTIVE DECISIONS EXEMPTED FROM CALL-IN - ACQUISITION OF PROPERTIES

Purpose of Report

To note decisions which were exempted from call-in in accordance with Scrutiny Committee Procedure 11.9.

Action Requested

In accordance with Full Council Procedure 9.11(d) questions may be asked of the Leader in relation to the urgent decisions that were taken. The Leader may ask the relevant Lead Member to respond.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

The call-in procedure provides for a period of five clear working days during which councillors can ask for decisions taken by the Cabinet and individual Cabinet members, and key decisions taken by officers to be reviewed. With the agreement of the Chair of the Scrutiny Commission or in his/her absence the Mayor or Deputy Mayor) a decision can be exempted from call-in if the decision to be taken is both urgent and reasonable and the delay caused by the call-in process would not be in the interests of the Council or the public. Scrutiny Committee Procedure 11.9 requires that decisions that are exempted from call-in are reported to Council.

Acquisition of properties

On 19th October 2017 the then Leader delegated authority to the Head of Strategic Housing to acquire additional Housing Revenue Account (HRA) properties for rental. It is likely that any properties acquired will exceed £150,000 in value, and therefore each purchase will be a key decision. It would not be practical for the usual call-in arrangements for key decisions to be applied as any delay caused could result in the purchase falling through, and therefore the then Mayor, in the absence of the Chair of the Scrutiny Management Board, gave approval for decisions taken under this delegated authority to be exempted from call-in under Scrutiny Procedure Rule 11.9. The new Chair of the Scrutiny Commission has subsequently confirmed that she is content with these arrangements.

The purchase of properties being reported to this meeting of Council are set out below:

- 24 Durham Road, Loughborough, LE11 5UA (3 bedroom house) - £180,000 with associated fees estimated at £2,500 and stamp duty of £5,400 (total cost £187,900)

- 54 Wellbrook Avenue, Sileby, Loughborough, LE12 7QQ (3 Bedroom house) - £207,500 with associated fees estimated at £2,500 and stamp duty of £6,225 (total cost £216,225)

The decisions of the Head of Strategic to exchange contracts on the purchases can be found in the Annex to this report.

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions

As detailed within the Annex to this report.

Report Implications

As detailed within the annexe to this report.

Background Papers: None

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Annex

Delegated decisions taken by the Head of Strategic Housing.