

**CABINET LEAD MEMBER DECISION MEETING - 15TH NOVEMBER 2018****Report of the Monitoring Officer  
Lead Member: Councillor Taylor****Part A**ITEM            MEMBER GRANTS SCHEMEPurpose of Report

To bring forward recommendations for an award under the Member Grants Scheme where the Ward Councillor has declared a personal interest that might lead to bias.

Recommendation

That £750 be awarded to Newtown Linford Tennis Club towards furnishing their new, larger clubhouse.

Reason

To approve an award under the Member Grants Scheme where the relevant Ward Councillor has declared a personal interest that might lead to bias in connection to the organisation receiving the funding.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

The Member Grants Scheme was approved by Cabinet at their meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2018 (minute reference 116).

Under the scheme each Councillor is allocated £1,000 to fund local community projects within their ward.

Situations are now arising where Ward Councillors are considering awarding grants under the scheme to organisations they have a connection to, which under the provisions of the Member Code of Conduct may result in them having a 'personal interest which might lead to bias'.

The Member Conduct Committee considered this matter at their meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018, and were of the view that in cases where a Ward Councillor has a conflict of interest that the grant application should be referred to the Cabinet for decision.

The Leader of the Council on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018 allocated this Executive function to the Lead Member for Communities, Safety and Wellbeing.

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

The Chair of the Scrutiny Management Board has been consulted and has agreed that these decisions be exempted from call-in, given their nature and low financial value.

## Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

### *Financial Implications*

The grants can be funded from within existing identified budgets.

### *Risk Management*

There are no specific risks associated with this decision.

### *Comments of Monitoring Officer*

The Lead Member is being requested to make the final decision on the award of the grant in question because the Ward Councillor has declared a personal interest that might lead to bias, and therefore the advice of the Monitoring Officer is that he should not be the final decision maker.

Key Decision:	No
Background Papers:	None
Officer to contact:	Adrian Ward Monitoring Officer (01509) 634573 <a href="mailto:adrian.ward@charnwood.gov.uk">adrian.ward@charnwood.gov.uk</a>

## Part B

### Background

1. Cllr Snartt is the Ward Councillor representing Forest Bradgate, and wishes to support the award of the grant to Newtown Linford Tennis Club from the money available to him under the Member Grants Scheme. However, he has declared that he has a personal interest that might lead to bias as some of his family members are involved in the running of the club. Therefore the Cabinet Lead Member is being requested to act as the final decision maker in respect of the award of the grant.
2. The proposal is for £750 be awarded to the club towards furnishing their new, larger clubhouse.
3. In their application form the club have indicated that:  
  
*'Replacing our existing 6' x 8' Wooden Club House with a larger one [NB. funded directly by the club] to accommodate growing membership and usage. The Grant would enable us to furnish the new structure with Tables, Chairs, Bench Seating in the Changing area. Kitchen Area needs Kettle, Crockery, Cutlery, Bin, Blinds for the windows and Kitchen units'.*
4. Cllr Snartt supports the award of the grant.

**CABINET LEAD MEMBER DECISION MEETING – 3RD JANUARY 2019****Report of the Monitoring Officer  
Lead Member: Councillor Taylor****Part A**ITEM            MEMBER GRANTS SCHEMEPurpose of Report

To bring forward recommendations for an award under the Member Grants Scheme where the Ward Councillor has declared a personal interest that might lead to bias.

Recommendations

1. That £250 be awarded to The Rectory Wildlife Garden in Loughborough, towards re-building the garden.
2. That £397 be awarded to the Thurmaston Action Group, towards improvements to a footpath in Watermead Country Park.

Reasons

1&2. To approve awards under the Member Grants Scheme where the relevant Ward Councillor has declared a personal interest that might lead to bias in connection to the organisation receiving the funding.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

The Member Grants Scheme was approved by Cabinet at their meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2018 (minute reference 116).

Under the scheme each Councillor is allocated £1,000 to fund local community projects within their ward.

Situations are now arising where Ward Councillors are considering awarding grants under the scheme to organisations they have a connection to, which under the provisions of the Member Code of Conduct may result in them having a 'personal interest which might lead to bias'.

The Member Conduct Committee considered this matter at their meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018, and were of the view that in cases where a Ward Councillor has a conflict of interest that the grant application should be referred to the Cabinet for decision.

The Leader of the Council on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018 allocated this Executive function to the Lead Member for Communities, Safety and Wellbeing.

## Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

The Chair of the Scrutiny Management Board has been consulted and has agreed that these decisions be exempted from call-in, given their nature and low financial value.

### Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

#### *Financial Implications*

The grants can be funded from within existing identified budgets.

#### *Risk Management*

There are no specific risks associated with this decision.

#### *Comments of Monitoring Officer*

The Lead Member is being requested to make the final decision on the award of the grant in question because the Ward Councillors have declared personal interests that might lead to bias, and therefore the advice of the Monitoring Officer is that they should not be the final decision makers.

Key Decision:	No
Background Papers:	None
Officer to contact:	Adrian Ward Monitoring Officer (01509) 634573 <a href="mailto:adrian.ward@charnwood.gov.uk">adrian.ward@charnwood.gov.uk</a>

## Part B

### Background

1. Cllr Christine Harris is a Ward Councillor representing Loughborough Lemyngton, and wishes to support the award of a grant towards re-building The Rectory Wildlife Garden. However, she has declared that she has recently been appointed as a trustee of the group. Therefore the Cabinet Lead Member is being requested to act as the final decision maker in respect of the award of the grant.
2. The Wildlife Garden is in the process of being completely re-planned and re-built after a hiatus which lasted a number of years whilst the rectory site was being developed, the ownership of the land has now been transferred to Charnwood Borough Council. The garden has been re-planned by a landscape architect and this is now being costed. Much of the work will be carried out by volunteers. The majority of the money to rebuild the garden is coming from Section 106 funds. When completed the garden will provide a wildlife haven adding to the publicly accessible green spaces in the town centre. It will be maintained by volunteers.
3. Cllr Brenda Seaton is a Ward Councillor representing Thurmaston, and wishes to support the award of a grant to Thurmaston Action Group for work to improve a footpath at Watermead Country Park. However, she has declared that she is the treasurer of the group. Therefore the Cabinet Lead Member is being requested to act as the final decision maker in respect of the award of the grant.
4. Watermead Regeneration Corridor Framework was drawn up in November 2016 for Charnwood Borough Council. The framework identified several linked regeneration themes one of which was 'connecting it all up' which focused on improving connections between the country park and surrounding communities and employment areas. The Bridle Way is the first public right of way in Thurmaston to Watermead Country Park. The path is maintained by Leicestershire County Council to the standard width for a bridle path but the 3 meter deep corridor running the 50m length of footpath is heavily populated with dead and dying self-set common limes. The limes are susceptible to fungal disease which in this case is causing root rot as well as being covered in ivy that is sucking the sap from the bark this makes the trunks very susceptible to collapse in high winds as well as being dragged down by the sheer weight of ivy clinging to the dead hollow trunks.
5. The path has been opened up to the right by two newly built warehouses but the unmanaged wooded area hangs over the path and often requires users of the path to manhandle a fallen trunk that is blocking the path adding to the chaotic mix of natural undergrowth, lager cans and vodka bottles. The path is used by cyclists for work as it joins with the Watermead Park's cycle path to the City and Birstall. It is also heavily used by leisure cyclists and walkers as well as a popular route for dog walkers.
6. The Grants Panel have also noted that the strip of land that the application relates to is not owned by anybody – however it is alongside a footpath belonging to Leicestershire County Council.

7. The Grants team is also awaiting a response from Cllr Mark Lowe as to whether he wishes to support the application or not with a further £1,000 of grant funding, and it is hoped that this will be confirmed by 21<sup>st</sup> December. If Cllr Lowe decides not to support the application, it is then questionable whether the project could go ahead, even if Cllr Seaton's amount was approved. A verbal update will be given to the Lead Member on 3<sup>rd</sup> January.

**Acquisition of Properties**

**2 Graham Rise, Loughborough**

**Decision under Delegated Powers**

**Officer Requesting Decision**

Beverly Wagstaffe – Housing Strategy and Support Manager

**Officer Making the Decision**

Alison Simmons - Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing

**Recommendation**

To approve the purchase of 2 Graham Rise, Loughborough and for the Council to formerly Exchange Contracts.

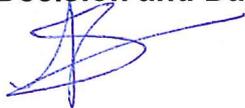
**Reason**

To utilise approved funding for the purchase of additional HRA rental properties.

**Authority for Decision**

Section 8.3, of the Constitution gives delegated authority to the Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing to acquire additional properties for rent via the HRA where approved funding exists within the Capital Plan for the relevant financial year, and where any property acquired is subject to a Condition Survey, an Independent Valuation, Standard Legal checks, and meets identified housing needs (item 20 on page 8-20).

**Decision and Date**



Alison Simmons  
Head of Strategic and  
Private Sector Housing

25th September 2018

**Background**

On the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017, the Leader gave delegated executive authority to the Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing to acquire additional properties for rent via the HRA within available approved funding which has subsequently been formalised in an update of the Constitution approved by Council on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018

The following property has now been identified to purchase:

- 2 Graham Rise – 3 bedroom semi detached house

The seller of the property has accepted an offer of £174,000

A Condition Survey, Valuation and Legal checks have all now been satisfactorily completed

### **Comments from HR**

Not applicable

### **Financial Implications**

The cost of acquiring this property is £174,000 with associated fees estimated at £2,650 (total cost of £176,650).

In February 2018, Cabinet approved a budget of £1,953,000 for 2018-2019 and £1,856,000 for 2019-2020 to support delivery of the Housing Acquisition Policy in acquiring additional HRA properties for rent.

To date the Council has purchased 4 other properties for the sum £633,285, including fees, thereby leaving a balance of £1,319,715 available funds for 2018-2019.

There is sufficient budget to cover the cost of acquiring 2 Graham Rise. Loughborough.

### **Risk Management**

No risks identified

Key Decision:

Yes, but exempted from call-in. See agenda item 14, Full Council meeting dated the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

Background Papers:

Housing Acquisition Policy approved by Cabinet on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018

**Acquisition of Properties**

**37 Roydale Close, Loughborough**

**Decision under Delegated Powers**

**Officer Requesting Decision**

Beverly Wagstaffe – Housing Strategy and Support Manager

**Officer Making the Decision**

Alison Simmons - Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing

**Recommendation**

To approve the purchase of 37 Roydale Close, Loughborough and for the Council to formerly Exchange Contracts and Complete the purchase.

**Reason**

To utilise approved funding for the purchase of additional HRA rental properties.

**Authority for Decision**

Section 8.3, of the Constitution gives delegated authority to the Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing to acquire additional properties for rent via the HRA where approved funding exists within the Capital Plan for the relevant financial year, and where any property acquired is subject to a Condition Survey, an Independent Valuation, Standard Legal checks, and meets identified housing needs (item 20 on page 8-20).

**Decision and Date**

 Alison Simmons  
Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing  
5th November 2018

**Background**

On the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017, the Leader gave delegated executive authority to the Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing to acquire additional properties for rent via the HRA within available approved funding which has subsequently been formalised in an update of the Constitution approved by Council on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018

The following property has now been identified to purchase:

- 37 Roydale Close, Loughborough

The seller of the property has accepted an offer of £195,000.

A Condition Survey, Valuation and Legal checks have all now been satisfactorily completed.

### **Comments from HR**

Not applicable

### **Financial Implications**

The cost of acquiring this property is £195,000 with associated fees estimated at £2,650 and stamp duty of £7,250 (total cost of £204,900).

In February 2018, Cabinet approved a budget of £1,953,000 for 2018-2019 and £1,856,000 for 2019-2020 to support delivery of the Housing Acquisition Policy in acquiring additional HRA properties for rent.

To date the Council has purchased 4 other properties for the sum £660,863 including associated fees with a further £662,000 committed with 4 other purchases including this property.

This means that the total spent to date and the funds committed equal £1,322,863, leaving a balance of £630,137 available for 2018-2019.

There is sufficient budget to cover the cost of acquiring 37 Roydale Close, Loughborough.

### **Risk Management**

No risks identified

Key Decision:

Yes, but exempted from call-in. See agenda item 14, Full Council meeting dated the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

Background Papers:

Housing Acquisition Policy approved by Cabinet on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

**Acquisition of Properties**

**8 Penrith Avenue, Shepshed**

**Decision under Delegated Powers**

**Officer Requesting Decision**

Beverly Wagstaffe – Housing Strategy and Support Manager

**Officer Making the Decision**

Alison Simmons - Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing

**Recommendation**

To approve the purchase of 8 Penrith Avenue, Shepshed and for the Council to formerly Exchange Contracts and Complete the purchase.

**Reason**

To utilise approved funding for the purchase of additional HRA rental properties.

**Authority for Decision**

Section 8.3, of the Constitution gives delegated authority to the Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing to acquire additional properties for rent via the HRA where approved funding exists within the Capital Plan for the relevant financial year, and where any property acquired is subject to a Condition Survey, an Independent Valuation, Standard Legal checks, and meets identified housing needs (item 20 on page 8-20).

**Decision and Date**



*Alison Simmons  
Head of Strategic  
and Private Sector  
Housing*

*26th November 2018*

**Background**

On the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017, the Leader gave delegated executive authority to the Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing to acquire additional properties for rent via the HRA within available approved funding which has subsequently been formalised in an update of the Constitution approved by Council on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018

The following property has now been identified to purchase to meet the identified housing needs for the Borough:

- 8 Penrith Avenue, Shepshed – 2 bedroom semi-detached house

The seller of the property has accepted an offer of £143,000

A Condition Survey, Valuation and Legal checks have all now been satisfactorily completed.

### **Comments from HR**

Not applicable

### **Financial Implications**

The cost of acquiring this property is £143,000 with associated fees estimated at £2,650 and stamp duty of £4,650 (total cost of £150,300).

In February 2018, Cabinet approved a budget of £1,953,000 for 2018-2019 and £1,856,000 for 2019-2020 to support delivery of the Housing Acquisition Policy in acquiring additional HRA properties for rent.

To date the Council has purchased 5 other properties for the sum £872,000 including associated fees with a further £299,600 committed with 2 other purchases including this property.

This means that the total spent to date and the funds committed equal £1,171,600, leaving a balance of £781,400 available for 2018-2019.

There is sufficient budget to cover the cost of acquiring 8 Penrith Avenue, Shepshed

### **Risk Management**

No risks identified

Key Decision:

Yes, but exempted from call-in. See agenda item 14, Full Council meeting dated the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

Background Papers:

Housing Acquisition Policy approved by Cabinet on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018.