

## COUNCIL – 21ST JUNE 2021

### Report of the Chief Executive

#### ITEM 12 URGENT EXECUTIVE DECISIONS EXEMPTED FROM CALL-IN:

- i. CHARNWOOD BUSINESS GRANT SUPPORT SCHEME -  
ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS GRANT FUND
- ii. 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.

#### **(i) Charnwood Business Grant Support Scheme - Additional Restrictions Grant Fund**

The Strategic Director of Corporate and Environmental Services made a decision on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 to update the Business Grants Policy to reflect the governments additional funding being made available in May/June 2021 to support the Additional Restrictions Grant Fund.

The Chair of the Scrutiny Commission was consulted and agreed that the decision be exempted from call-in, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and to enable payments to be made to the businesses affected by the Pandemic as soon as possible and meet Government expectations in respect of the payments timetable

The report considered can be found in the Annex to this report.

## ***(ii) Acquisition of properties***

On 19th October 2017 the Leader delegated authority to the Head of Strategic and Private Sector 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 two properties is being reported to this meeting of Council:

- 377 New Ashby Road, Loughborough (3-bedroom house) for £172,000
- 109 Shelthorpe Road, Loughborough (3 Bedroom house) for £180,000

The decisions of the Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing 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 Annex to this report.

Background Papers: None

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### Annex

Reports considered by the Cabinet Lead Member and relevant officers.