

## COUNCIL – 8TH NOVEMBER 2021

### Report of the Chief Executive

#### ITEM 13 URGENT EXECUTIVE DECISIONS EXEMPTED FROM CALL-IN:

- (i) ACQUISITION OF PROPERTIES
- (ii) MEMBER GRANTS SCHEME
- (iii) CHARNWOOD BUSINESS GRANT SUPPORT SCHEMES

#### 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) 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 three properties is being reported to this meeting of Council:

- 54 Shelthorpe Road, Loughborough (4-bedroom house) for £235,250\*
- 21A Beacon Road, Loughborough (1 bedroom flat) for £90,050\*
- 23A Beacon Road, Loughborough (1 bedroom flat) for £90,050\*

(\* includes fees and stamp duty)

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.

### **(ii) Member Grants Scheme**

On 2nd October 2018, Councillor Morgan, as Leader of the Council, took a decision to allocate Executive functions relating to the determination of applications under the Member Grants Scheme where the ward councillor concerned had a conflict of interest to the Cabinet Lead Member for Communities, Safety and Wellbeing. This was later amended on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020 to reflect changes to the membership of the Cabinet and allocation of responsibilities to members of the Cabinet.

In exercising that Executive function, the Cabinet Lead Member for Community Support and Equalities took a decision to award the following grant: -

- That £250 be awarded to Greener Goscote for its Greener Goscote project.

The Chair of the Scrutiny Commission has been consulted and agreed that the decisions relating to member grants be exempted from call-in, given their nature and low financial value.

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

### **(iii) Charnwood Business Grant Support schemes**

In response to the Coronavirus, the Government put in place a series of grants to support *businesses affected by the Pandemic*. Charnwood has had in place policies to support the administration of schemes, but an update was considered necessary due to additional funding being made *available* to support the Additional Restrictions Grant Fund. Accordingly, on 30th September 2021, the Director of Environment and Corporate Services took a decision that the policy for the operation of the Charnwood Business Grant Support schemes be amended with effect from 11th October 2021.

The Chair of the Scrutiny Commission was consulted and agreed that the decision be exempted from call-in in order to continue supporting *businesses affected by the Pandemic*

The report considered 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 annexes to this report.

Background Papers: None

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### Annex

Reports considered by the Cabinet, Cabinet Lead Member and relevant officers.