

CABINET
13 December 2022

PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

ALLOCATION OF GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR ACCOMMODATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR SINGLE HOMELESS PEOPLE - ADDENDUM

REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR - REGULATORY

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: COUNCILLOR SEAN PRENDERGAST

COUNCIL PRIORITY: PEOPLE FIRST

1. UPDATES

- 1.1 Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) has advised on 12 December 2022 that the proposed complex needs scheme for females (to be delivered by Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing – 'MTVH' – at two HCC owned properties in Letchworth) requires consultation with the Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Trust, and is therefore subject to their views on this variation; as a result, they have advised this may not be concluded by 31 March 2023.
- 1.2 HCC has confirmed their commitment to the scheme for females with complex needs and will set aside 50% of the supported provision costs. In the meantime, MTVH is exploring alternative accommodation options.
- 1.3 The Rent Officer at the Valuation Office Agency has just advised the Council of its Pre-Tenancy Determination regarding Housing Benefit claims for residents of the Keystage Housing service at the former Lord Lister Hotel in Hitchin.
- 1.4 This decision is likely to reduce the amount of subsidy loss the Council will incur. As a result, it is proposed to amend the recommendation for this meeting to cover the historic subsidy loss (between April 2022 and January 2023) and then resubmit this item for consideration at the next Cabinet meeting (on 31 January 2023). This is due to the technical nature of this subject and more detail will be provided to the Cabinet regarding the remainder of the current financial year as well as the options regarding subsidy loss from 2023/24 onwards.

2. AMENDED RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 As a result of HCC's recent update, it is proposed to amend recommendation 2.1(A) of the main report to read:

Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing (in principle, up to 73k, with the Cabinet being asked to consider the details of the scheme at the appropriate time)
- 2.2 In light of the Rent Officer's determination, to amend recommendation 2.1(B) in the main report to read:

To offset Department of Work and Pensions Housing Benefit subsidy loss incurred between April 2022 and the end of January 2023 (and officers be asked to return to the Cabinet on 31 January 2023 to confirm this amount and the options for the management of subsidy loss going forward)