

## Chief Executive Decision

### Relocation of Emergency Accommodation

Executive Portfolio Holder      Val Keitch, Strategy & Housing  
Director:                              Kirsty Larkins, Service Delivery  
Lead Specialist:                      Leigh Rampton, Lead Specialist (Communities)  
Contact Details:                      leigh.rampton@southsomerset.gov.uk

### Purpose of the Report

To confirm the recommendation of members of the District Executive relating to the approval of a grant to Bournemouth Churches Housing Association (BCHA), following a consultative meeting of District Executive on 3 June 2021.

### Public Interest

At the meeting of Full Council on Thursday 15 April 2021 it was agreed to make the following changes to the Council's Constitution:

- a) To continue to enable members to hold remote, virtual meetings using available technology;
- b) To amend Part 3 (Responsibility for Functions) of the Council's Constitution to allow those remote meetings to function as consultative bodies and delegate decisions, including Executive and Quasi-Judicial decisions, that would have been taken by those meetings if the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 had continued in force to the Chief Executive (or the relevant Director in the Chief Executive's absence) in consultation with those meetings and those members to whom the decision would otherwise have been delegated under Part 3 of the Constitution;
- c) The delegated authority given under (b) will expire on 31 July 2021 unless continued by a future decision of this Council;

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### Decision Taken

The Chief Executive, following a consultative meeting of the District Executive on 3 June 2021, made the following decision;

Approved the use of £390,000 from the Affordable Housing Capital Programme Reserve to award a grant to Bournemouth Churches Housing Association (BCHA) as a contribution towards the costs of the purchase and refurbishment of a property in Yeovil, to provide emergency accommodation and improved support for people who are homeless, rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping in South Somerset.

### Reason

To agree a grant to Bournemouth Churches Housing Association (BCHA) to contribute towards the purchase and refurbishment of a property, for the Council to use as emergency accommodation for people experiencing homelessness in South Somerset.

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## **Background**

To enable the decision making process to continue, it was agreed that Councillors continue to receive decision-making reports. They will form a view which will be communicated to the Chief Executive. The decision will be formally made by the Chief Executive (or relevant Director) during the current coronavirus restrictions.

## **Financial Implications**

BCHA are currently in negotiations with the current owner over the purchase price. Initial discussions with Homes England are constructive and they will be considering a grant application later in May (the outcome should be known by the June District Executive meeting). A capital contribution from SSDC would significantly improve the chances of the Homes England Grant application being successful.

There is currently £1,660,000 available in the Affordable Housing (Unallocated) Capital Programme budget. As this grant of £390,000 has been approved it will leave a balance of £1,270,000.

Homes England and SSDC would place aligned conditions on the grant funding ensuring that if the building were no longer used after a specified time, monies would be returned to the relevant funders. Detailed conditionalities will be negotiated in line with advice of Homes England. In addition to the standard English Homes conditionalities any specific additional requirements from SSDC will be set out in the final grant letter and grant agreement.

## **Background Papers**

<https://modgov.southsomerset.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=136&MId=2927&Ver=4>