

(For Democratic Services use)

Decision Number: 12 (2018/19)

Portfolio Holder Executive Decision Statement

The Local Authority (Executive Arrangements)(Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

Subject: Funding towards the West Kent Housing Association (WKHA) Small is Beautiful downsizing incentive scheme (up to 31st March 2019).

Details of Decision taken:

To allocate £25,000 from S106 affordable housing contributions to part-fund the WKHA Small is Beautiful incentive scheme for 2018/19.

Reason for Decision:

The Council's Under-occupation Strategy was adopted in 2012 and sets out a number of key objectives to reduce under-occupation and free up family sized housing for those in need. This includes joint funding the 'Small is Beautiful' incentive scheme run by WKHA, which provides advice, support and financial incentives to encourage downsizing (to WKHA tenants). Tackling under-occupation is also included as a priority in the Council's Housing Strategy 2017.

The incentive scheme continues to be very successful and effective. To date, there have been 119 downsizes completed in the last 5 years, releasing family size housing which has been re-let to families who were facing homelessness or living in overcrowded conditions.

To help meet continuing demand for the scheme, approval is sought to allocate £25,000 from S106 Affordable Housing Contributions to part-fund the Small is Beautiful incentive scheme during 2018/19. This is considered to represent good value for money, taking into account the project outcomes to date.

The input of Council funding will be dependent on the input of joint funding by WKHA.

All Documents considered:

None.


Details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the Member when making the Decision:

None.

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Financial implications: None.	
Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement As per committee report: Strategy for Under-occupation in the Social Sector (13/09/12).	
Equality Impacts (Consideration of impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty) As per committee report: Strategy for Under-occupation in the Social Sector (13/09/12).	
Local Member (s), other Portfolio Holders and/or Directors/Heads of Service Consulted Hayley Brooks, Head of Housing & Health	
Details of any conflicts of interest a) declared by any executive member who is consulted by the Decision Taker b) and any details of dispensations granted by the Chief Executive in respect of any declared conflict	
Decision taken by:	Cllr Michelle Lowe, Deputy Leader & Portfolio Holder for Housing & Health Cllr Robert Piper, Portfolio Holder for Planning
Signed by Portfolio Holder	
Date of Decision	25/10/18
Record made by:	George Lewis
Date of record:	26 October 2018

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