

Decision Number: 18 - 2022/23

## Portfolio Holder Executive Decision Statement

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

**Subject:** Addendum to the rural housing work programme approved under Portfolio Holder Decision 25 (2019/21).

**Details of Decision taken:**

Approval of additional Affordable Housing S106 funds of £4,733, to be paid in respect of Year 3 of the approved rural housing work programme.

Acknowledgement that this funding, and funds under Years 4 and 5 of the approved rural housing work programme, will be paid to the Kent Housing Group service delivery vehicle.

**Reason for Decision:** In April 2020, Cabinet approved a rural housing work programme which centred on a 5 year rolling programme of local housing needs surveys across all 31 Town and Parish Councils. Affordable Housing S106 funds were approved for the programme under Portfolio Decision 25(2019/21). This committed £71,000 to fund local needs surveys in 30 Town and Parish Councils.

The surveys were undertaken by the independent rural housing enabler, employed by Action with Communities in Rural Kent (ACRK). Owing to the closure of ACRK in January 2023 (during Year 3 of the 5 year rolling programme) and the subsequent loss of SDC funds held on account by ACRK, two local need surveys scheduled to be undertaken during Year 3, are now unfunded. Based on the level of funding approved under Decision 25 (2019/21), top up Affordable Housing S106 funding of £4,733 is requested to deliver the two outstanding surveys.

Kent Housing Group (KHG) have approved a replacement service delivery vehicle for ACRK, which will be operational from 1 May 2023. The Year 3 top up funding will be paid to the KHG service delivery vehicle. This vehicle will undertake all future surveys under the programme. It should be noted funds approved under Portfolio Decision 25(2019/21) for Years 4 and 5 of the 5 programme, will be paid to the KHG service delivery vehicle.

Officers are working to identify funds in order to deliver the final (31<sup>st</sup>) survey for Sevenoaks Town in Year 5.

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**All Documents considered:** Portfolio Holder Decision 25 (2019/21)

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

**Financial implications:** adequate Affordable Housing S106 funds are available to cover the cost of the requested top up funding.

**Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement:** None

**Equality Impacts** (Consideration of impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty)  
The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

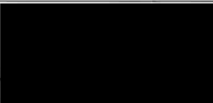
**Local Member (s), other Portfolio Holders and Chief Officer/Head of Service Consulted:** None

**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

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(For Democratic Services use)

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Decision taken by:	Cllr. Kevin Maskell, Portfolio Holder for Housing & Health
Signed by Portfolio Holder	
Date of Decision	23/03/23.
Record made by:	P. Magee
Date of record:	23/3/23

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