

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

URGENT ACTION - NO SPECIFIC POWERS

ACTION FOR WHICH CHIEF EXECUTIVE HAS DELEGATED POWERS SUBJECT TO CONSULTATION WITH CHAIRMAN OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

SERIAL NO: BDC-0003

SUBJECT MATTER:

The Chief Executive has specific delegation to take any action, including the incurring of expenditure, in connection with an emergency or disaster in the district as specified in the Constitution; Part 2: Responsibility of Functions

MEETING TO WHICH MATTER RELATES:

Babergh and Mid Suffolk Cabinet Meetings

REASON FOR ACTION BEING TAKEN OUT OF MEETING:

Meetings have been cancelled following general health advice issued in relation to the Corona virus (Covid-19) outbreak. No Cabinet meeting dates are available to take this decision in time to support the Corona virus (Covid -19) outbreak.

The decision has been taken in order to secure the emergency accommodation as detailed below.

BACKGROUND:

The urgent decision has been taken to fund a hotel for homelessness purposes across Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts. There are significant challenges around accommodation due to the outbreak of the Corona virus (Covid-19) including:

- Families are not prepared to move because they are following government guidelines and do not see moving as a priority or essential. Therefore, the Councils are not getting as many properties returned for re-letting.
- Next of kin, where tenants have deceased are not able to clear and return properties to landlords, due to current restrictions.
- Some organisations have less resource available to conduct building/repair works to return empty social housing to use.
- Access to moving companies is not available
- Access to flooring, white goods, furniture and household items are not available or in short supply to individuals or organisations to support moving.
- Access to building supplies are limited and builders' merchants have closed or closed/reopened and closed again due to not having sufficient supply chains making it difficult to acquire sufficient building stocks to meet demand.
- Challenges or the unavailability of energy suppliers or energy intermediaries to carry out certain checks or procedures when individuals move in

The impact of this is that the Councils are less able to move people on from Temporary Accommodation than normal and are dealing with an increase in homeless presentations. This is partly due to the number of transient sofa surfers, who are now unable to move from one property to another and based on the Government guidance, the Councils

are now providing accommodation when this would not ordinarily have been the case.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The expenditure for the emergency accommodation will be £1000 per night for 20 rooms and will be for a period of 12 weeks. The expenditure will be funded from the Government funding for the Corona Virus (Covid-19) and from the funding received for Housing Benefits Claims.

ACTION AUTHORISED:

To take any action, including the incurring of expenditure, in connection with an emergency or disaster in the district.

DATE ACTION AUTHORISED:

I have been consulted on this matter details of which are given above and have no observations to make.

Signed:

Dated: 1 April 2020

Leader of Babergh District Council

Signed:

Dated: 1 April 2020

Chair of Babergh District Council

I being the duly authorised officer authorise the taking of the action referred to above.

Signed:

Dated: 1 April 2020

Chief Executive

Details reported to Council for noting.

- (NOTE: (i) This form to be completed and given to Committee Services for inclusion in the Register of Delegated Action and for reporting to the appropriate Committee. The signature of the Chief Executive should be obtained prior to the form being sent to Committee Services.
- (ii) If the Chairman is not available within a day to sign the form, please send it to Committee Services who will then arrange the necessary signature.)