

Runnymede Borough Council

CORPORATE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday 19 November 2020 at 7.30 p.m.

To be held remotely via MS Teams

ADDENDUM

PART I

7. **REFERENCE FROM HOUSING COMMITTEE – HOUSING TECHNICAL SERVICES STRUCTURE REVIEW (HOUSING – SIMON ALLEN)**

Recommendations From The Housing Committee:

- 1. The Corporate Management Committee approves the increased staffing resources within the Council’s establishment as detailed in the Team Structure Option B (Table 2) in paragraph 2.21 of the report to the Housing Committee on 11 November 2020 on the Housing Technical Services Structure Review at Appendix ‘D’ to the main agenda (page 25) for this meeting.**
- 2. The Corporate Management Committee notes that the costs of the additional posts set out in the Team Structure referred to at 1. above will be funded from the Housing Revenue Account.**

Page 20 of the main agenda for this meeting states that, at its meeting on 11 November 2020, the Housing Committee would be considering a report on a Housing Technical Services Structure Review, that the Housing Committee was recommended to request this Committee to approve increased staffing resources within the Council’s establishment and that the recommendations of the Housing Committee would be reported to this Committee. This Addendum reports those recommendations which are set out above.

At its meeting on 11 November 2020, the Housing Committee considered a report that provided Members with two options for delivering a comprehensive capital works programme over 5 years commencing in 2021.

The Housing Technical Services structure was last reviewed in 2018 but the Council has been unable to recruit to the new technical posts for Planned Maintenance despite several attempts. In addition, there has been no major planned programme for over ten years. The stock condition survey results show a significant backlog in Decent Homes compliance and the Council needs to procure and deliver an extensive programme over the next five years to resolve this.

As part of the Council’s commitment and ongoing communication with the Regulator for Social Housing, evidence must be provided that plans are in place to address these backlogs in a timely manner with all delivery risks mitigated as far as is reasonably practical.

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Following an options appraisal by an external specialist consultant, Members of the Housing Committee accepted the Officers' recommendation to utilise an Outsourced Managed Service with smaller in-house Client Function. This is Option B in the report to the Housing Committee which is set out in Appendix 'D' (pages 21 to 29) to the main agenda for this Corporate Management Committee meeting. This model retains the current Council in-house team which is supplemented by two additional posts and a refinement of existing posts. The proposed increased staffing resources are set out the Team Structure Option B (Table 2) in paragraph 2.21 of the report at Appendix 'D' to the main agenda (page 25) for this meeting. Support will be procured across two distinct areas in delivering the Investment Plan.

The Housing Committee also agreed to request Officers to build the budgetary provision of £675,600 in the Table referred to above into the Housing Revenue Account estimates for 2021/22 that are currently being prepared for the consideration and approval by the Housing Committee in January 2021.

(To resolve)

Background Papers

None