

## Notice of Non-key Executive Decision

### Notice of Non-key Executive Decision containing exempt information

This Executive Decision Report is part exempt and Appendices [A, B and D] are not available for public inspection as they contain or relate to exempt information within the meaning of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. They are exempt because they refer to information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

<b>Subject Heading:</b>	<b>4 Bideford Close RM3 8HZ</b> Purchase of a property, due to a looked after child placement is compliant with fostering regulations.
<b>Decision Maker:</b>	<b>Paul Walker</b> Interim Director – Housing & Property Place Directorate.
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Paul McGeary – Cabinet Member for Housing and Property.
<b>ELT Lead:</b>	<b>Neil Stubbings</b> Strategic Director of Place.
<b>Report Author and contact details:</b>	Amanda Sone Business Support RTB Sales & Marketing Housing Management London Borough of Havering Town Hall Main Road Romford RM1 3BB t 01708 434343  01708 433015 e: <a href="mailto:amanda.sone@havering.gov.uk">amanda.sone@havering.gov.uk</a>

**Non-key Executive Decision**

<b>Policy context:</b>	The purchasing of this property will provide the correct accommodation for a looked after child and his carers' family to comply with the fostering regulations. This will support the Council's vision of Putting Our Residents First.
<b>Financial summary:</b>	The purchase of this property will provide the HRA with an additional unit of social housing, which will generate rental income.
<b>Relevant OSC:</b>	Place OSSC.
<b>Is this decision exempt from being called-in?</b>	Yes it is exempt, as it is a Non-Key Decision by a Member of Staff.

## Non-key Executive Decision

### **The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives**

People - Supporting our residents to stay safe and well. X

Place - A great place to live, work and enjoy. X

Resources – Enabling a resident-focused and resilient Council. X

### **Part A – Report seeking decision**

#### **DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The London Borough of Havering is required to acquire a 3 bedroom property to correctly house a child and the carers family with suitable accommodation to comply with the fostering regulations.

**4 Bideford Close Romford RM3 8HZ** has been accepted as a suitable property to purchase under the scheme. The property is a 3 bedroom house.

After consideration of an independent valuation report and knowledge and expertise of the Council's property services it is recommended that the Council purchases this property.

The recommended action is to purchase the property at a purchase price of **£425,000.00** (excl. all standard additional costs). This price has been negotiated within the Surveyors valuation recommendation.

#### **AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE**

Part 3.3 Scheme of Delegations

3.3.3 Powers common to all Strategic Directors

1. General

1.1 To take any steps, and take any decisions, necessary for the proper management and administration of their allocated directorate, in accordance with applicable Council policies and procedures.

2. Expenditure

2.1 To incur expenditure for their allocated directorate within the revenue and capital budgets as approved by the Council, or as otherwise approved, subject to any variation permitted by the Council's contract and financial procedure rules.

**Non-key Executive Decision**

**STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

The purchasing of 4 Bideford Close RM3 8HZ will have the following benefits for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA):

- The additional stock will help to sustain HRA rental income.
- Provide a unit of accommodation to house a fostered child and the carers family.

The council can apply some of the time-limited retained Right to Buy receipts.

**OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

Option: To not purchase the property.

Reason for Rejection: This has been rejected as not purchasing will not provide the child and carers family with suitable accommodation to be compliant with the fostering regulations.

**PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION**

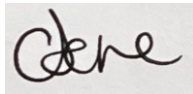
None

**NAME AND JOB TITLE OF STAFF MEMBER ADVISING THE DECISION-MAKER**

Name: Amanda Sone

Designation Business Support RTB Sales & Marketing

Signature:



Date: 10 July 2024

## Part B - Assessment of implications and risks

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK**

The Council has the power to acquire houses and land under section 17 of the Housing Act 1985. The power does not preclude the repurchase of former council properties.

It is understood that external solicitors will be instructed to deal with the conveyancing.

The purchase will be subject to the necessary legal due diligence taking place.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

Please see Financial Exempt Report – Appendix D.

### **HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS (AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS WHERE RELEVANT)**

The recommendations made in this report do not give rise to any identifiable HR risks or implications that would affect either the Council or its workforce.

### **EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have 'due regard' to:

- (i) The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (ii) The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;
- (iii) Foster good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.

Note: 'Protected characteristics' are age, sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnerships, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity and gender reassignment.

The Council is committed to all of the above in the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and the employment of its workforce. In addition, the Council is also committed to improving the quality of life and wellbeing for all Havering residents in respect of socio-economics and health determinants.

An EqHIA (Equality and Health Impact Assessment) is usually carried out when a proposed or planned activity is likely to affect staff, service users, or other residents. In this case it is not considered relevant. It is not considered necessary to enter into an Equalities Impact Assessment in relation to buying this property. The purchase will be completed after the standard property purchase negotiations using standard a contract format, undertaken with the expressed consent of the owner; therefore, an EIA is not considered relevant.

The Council seeks to ensure equality, inclusion, and dignity for all in all situations.

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There are no equalities and social inclusion implications and risks associated with this decision.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

There is a current requirement for properties that are purchased to either have an EPC with a minimum of a 'C' rating or that a 'C' rating can be achieved. The final decision is with Senior Management as it may be beneficial to acquire leasehold properties below the minimum rating to make it easier to arrange the required energy improvement works to leasehold blocks.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

### **APPENDICIES**

<b>Appendix A</b>	<b>Exempt Statement for accommodation requirement 4 Bideford Close RM3 8HZ</b>
<b>Appendix B</b>	<b>Exempt Valuation report for 4 Bideford Close RM3 8HZ</b>
<b>Appendix C</b>	<b>Land Registry for 4 Bideford Close RM3 8HZ</b>
<b>Appendix D</b>	<b>Exempt Financial report for 4 Bideford Close RM3 8HZ</b>

**Non-key Executive Decision**

**Part C – Record of decision**

I have made this executive decision in accordance with authority delegated to the Strategic Director of Place by the Leader of the Council and sub-delegated to me by the Director of Place in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution.

**Decision**

Proposal agreed

**Details of decision maker**

Signed



Name: **Paul Walker**

Cabinet Portfolio held:

CMT Member title:

Head of Service title: Interim Director – Housing & Property Place Directorate

Other manager title:

Date: **06.08.24**

**Lodging this notice**

The signed decision notice must be delivered to Democratic Services, in the Town Hall.

**For use by Committee Administration**

This notice was lodged with me on \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_