

Subject: Procurement of Council Owned Short Term Accommodation – Gladstone Court, Hartington Road, Brighton – Extract from the proceedings of the Housing Committee meeting held on the 15 January 2020

Date of Meeting: 23 January 2020

Report of: Executive Lead Officer for Strategy, Governance & Law

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Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

Action Required of the Policy & Resources Committee:

To receive the recommendations from the Housing Committee for consideration.

Recommendations:

- (1) That the Council makes an offer of up to the agreed sum detailed in the Part 2 report to acquire Gladstone Court; and
- (2) That the freehold of the site is appropriated from the General Fund for Part II Housing Act 1985 purposes for a fee of up to £250,000, as estimated by external valuation.

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

HOUSING COMMITTEE

15 JANUARY 2020

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

Present: Councillor Williams (Chair) Brennan (Deputy Chair), Gibson (Opposition Spokesperson), Mears (Group Spokesperson), Atkinson, Barnett, Fowler, Heley, Hugh-Jones and Osborne.

MINUTE EXTRACT

PART ONE

- 52.1 The Committee considered the report presented by the Head of Income Involvement & Improvement.
- 52.2 The report presented to the Housing Committee an opportunity to acquire Gladstone Court, a block of 38 flats. The Council is the freeholder of the site which the vendor holds on a long lease for a term of 150 years. The opportunity enables the Council to meet short-term temporary and emergency accommodation needs, and thereby supports the programme agreed by the Housing & New Homes Committee to purchase council owned short-term temporary accommodation which it will manage itself. It accords with the Housing Committee Work Plan commitments agreed at Housing Committee on 18 September 2019 relating to additional affordable homes, as well as the provision of council run short-term temporary accommodation.
- 52.3 Councillor Brennan felt the report was good news and that having the accommodation inhouse was the for the best. It was considered the acquisition would be good temporary accommodation for families. Councillor Brennan considered that having required private landlords to supply descent accommodation, the authority would need to supply the same, if not better.
- 52.4 Councillor Gibson noted the site was within their ward and the procurement of the accommodation was a tangible move forward. It was considered by the Councillor that the scheme would stop public money going to private landlords.
- 52.5 Councillor Mears noted that temporary accommodation had lasted a number of years for some residents and this was a concern. Councillor Mears was informed that the staffing and management of the block would be a new way forward for the Council, but the Housing team have considerable management skills to call on.

52.6 **RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the purchase of Gladstone Court for the use of emergency and short-term temporary accommodation for a sum to be negotiated up to the maximum set out in the Part 2 report be agreed;
- (2) That the Policy & Resources Committee be recommended to agree that the Council makes an offer of up to the agreed sum detailed in the Part 2 report to acquire Gladstone Court.
- (3) That the Policy & Resources Committee be recommended to agree that the freehold of the site is appropriated from the General Fund for Part II Housing Act 1985 purposes for a fee of up to £250,000, as estimated by external valuation.

