

# North Yorkshire Council

## Report to Corporate Director Resources

16 January 2025

### To submit an Expression of Interest for additional funding from the Local Authority Housing Fund – Round 3

#### Report of the Corporate Director Community Development

#### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To recommend that the Assistant Director Resources (Community Development) in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and Resources and Executive Member for Culture, Arts and Housing authorises the submission of an Expression of Interest to the Ministry of Housing and Communities and Local Government for additional recurring grant from the Local Authority Housing Fund – Round 3 of £2.235m to enable the Council to deliver more homes for both the Afghan resettlement and relocation schemes and for more homes to be acquired for use as temporary accommodation for homeless households.

#### **2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 In August 2024, the Council approved the acceptance of funding of £1.796 million from the Ministry of Housing and Communities and Local Government, from the Local Authority Housing Fund Round 3 to acquire 13 homes, of which 2 will be for temporary accommodation for homeless households and 11 will be for Afghan families through the Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme A Memorandum of Understanding was signed off by the Council in September 2024 following the approval. We are now in the process of acquiring these properties, which will all be delivered by March 2026.
- 2.2 On 23 December 2024, the Ministry of Housing and Communities and Local Government issued a letter to Local Authorities inviting them to submit Expressions of Interest for additional funding from the Local Authority Housing Fund, which would need to be delivered within the same timescales as the current approved funding. The Ministry of Housing and Communities and Local Government require the Expression of Interest to be submitted by 17 January 2025.

#### **3.0 PROPOSAL**

- 3.1 It is the intention to submit an Expression of Interest for up to a further 16 homes, of which 12 would be for Temporary Accommodation and 4 for households from the Afghan Resettlement Schemes. Delivery of this number of homes could attract funding of up to £2.235 million. However, at this stage, no indication has been given of what additional funding the Council would receive. This would be dependent on the overall level of Expression of Interests submitted by authorities for the additional funding.
- 3.2 The requirements for the additional funding are the same as per the initial allocation with one exception. For the Afghan Resettlement Scheme, this will cover households on both the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme and the Afghan Relocations and Assistance scheme. The initial allocation only covered households on the Resettlement Scheme.

#### **4.0 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN AND RESPONSES**

- 4.1 Consultation has taken place with both the Council's Refugee Resettlement Manager and the Council's Head of Housing Needs who have both provided guidance on the most suitable location for the properties.

#### **5.0 CONTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

- 5.1 The scheme contributes principally to the following Council priority:

"Place and Environment: Good quality, affordable and sustainable housing that meets the needs of our communities"

#### **6.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 6.1 No alternative options have been considered, as this would be an extension to a current project

#### **7.0 IMPACT ON OTHER SERVICES/ORGANISATIONS**

- 7.1 The acquisition of additional homes for Afghan refugees will help alleviate pressure on the Council and ensure the Council is playing its part in supporting Government to meet national commitments toward Afghan refugees. The main impact will be on the Council's Housing Options Services and the Council's Refugee Resettlement Manager in ensuring both initial support to the Afghan households in moving to their new homes and accessing services and any on-going support that might be required.
- 7.2 The acquisition of additional homes for temporary accommodation for homeless households, should also alleviate some pressure on our Housing Option Service in providing a greater amount of available temporary accommodation, particularly for families.

#### **8.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 To support delivery of the scheme there will be a Capital funding requirement from the Council. This would be subject to how much funding we receive. However, it would be unlikely to exceed £2.533 million based on the maximum amount of grant funding that we will request. This funding is available from the existing Housing Revenue Account capital programme budget to support the delivery of 500 new homes.

#### **9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 The Council already has a Memorandum of Understanding for Round 3 of the Local Authority Housing Fund. Should we receive additional funding, the Memorandum of Understanding will need to be amended to include the extra properties. No other aspect of the Memorandum of Understanding would be subject to change.
- 9.2 The delivery for Round 3 of the Local Authority Housing Fund required a subsidy control assessment which concluded that the provision of social housing pursuant to Round 3 falls within the definition of Services of Public Economic Interest pursuant to the Subsidy Control Act 2022. The subsidy was therefore permitted. subject to satisfying statutory requirements. If successful, a further assessment will be carried out and actioned, as appropriate, to ensure the Council meets the requirements of the 2022 Act. This may include the publication of a transparency notice outlining the details of any subsidy.

## 10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

10.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment screening form has been attached as Appendix A to this report. The screening assessment has indicated that there are no adverse impacts, so no full assessment is required.

## 11.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

11.1 An initial Climate Change Impact Assessment has been undertaken (see Appendix B) and has assessed that there are no adverse impacts, and a full Climate Change Impact Assessment is not required.

## 12.0 RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

12.1 The key risks with the scheme are as follows:

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Potential Impact</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
The Council does not submit an EOI for additional funding	Increased difficulty in meeting local and national commitments toward providing accommodation for Afghan refugees including a potential risk of increased cost associated with the provision of temporary accommodation.	The Council submits an Expression of Interest
The Council does not receive funding or only receives limited funding	To provide appropriate temporary accommodation the Council would need to seek other funding sources to deliver on its Temporary Accommodation Business Case.	Seek other sources of funding.

## 13.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

13.1 To enable the Council to submit an Expression of Interest to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to rehouse up to a further 16 households as per the requirements of the Local Authority Housing Fund (Round 3) programme.

## 14.0 RECOMMENDATION

14.1 That the Assistant Director Resources (Community Development) in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and Resources and the Executive Member for Culture, Arts and Housing authorises the submission of an Expression of Interest to the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government for recurring grant of £2.235 million from the Local Authority Housing Fund Round 3.

## APPENDICES:

Appendix A – Equalities Impact Assessment  
Appendix B – Climate Change Assessment

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

Nic Harne  
Corporate Director – Community Development  
County Hall  
Northallerton

Report Author – John Burroughs, Housing Delivery Manager (Major and Complex Projects)  
Presenter of Report – John Burroughs, Housing Delivery Manager (Major and Complex Projects)

Note: Members are invited to contact the author in advance of the meeting with any detailed queries or questions.

<b>Initial equality impact assessment screening form</b> This form records an equality screening process to determine the relevance of equality to a proposal, and a decision whether or not a full EIA would be appropriate or proportionate.			
<b>Directorate</b>		Community Development	
<b>Service area</b>		Housing	
<b>Proposal being screened</b>		Local Authority Housing Fund Expression of Interest	
<b>Officer(s) carrying out screening</b>		John Burroughs	
<b>What are you proposing to do?</b>		Submit an Expression of Interest to the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government for additional funding from the Local Authority Housing Fund (Round 3)	
<b>Why are you proposing this? What are the desired outcomes?</b>		This funding shall help pay for acquisition of additional affordable homes that shall be used to provide accommodation for up to 4 households from the Afghan resettlement and relocation schemes and 12 homeless households requiring temporary accommodation	
<b>Does the proposal involve a significant commitment or removal of resources?</b> Please give details.		No	
<b>Impact on people with any of the following protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, or NYC's additional agreed characteristics</b> As part of this assessment, please consider the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To what extent is this service used by particular groups of people with protected characteristics?</li> <li>Does the proposal relate to functions that previous consultation has identified as important?</li> <li>Do different groups have different needs or experiences in the area the proposal relates to?</li> </ul> <p>If for any characteristic it is considered that there is likely to be an adverse impact or you have ticked 'Don't know/no info available', then a full EIA should be carried out where this is proportionate. You are advised to speak to your directorate representative for advice if you are in any doubt.</p>			
Protected characteristic	Potential for adverse impact		Don't know/No info available
	Yes	No	
Age		✓	
Disability		✓	
Sex		✓	
Race		✓	
Sexual orientation		✓	
Gender reassignment		✓	
Religion or belief		✓	
Pregnancy or maternity		✓	
Marriage or civil partnership		✓	
People in rural areas		✓	
People on a low income		✓	
Carer (unpaid family or friend)		✓	
Are from the Armed Forces Community		✓	
<b>Does the proposal relate to an area where there are known inequalities/probable impacts</b> (for example, disabled people's	No		

access to public transport)? Please give details.				
<b>Will the proposal have a significant effect on how other organisations operate? (for example, partners, funding criteria, etc.). Do any of these organisations support people with protected characteristics? Please explain why you have reached this conclusion.</b>	No			
<b>Decision (Please tick one option)</b>	EIA not relevant or proportionate:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Continue to full EIA:	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Reason for decision</b>	Decision has no adverse impact			
<b>Signed (Assistant Director or equivalent)</b>	Andrew Rowe			
<b>Date</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025			

### Initial Climate Change Impact Assessment (Form created August 2021)

The intention of this document is to help the council to gain an initial understanding of the impact of a project or decision on the environment. This document should be completed in consultation with the supporting guidance. Dependent on this initial assessment you may need to go on to complete a full Climate Change Impact Assessment. The final document will be published as part of the decision-making process.

If you have any additional queries, which are not covered by the guidance please email [climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk)

<b>Title of proposal</b>	<b>Local Authority Housing Fund</b>
<b>Brief description of proposal</b>	<b>Submission of an Expression of Interest to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for additional funding of up to £2.022 million from the Local Authority Housing Fund Round 3. This funding shall help pay for acquisition of additional affordable homes that shall be used to provide accommodation for up to 4 households from the Afghan resettlement and relocation schemes and 12 homeless households requiring temporary accommodation</b>
<b>Directorate</b>	<b>Community Development</b>
<b>Service area</b>	<b>Housing</b>
<b>Lead officer</b>	<b>Andrew Rowe</b>
<b>Names and roles of other people involved in carrying out the impact assessment</b>	<b>John Burroughs</b>

The chart below contains the main environmental factors to consider in your initial assessment – choose the appropriate option from the drop-down list for each one.

Remember to think about the following;

- Travel
- Construction
- Data storage
- Use of buildings
- Change of land use
- Opportunities for recycling and reuse

<b>Environmental factor to consider</b>	<b>For the council</b>	<b>For the county</b>	<b>Overall</b>
Greenhouse gas emissions	No effect on emissions	No Effect on emissions	No effect on emissions
Waste	No effect on waste	No effect on waste	No effect on waste
Water use	No effect on water usage	No effect on water usage	No effect on water usage
Pollution (air, land, water, noise, light)	No effect on pollution	No effect on pollution	No effect on pollution
Resilience to adverse weather/climate events (flooding, drought etc)	No effect on resilience	No effect on resilience	No effect on resilience
Ecological effects (biodiversity, loss of habitat etc)	No effect on ecology	No effect on ecology	No effect on ecology
Heritage and landscape	No effect on heritage and landscape	No effect on heritage and landscape	No effect on heritage and landscape

If any of these factors are likely to result in a negative or positive environmental impact then a full climate change impact assessment will be required. It is important that we capture information about both positive and negative impacts to aid the council in calculating its carbon footprint and environmental impact.

<b>Decision (Please tick one option)</b>	Full CCIA not relevant or proportionate:	x	Continue to full CCIA:	
<b>Reason for decision</b>	The decision is to just approve the submission of an Expression of Interest for additional funding and has no Climate Change implications whatsoever.			
<b>Signed (Assistant Director or equivalent)</b>	Andrew Rowe			
<b>Date</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025			