

MINUTES OF MEETING URGENT DECISIONS HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 24TH MARCH, 2021, 10.00 - 10.05 AM

PRESENT: Councillor Emine Ibrahim, Cabinet Member for Housing and Estate Renewal.

In attendance: Gill Taylor, Strategic Lead Single Homelessness and Vulnerable Adults; Charlotte Pomery, Assistant Director for Commissioning; and Fiona Rae, Principal Committee Co-ordinator

76. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

77. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

78. EXTENSION OF COVID-19 EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION PROVISION FOR SINGLE ADULTS AT RISK OF ROUGH SLEEPING

The Cabinet Member considered the report which sought approval to extend the contract for the provision of accommodation and services with the following organisation, as allowed under Contract Standing Order 10.02.1(b):

London Hotel Group Ltd T/A Ibis Styles Hotel, 543 Lea Bridge Road, E10 7EB - 63 units of accommodation for up to six months, from 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021.

It was noted that people experiencing homelessness had some of the poorest outcomes of all our residents. They were more likely to be unemployed, have unmet physical and mental health needs, and were at risk of a preventable early death. As a borough, the Cabinet Member noted that we were committed to ending street homelessness and ensuring that vulnerable people had access to high quality supported accommodation that helped them rebuild their lives after homelessness.

The Cabinet Member RESOLVED

To approve the extension of the contract for emergency Covid-19 accommodation for vulnerable rough sleepers with London Hotel Group Ltd T/A Ibis Styles Hotel. The cost of the extension period from April to September 2021 being £525,404.

Reasons for decision

As part of the response to the Covid-19 global pandemic, Haringey Council is committed to providing temporary accommodation and subsistence to single

homeless adults who are rough sleeping or at imminent risk of rough sleeping. This commitment acknowledges the particular vulnerabilities and inequalities they face and will ensure they are able to adhere to government guidelines around self-isolation, where they would not ordinarily have the accommodation or financial means to do so.

The Covid-19 Emergency Accommodation Board have been governing this work, which has already rapidly mobilised a range of accommodation and subsistence options for vulnerable homeless people. This report outlines a procurement decision which has the pre-approval of that Board.

Alternative options considered

Conduct a full RFQ process

The need for additional temporary accommodation and subsistence is urgent and unprecedented. It was deemed unfeasible to conduct a lengthy procurement process when the need was urgent and immediate and it is now understood after four months of hotel acquisition arrangements that this hotel is unique in its location and offer therefore a procurement process wouldn't be a valuable use of time.

Do nothing

The Council could elect not to use its discretionary powers to source accommodation for vulnerable homeless people during the Covid-19 situation. However, to do so would be to ignore its commitments to adult safeguarding, public health and rough sleeping as well as wider responsibilities to public safety.

The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny has further agreed that the call-in procedure shall not apply to this urgent decision. This is because the decision is urgent and any delay in implementation caused by the call-in procedure would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests due to the fact that emergency accommodation is required for homeless households arising from the ongoing public health emergency created by the Covid-19 pandemic. Accordingly, the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee has agreed that the decision is both reasonable in all circumstances and that it should be treated as a matter of urgency. This is in accordance with Part 4, Section H, and Paragraph 18 of the Council Constitution.

CABINET MEMBER: Cllr Emine Ibrahim

Signed by Cabinet Member

Date ...24 March 2021.....