

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Purchase of property to support vulnerable care leavers
Date of decision:	21 January 2020
Decision maker:	Acting Assistant Director for technical services, Economy & Place Directorate
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>Decision taken by cabinet member contracts and assets on 4 January 2019</p> <p>http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=5580</p> <p>to purchase a property to support vulnerable care leavers was delegated to the acting assistant director for technical services as follows:</p> <p>THAT</p> <p>(a) The acquisition, improvement and refurbishment of a property to provide accommodation for vulnerable care leavers be approved within a budget of not more than £740k; and</p> <p>(b) The acting assistant director for technical services be authorised to take all operational decisions necessary to complete the purchase and commissioning of improvement and refurbishment works.</p>
Ward:	All wards
Consultation:	No external consultation in relation to this decision. Both legal and finance have been consulted and commented on the report
Decision made:	Purchase of property to support vulnerable care leavers See Appendix 1
Reasons for decision:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purchase of a residential property to provide supported accommodation for vulnerable people with complex needs was approved by part exempt key decision by Cllr H Bramer 4th January 2019. • The council faces challenges in finding accommodation for vulnerable people with complex needs as social housing providers prioritise commercial considerations and are often unwilling to take the risk of letting homes to this user group. Consequently the council needs to find alternative accommodation solutions which are economic and sustainable.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Property would accommodate five very vulnerable care leavers to improve outcomes and help prevent specialist high cost placements. • Property is in ideal location in Hereford City Centre
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open market purchase with time limited opportunity in which to acquire it. • Appropriate arrangements for housing management are to be made which will include a requirement that the rent charged to the young people is capped at the appropriate Local Housing Allowance rate to ensure affordability of rent and alignment with benefit entitlements. • The cost of acquisition, improvement and refurbishment was approved in part exempt key decision within a budget of not more than £740k including the purchase price of £350k; • Said part exempt key decision authorised the acting assistant director for technical services to take all operational decisions necessary to complete the purchase and commissioning of improvement and refurbishment works
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	No suitable alternatives were proposed
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None

Signed..... Date:

Acting Assistant Director for technical services
CHRIS JENNER