

## **Officer Decision Record – Executive Decision**

**If Key Decision: Decision Ref. No.**

**B147 /24**

***If not a Key Decision write n/a above***

### **OFFICER DECISION RECORD <sup>i</sup>**

Officer Key Decisions are subject to the Council's Call-In Procedure (Annex 9 of the Council's Constitution <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/freedom-of-information-and-council-data/open-data-statistics-about-hertfordshire/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/who-we-are-and-what-we-do.aspx>)

**Subject:** Proposal to procure sufficient property to provide children's residential provision as part of the Residential Strategy Phase 2

**Type of Decision:** Executive

**Key Decision (Executive Functions only):** Yes

**Executive Member/Committee Chairman:** Anthony Rowlands

**Portfolio (Executive Functions only):** Children's Social Care

**Officer Contact:** Veronica Bennett

**Tel:** 01707343630

**April 2020**

## **1. Decision**

The Proposal to procure sufficient property to provide children's residential provision as part of the Residential Strategy Phase 2 has successfully progressed through the procurement of the following properties:

- Two properties in East Herts
- Four properties in North Herts
- Two properties in– Dacorum
- One property in Hertsmere
- One property in Welwyn Hatfield

The proposal includes the future procurement of further properties to enable the delivery of a total of 70 beds as part of the Children Looked After (CLA) Residential Strategy Project.

## **2. Reasons for the decision**

The CLA Residential Strategy was launched in 2019 with aims to create and improve the outcomes for Children Looked After (CLA) and their families by increasing the availability of local provisions, either managed in-house, or contract managed via our commissioning teams, to ensure best value for money. The primary project objectives:

- Improve the outcomes for CLA and their families – stability and availability.
- Ensure the right children are in appropriate care, at the right time- placement type and specialism.
- Increase our own provision to reduce spend on independent sector- Cost savings.
- Increase the number of children placed within Hertfordshire borders - keeping families closer.

Having sourced sufficient properties to meet the objectives of Phase 1 of the Strategy, the project is in the process of securing further properties to meet the requirements of Phase 2.

## **3. Alternative options considered and rejected**

Children Looked After in Hertfordshire may be placed in provision contracted on a spot purchase basis with Independent Providers. This can result in the inability to control placement costs and enable value for money, children are more likely to be placed in provision out of county and away from their support network, and the Council will have less control over the contractual arrangements in place.

4. **Consultation** *(see Summary of Requirements below)*

**Was any Councillor consulted?            Yes**

**If yes:**

(a)    Comments of Executive Member

The Executive Member was originally consulted and as each property is procured Local Councillors are kept informed.

(b)    Comments of other consultees

N/A

5. **Any conflict of interest declared by a councillor who has been consulted in relation to the decision**

6. **[Following consultation with the Executive Member/Committee Chairman,] I am proceeding with the proposed decision. *(delete words in square brackets if no requirement to consult the Executive Member/Committee Chairman)***

Signed: ... ..

Title: .....Executive Director.....

Date: 14.08.25

Copies of record to:

- All consultees
- hard & electronic copy (if required to be made available for public inspection) to Democratic Services Manager - Room 213 County Hall.<sup>ii</sup>

## Summary of Requirements to Inform/Consult Councillors

<b>Significance of Proposed Action</b>	<b>Controversial</b>	<b>Relevant Councillor(s) to be Consulted</b>
Technical/Professional/ Routine	No	No need to inform or consult councillors
Technical/Professional/ Routine	Yes	<b>Executive Functions:</b> Consult relevant Lead Executive Member and, where appropriate, Local Councillor <b>Non-Executive Functions:</b> Relevant Committee Chairman and, where appropriate, Local Councillor
Local	No	<b>Executive Functions:</b> Inform Lead Executive Member and Local Councillor <b>Non-Executive Functions:</b> Inform Local Councillor
Local	Yes	<b>Executive Functions:</b> Consult Lead Executive Member and Local Councillor <b>Non-Executive Functions:</b> Consult Local Councillor
General or County-wide	No	<b>Executive Functions:</b> Consult relevant Lead Executive Member (s) <b>Non-Executive Functions:</b> Consult relevant Committee Chairman
General or County-wide	Yes	<b>Executive Functions:</b> Consult relevant Lead Executive Member (s) and the Leader of the Council <b>Non-Executive Functions:</b> Consult relevant Committee Chairman/Leaders all Political Groups

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