



14 September 2021

THE RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL

An ordinary meeting of the Rugby Borough Council will be held in the Benn Hall, Newbold Road, Rugby at 7.00pm on Wednesday 22 September 2021.

Mannie Ketley
Executive Director

A G E N D A

PART 1 – PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes.

To approve the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 25 August 2021.
3. Declaration of Interests.

To receive declarations of -

(a) non-pecuniary interests as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors;

(b) pecuniary interests as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors;
and

(c) notice under Section 106 Local Government Finance Act 1992 - non-payment of Community Charge or Council Tax.
4. To receive the Mayor's Announcements.
5. Questions pursuant to Standing Order 10.

6. To receive the reports of Cabinet and Committees which have met since the last meeting of the Council and to pass such resolutions and to make such orders thereon as may be necessary:

(a) Cabinet – 6 September 2021

(1) Finance and Performance Monitoring 2021/22 – Quarter 1 – Finance, Performance, Legal and Governance Portfolio.

(2) Initial Review of General Fund budget 2022/23 – Finance, Performance, Legal and Governance Portfolio.

7. To receive and consider the Reports of Officers.

(a) Shareholders Committee – report of the Executive Director.

(b) Appointments to Outside Bodies - Warwickshire County Council (WCC) Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee - report of the Chief Officer - Legal and Governance.

(c) Urgent Decision under Delegated Powers – Additional Accommodation to support the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP) – report of the Executive Director.

8. Notices of Motion pursuant to Standing Order 11.

(a) “Our Street Cleansing Team spends approximately £8,000 a year on removing almost 200 graffiti ‘tags’ and obscene images from our public buildings, subways, parks and recreation areas in the last three years. They clean up often obscene daubing on local canal bridges, bus shelters, pathways, subways and play parks. Councillors from all parties have raised the issue but, yet no practical, lasting solutions have been found.

I believe that in Brownsover we have the solution, which has successfully been in place for over 25 years. The iconic mural/relief artwork in the Crowthorns underpass was inspired and created by the late Helga Windle, a prolific artist. Helga was heavily involved with school/youth/community projects and created this with students from local schools and members of community groups. This artwork, along with examples across the country, show that, where the community have been involved in its creation, it remains untouched and has become the subject of community pride.

A community group led by an Art Teacher in Nuneaton and Bedworth worked with recognised, respected street artists and local groups. This approach has significantly reduced unsightly “tagging” and successfully engaged with local youths and wider community.

I would ask Council to set up a Cabinet Working Group to look at supporting this approach as well as seeking other solutions via the Rugby Art Gallery and to consider ideas for a pilot scheme as well as sourcing funding for any proactive activities.”

Proposer: Councillor Rabin

9. Correspondence.
10. Common Seal.

To order the affixing of the Common Seal to the various orders, deeds and documents to be made or entered into for carrying into effect the several decisions, matters and things approved by the Council and more particularly set out in the Committees' Reports adopted at this meeting.

PART 2 – EXEMPT INFORMATION

There is no business involving exempt information to be considered.

To: The Mayor and Members of Rugby Borough Council

QUESTIONS AT COUNCIL

A Councillor may ask a question at the meeting by giving notice in writing of the question to the Executive Director no later than midday on Thursday 16 September 2021. The rules relating to Questions are set out in Part 3a of the Council's Constitution.

REPORT OF CABINET

Councillors Lowe (Chairman), Mrs Crane, Miss Lawrence, Poole, Ms Robbins and Mrs Simpson-Vince.

Councillors Brader (substituting for Councillor Mrs O'Rourke) and Roodhouse were also in attendance.

Note: An electronic version of the Cabinet reports referred to below can be found [here](#).

1. FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING 2021/22 – QUARTER 1

Cabinet considered a report concerning the Council's financial and performance position as at the end of the first quarter of 2021/22.

Recommendation of Cabinet

Cabinet decided to recommend to Council that –

- (1) the 2021/22 draw down of Revenue Carry forwards from earmarked reserves of £0.585m to meet existing commitments be approved;
- (2) the use of £0.126m from the Hall of Fame reserve for 2021/22 to mitigate loss of income compared to budget following the closure of the attraction be approved;
- (3) the use of the COVID-19 New Burdens revenue grants totalling £0.297m, held in the Revenue Grants reserve, for 2021/22 to mitigate existing service pressures be approved;
- (4) supplementary capital budgets for 2021/22 as detailed in section 6, be approved:
 - a. General Fund - £0.225m
 - b. HRA - £0.341m; and
- (5) HRA virements of £0.344m for 2021/22 as detailed in section 6 of the report be approved.

Recommended that – the recommendation of Cabinet be approved.

2. INITIAL REVIEW OF GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2022/23

Cabinet considered a report concerning an initial review the Council's General Fund budget for 2022/23.

Recommendation of Cabinet

Cabinet decided to recommend to Council that a further £0.050m of the transformation reserve, to be used to fund any additional costs of the operating model review and other schemes put forward, be approved.

Recommended that – the recommendation of Cabinet be approved.

**COUNCILLOR S LOWE
CHAIRMAN**

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Report Title: Shareholders Committee

Name of Committee: Council

Date of Meeting: 22 September 2021

Report Director: Executive Director

Portfolio: Finance, Performance, Legal and Governance

Ward Relevance: All Wards

Prior Consultation: All Group Leaders,
Chief Officer - Legal and Governance,
Chief Officer - Finance and Performance,
Chief Officer - Regulation and Safety,
Chief Officer - Communities and Homes,
Corporate Equality and Diversity Adviser
Human Resources Manager.

Contact Officer: David Collins
Property Manager
david.collins@rugby.gov.uk

Public or Private: Public

Report Subject to Call-In: No

Report En-Bloc: No

Forward Plan: No

Corporate Priorities: This report relates to the following priority(ies):

(C) Climate Rugby is an environmentally sustainable place, where we work together to reduce and mitigate the effects of climate change. (C)

(E) Economy Rugby has a diverse and resilient economy that benefits and enables opportunities for all residents. (E)

(HC) Health and Communities Residents live healthy, independent lives, with the most vulnerable protected. (HC)

(O) Organisation Rugby Borough Council is a responsible, effective and efficient organisation. (O)

[Corporate Strategy 2021-2024](#)

This report does not specifically relate to any Council priorities but

Summary:	The report sets out the functions and membership of the shareholders committee. (The shareholders committee was given delegated authority from Council under the private report of July 2020 to oversee all activities of its trading entities).
Financial Implications:	An independent chair is to be appointed and they will receive a special responsibility allowance of £3,377 per annum funded from a supplementary budget – see recommendation (4).
Risk Management Implications:	There are no significant risks arising from this decision.
Environmental Implications:	No environmental implications.
Legal Implications:	External legal advice has been sought in respect of the creation of a shareholders committee. This advice supports the creation of a committee to ensure sound governance and accountability in respect of the Council’s commercial activities.
Equality and Diversity:	Officers will follow the principles of fairness and consistency as set out in the council’s recruitment and selection policy for employees. This will ensure any equality and diversity considerations are undertaken.
Options:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not to agree to the setting up of the committee 2. To agree the terms setting up of the committee.
Recommendation:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Delegated authority be granted to the Chief Officer for Legal and Governance to insert a new Paragraph 17 of Part 2A of Rugby Borough Council’s Constitution as detailed in Appendix 1 and to make any non-material amendments; (2) appointments to the Shareholders Committee be made in accordance with the arrangements set out in this report; (3) delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer, Legal & Governance (in consultation with the relevant Group Leader) to appoint and substitute members to the Shareholders Committee and/or appoint a new chair; and (4) a supplementary medium term financial plan budget of £3,377 per annum be approved for

the special responsibility allowance for the new shareholder committee chair.

**Reasons for
Recommendation:**

As detailed within the report to provide oversight to the commercial and trading activities of the council

Council - 22 September 2021

Shareholders Committee

Public Report of the Executive Director

Recommendation

- (1) Delegated authority be granted to the Chief Officer for Legal and Governance to insert a new Paragraph 17 of Part 2A of Rugby Borough Council's Constitution as detailed in Appendix 1 and to make any non-material amendments ;
- (2) appointments to the Shareholders Committee be made in accordance with the arrangements set out in this report;
- (3) delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer, Legal & Governance (in consultation with the relevant Group Leader) to appoint and substitute members to the Shareholders Committee and/or appoint a new chair; and
- (4) a supplementary medium term financial plan budget of £3,377 per annum be approved for the special responsibility allowance for the new shareholder committee chair.

1. Introduction

The private Council report of July 2020 set out the governance structure for the oversight of the Council's trading structures. This outlined oversight of company activities was to be delegated to a shareholders committee and delegated authority to set up the shareholders committee passed to the Executive Director

Since July 2020 the Council has proceeded forward with its commercialisation activities and incorporation of a wholly owned commercial entity was duly completed in May 2021.

The incorporation of this entity will be a catalyst for the creation of further entitles and wider commercial activities. This is presently being progressed and this progression will require the implementation of a shareholder committee.

This committee will ensure sound and robust supervision of the Council's commercial activities.

This report confirms the functions of the shareholders committee, its membership, and selection and remuneration of the independent chair of the committee.

2. Amendments to Rugby Borough Council's Constitution to establish the Shareholder Committee

An additional section 17 is to be added to the constitution as set out in Appendix 1 of this report.

3. Appointments to the Shareholders Committee

The Shareholders Committee consists of five members – three Councillors from the Conservative Group, one Councillor from the Liberal Democrats Group and one Councillor from the Labour Group with an independent chair appointed after a recruitment/selection process.

It is proposed that the five Councillors to be appointed to the Shareholders Committee are:

- Councillor Jerry Roodhouse (Liberal Democrat)
- Councillor Conservative - to be appointed
- Councillor Conservative - to be appointed
- Councillor Conservative – to be appointed
- Councillor Labour – to be appointed

It is further proposed that the Vice Chair is elected at the first meeting of the Shareholders Committee.

4. Appointment of the Chair of the Shareholders Committee

An independent chair is to be appointed after a selection process is undertaken by officers supported by an independent consultant adviser experienced in the selection of similar roles. The job profile for the role is contained within Appendix 2 of this report. The independent chair will receive a special responsibility allowance of £3,377 per annum funded from a supplementary budget – see recommendation (4).

Name of Meeting: Council
Date of Meeting: 22 September 2021
Subject Matter: Shareholders Committee
Originating Department: Change & Transformation

DO ANY BACKGROUND PAPERS APPLY YES NO

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Doc No	Title of Document and Hyperlink

The background papers relating to reports on planning applications and which are open to public inspection under Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972, consist of the planning applications, referred to in the reports, and all written responses to consultations made by the Local Planning Authority, in connection with those applications.

Exempt information is contained in the following documents:

Doc No	Relevant Paragraph of Schedule 12A

17 Shareholders Committee

Except in so far as a matter maybe an executive function or has been reserved to full council or delegated to another person (including officers) or bodies under this constitution, the following functions are given to the shareholders committee, in regard to the council's trading entities:

<p>1. These Terms of reference for Rugby Borough Council's Shareholders Committee have regard to, and apply the disciplines set out in, The UK Stewardship Code and The Institutional Shareholders' Committee's Statement of Principles.</p> <p>In this context, a shareholder is expected to act where it believes that the directors are not best serving the shareholder's interests or acting in the interests of the beneficial owners (in this case the Council, and those it represents). In order to discharge its duty to the Council the Shareholders Committee will operate within the following terms.</p>
<p>2. To provide oversight of the Council's trading company interests in accordance with any principles agreed by council and provisions contained within shareholders agreements.</p>
<p>3. Review and approve business plans and project plans as prepared by the companies' boards of directors, ensure the business plan is reviewed on a regular basis and contains key performance targets and milestones for the year all in accordance with any objectives or investment criteria as agreed by Council and as contained within respective shareholders agreements</p>
<p>4. Regularly monitor the performance of Council companies against the targets and milestones set.</p>
<p>5. Establishes timescales to facilitate the regular dialogue with companies and then undertakes that dialogue.</p>
<p>6. Sets out triggers where it will intervene should progress against the agreed business plan not be delivered.</p>
<p>7. Evaluates the impact of the company, including on the wider area and local markets.</p>
<p>8. Sets out a clear policy on discharge of its own responsibilities to the Council.</p>
<p>9. Timetables and publishes public reports on how the companies are performing against their business plans.</p>
<p>10. Develops an annual audit framework' which seeks information from companies in which the Council is a shareholder or has an investment. (This information should at the very least, comprise the annual accounts, reports and statements that are required under the Companies Act 2006.)</p>

Purpose	Skills/Knowledge/Experience	Behaviours
<p>To act on behalf of Rugby Borough Council as beneficial shareholder and Chair the Shareholders Committee of elected Members providing oversight of the performance of its trading companies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Knowledge of property, regeneration, and asset management. ◆ Ability to support the trading structure Boards to achieve their short and long-term business objectives ◆ Ability to scrutinise, critically appraise and approve performance against business plans and provide constructive challenge. ◆ Ability to understand budgets for both revenue and capital expenditure that drives the outcomes set within the business plan and underlying strategies. ◆ Ability to review and monitor performance data and ensure that management information provided is sufficient to enable the Council to be confident in its investment. ◆ Ability to understand effective controls and risk management. ◆ Ability to enhance the reputation and image of the Council by representing it as an ambassador at Committee, Council and related events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To uphold the values and objectives of the parent Council and maintain an understanding of its role in providing support for delivering asset and investment strategy ambitions. ◆ Uphold core policies including the code of conduct, delegated authorities and financial regulations ◆ Ensure an understanding of the constitutional and legislative powers as they relate to the committee and act within them. ◆ Contribute and share responsibility for committee decisions, including a duty to exercise reasonable care, skill, and independent judgement. ◆ Prepare for and attend meetings any training sessions and other events ◆ Attend and participate in reviews linked to individual performance and that of the Committee. ◆ Declare any relevant interests and avoid conflicts of interest ◆ Respect confidentiality of information

Agenda No 7(b)

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Report Title: Appointments to Outside Bodies - Warwickshire County Council (WCC) Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Name of Committee: Council

Date of Meeting: 22 September 2021

Report Director: Chief Officer - Legal and Governance

Portfolio: Finance, Performance, Legal and Governance

Ward Relevance: All Wards

Prior Consultation: -

Contact Officer: Linn Ashmore, Democratic Services Officer 01788 533522 or linn.ashmore@rugby.gov.uk

Public or Private: Public

Report Subject to Call-In: No

Report En-Bloc: No

Forward Plan: No

Corporate Priorities: This report relates to the following priority(ies):
 Rugby is an environmentally sustainable place, where we work together to reduce and mitigate the effects of climate change. (C)
 Rugby has a diverse and resilient economy that benefits and enables opportunities for all residents. (E)
 Residents live healthy, independent lives, with the most vulnerable protected. (HC)
 Rugby Borough Council is a responsible, effective and efficient organisation. (O)
[Corporate Strategy 2021-2024](#)
 This report does not specifically relate to any Council priorities but

Summary: The Warwickshire County Council (WCC) Constitution requires that co-opted members to the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee must be a serving member of an overview and scrutiny committee at their district or borough council.

Financial Implications:	There are no financial implications arising from the report.
Risk Management Implications:	There are no risk management implications arising from the report.
Environmental Implications:	There are no environmental implications arising from the report.
Legal Implications:	Appointments are made in different capacities. The nature of each outside body, its constitution, and the nature of the appointment may affect any personal liabilities of councillors. There may be requirements under an outside body's constitution to make appointments.
Equality and Diversity:	N/A
Options:	N/A
Recommendation:	A member of the Scrutiny Committee be appointed to Warwickshire County Council's Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to replace the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Wellbeing.
Reasons for Recommendation:	To ensure this Council complies with Warwickshire County Council's constitutional arrangements for the membership of its Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Council - 22 September 2021

**Appointments to Outside Bodies - Warwickshire County Council
(WCC) Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny
Committee**

Public Report of the Chief Officer - Legal and Governance

Recommendation

A member of the Scrutiny Committee be appointed to Warwickshire County Council's Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to replace the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Wellbeing.

1. BACKGROUND

Annual Council on 20 May 2021 approved the current appointment of the Leisure and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder to Warwickshire County Council's Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Warwickshire County Council (WCC) has since advised that this conflicts with Paragraph 8.2.3 of its Constitution which states:

*“Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
One co-opted member from an overview and scrutiny committee of each district/borough council in Warwickshire. The co-opted members shall be voting members on matters relating to health services. Except where statutory arrangements provide otherwise, a co-opted member shall be appointed for two years and shall hold office until the earliest of the following events: i. on the expiry of 2 years from the date of appointment; ii. On ceasing to be a member of their appointing body; iii. On receipt of his/her resignation; or iv. On ceasing to be an elected member of an overview and scrutiny committee of the district/borough council.”*

2. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

In order that this Council's representation on the WCC Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee can continue it is recommended that the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Wellbeing be replaced by a member of the Council's Scrutiny Committee.

Name of Meeting: Council
Date of Meeting: 22 September 2021
Subject Matter: Appointments to Outside Bodies
Originating Department: Legal and Governance

DO ANY BACKGROUND PAPERS APPLY YES NO

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Doc No	Title of Document and Hyperlink

The background papers relating to reports on planning applications and which are open to public inspection under Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972, consist of the planning applications, referred to in the reports, and all written responses to consultations made by the Local Planning Authority, in connection with those applications.

Exempt information is contained in the following documents:

Doc No	Relevant Paragraph of Schedule 12A

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Report Title: Urgent Decision under Delegated Powers - Additional Accommodation to support the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy

Name of Committee: Council

Date of Meeting: 22 September 2021

Report Director: Executive Director

Portfolio: Communities, Homes, Digital and Communications

Ward Relevance: All

Prior Consultation: The Executive Director, in consultation with the Mayor (Councillor Mrs Roberts), Councillors Lowe (Leader of the Council), Mrs Crane (Portfolio Holder – Communities, Homes, Digital and Communications), Eccleson, (Chair of Scrutiny Committee), Mrs O'Rourke (Leader of the Labour Group) and Roodhouse (Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group)

Contact Officer: Michelle Dickson, Chief Officer - Communities and Homes michelle.dickson@rugby.gov.uk

Public or Private: Public

Report Subject to Call-In: No

Report En-Bloc: No

Forward Plan: No

Corporate Priorities: This report relates to the following priority(ies):

(C) Climate Rugby is an environmentally sustainable place, where we work together to reduce and mitigate the effects of climate change. (C)

(E) Economy Rugby has a diverse and resilient economy that benefits and enables opportunities for all residents. (E)

(HC) Health and Communities Residents live healthy, independent lives, with the most vulnerable protected. (HC)

(O) Organisation Rugby Borough Council is a responsible, effective and efficient organisation. (O)

[Corporate Strategy 2021-2024](#)

This report does not specifically relate to any Council priorities but

Summary:	An urgent decision was taken under delegated powers with regard to a Home Office request for the provision of additional accommodation to support the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy. A copy of the urgent decision is attached at Appendix 1.
Financial Implications:	All financial implications are detailed in the urgent decision report attached at Appendix 1.
Risk Management Implications:	All risk management implications are detailed in the urgent decision report at Appendix 1.
Environmental Implications:	There are no environmental implications arising from the report.
Legal Implications:	All legal implications are detailed in the urgent decision report at Appendix 1. Pursuant to Rugby Borough Council's constitution, the urgent decision that has been taken (as detailed in the report) is being reported to the next appropriate meeting of Full Council for noting.
Equality and Diversity:	There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.
Options:	N/A
Recommendation:	The report be noted.
Reasons for Recommendation:	To comply with the Council's Constitution.

Council - 22 September 2021

**Urgent Decision under Delegated Powers - Additional
Accommodation to support the Afghan Relocation and Assistance
Policy**

Public Report of the Executive Director

Recommendation

The report be noted.

1. INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the Council's urgent decision procedure under delegated powers, the following item was determined.

2. ITEM DETERMINED UNDER EMERGENCY POWERS – SEPTEMBER 2021

2.1.1 Additional Accommodation to support the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy

An urgent decision was taken on 10 September 2021 to provide a response to the Home Office's request for additional accommodation to support the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy.

A copy of the urgent decision is attached at Appendix 1.

2.2 Consultation

The Executive Director, in consultation with the Mayor (Councillor Mrs Roberts), Councillors Lowe (Leader), Mrs Crane (Portfolio Holder – Communities, Homes, Digital and Communications), Eccleson (Chair of Scrutiny Committee), Mrs O'Rourke (Leader of the Labour Group) and Roodhouse (Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group) agreed that –

(1) the Council agrees to support the Home Office request for additional accommodation, and will aim to provide three units of additional accommodation by 31 December 2021;

(2) additional accommodation be provided through a mixed tenure offer, consisting of both private sector housing and social sector housing;

(3) delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer – Communities and Homes to agree the final allocation of properties to be offered up for the scheme;

(4) the position be revisited in early 2021 when:

- the potential Registered Provider offer is better understood
- there is likely to be more clarity in terms of the requirements from the emerging the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme; and

(5) a supplementary HRA budget allocation of £10,000 for the decoration of any council owned properties, with a view to these costs being potentially reimbursed via the Warwickshire County Council support package.

Name of Meeting: Council

Date of Meeting: 22 September 2021

Subject Matter: Urgent Decision under Delegated Powers - Additional Accommodation to support the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy

Originating Department: Communities and Homes

DO ANY BACKGROUND PAPERS APPLY YES NO

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Doc No	Title of Document and Hyperlink

The background papers relating to reports on planning applications and which are open to public inspection under Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972, consist of the planning applications, referred to in the reports, and all written responses to consultations made by the Local Planning Authority, in connection with those applications.

Exempt information is contained in the following documents:

Doc No	Relevant Paragraph of Schedule 12A

Agenda No

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Report Title:	Additional Accommodation to support the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy
Name of Committee:	Council
Date of Meeting:	7 September 2021
Report Director:	Chief Officer - Communities and Homes
Portfolio:	Communities, Homes, Digital and Communications
Ward Relevance:	All
Prior Consultation:	Portfolio Holder Communities, Homes, Digital and Communications Members of SMT
Contact Officer:	David Wortley, Community Advice and Support Team Manager, 01788 533440
Public or Private:	Public
Report Subject to Call-In:	Yes
Report En-Bloc:	No
Forward Plan:	No
Corporate Priorities:	This report relates to the following priority(ies): <input type="checkbox"/> Rugby is an environmentally sustainable place, where we work together to reduce and mitigate the effects of climate change. (C) <input type="checkbox"/> Rugby has a diverse and resilient economy that benefits and enables opportunities for all residents. (E) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residents live healthy, independent lives, with the most vulnerable protected. (HC) <input type="checkbox"/> Rugby Borough Council is a responsible, effective and efficient organisation. (O) Corporate Strategy 2021-2024 <input type="checkbox"/> This report does not specifically relate to any Council priorities but
Summary:	The Home Office has requested that Local Authorities support the relocation of Afghan Locally Employed Staff (LES), who have worked for our country for the last 20 years, putting their lives at risk to support our forces.

In June 2021, Cabinet agreed to participate in the UK Afghan Locally Employed Staff Relocation Scheme, now known as the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) by offering a property for the family of an Afghan Translator.

On 20th August 2021, the Rt Hon Robert Jenrick, MP wrote to councils requesting their assistance with identifying further properties to support the now ARAP scheme and outlined that a package of support would be made available for local authorities totalling £5M, the detail of which will be published shortly.

Discussions have taken place at a county level to determine the housing offer from each of the districts and boroughs. At the time of writing, these offers are yet to be confirmed, but what has become apparent is that these will vary as the housing markets and pressures on the housing stock (both social and privately rented) in each locality is very different, mainly in terms of cost, availability and demand.

Warwickshire County Council will be offering support to the families for the first 12 months of their residency, with this being more intensive in the first three months, as habitual residency is established to enable people to access Universal Credit. It should be noted that many of the cohort will be professional people who speak fluent English and will be actively seeking to work in the UK once their habitual residency is confirmed.

It has been suggested that the support package from the county will include:

- decorating, carpeting and furnishing properties (including white goods) that are secured via the scheme. It will need to be established if this offer extends to the decoration of any Council homes used for this scheme
- making up the shortfall between the rent and the Local Housing Allowance
- Support with accessing GP's, school places etc.

Financial Implications:

There is a requirement that properties will be decorated and furnished. Although funding to support this is being provided, and will be

administered by Warwickshire County Council, there may be a cost to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) depending on the amount of work required to make any Council owned properties ready for use.

Risk Management Implications:

There is currently no Afghan community within the Borough to assist with the integration of a family with Rugby and therefore there is a risk of isolation. Consequently, some families receiving an offer of accommodation in the borough may only wish to stay for a short time. Anecdotal evidence suggests that some families are already choosing to migrate to areas where they have established friend, family and social networks.

The borough is already facing significant pressure on its housing stock, with a buoyant private rented sector market. In addition, the council is the biggest social housing landlord in the borough currently managing a 10% reduction in its available stock as a result of regeneration. The relatively high proportion of Independent Living Accommodation within the remaining stock will be unsuitable as it is mainly 1-bedroom and therefore unsuitable for families.

There is currently one family in band 1+ in urgent need of rehousing.

There are no real issues with harder to let properties in the borough, other than some Independent Living Accommodation and some rural vacancies. This is not a uniform position across the districts and boroughs in the county.

The Council will be remote from the allocation process, with the Home Office and the local Strategic Migration Partnership, sending families according to the property type that is offered.

The willingness, and ability of Registered Providers to assist with the supply of homes is in the process of being established. Therefore, at this stage, it is not possible to forecast what their offer is likely to be.

The current hotel contracts, where many families are currently accommodated, are for 3 months. Therefore, the most urgent need is for properties to be committed for delivery before the end of the calendar year.

There is a likelihood that a further call for homes will be made, as the details of the additional Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme become clear.

- Environmental Implications:** None arising from this report
- Legal Implications:** Participation in the scheme remains voluntary and there is not a statutory duty to offer accommodation to families, however in participating in the scheme the Council is able to exercise its power in accordance with the General Power of Competence under s.1 of the Localism Act 2011. The Housing Allocations Policy adopted by Council in 2019, the provision for the Chief Officer – Communities and Homes to have delegated authority to place clients onto the Housing Waiting List in exceptional circumstances that are not covered by provisions with the current policy.
- Equality and Diversity:** There are no implications arising from this report.
- Options:**
- Support the request for additional accommodation
 - Not to provide additional accommodation
- Recommendation:**
1. The Council agrees to support the Home Office request for additional accommodation, and will aim to provide three units of additional accommodation by 31 December 2021
 2. Additional accommodation will be provided through a mixed tenure offer, consisting of both private sector housing and social sector housing.
 3. Delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer – Communities and Homes to agree the final allocation of properties to be offered up for the scheme.
 4. The position be revisited in early 2022 when:
 - The potential Registered Provider offer is better understood
 - There is likely to be more clarity in terms of the requirements from the emerging There

is likely to be more clarity in terms of the requirements from the emerging Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme

5. A supplementary HRA budget allocation of £10,000 be made for the decoration and making ready to let of any council owned properties, with a view to these costs being potentially reimbursed via the Warwickshire County Council support package

Reasons for Recommendation:

To provide additional accommodation for those who have served this country and been evacuated from Afghanistan.

The offer, is a potentially achievable and a realistic one given:

- the constraints and buoyancy of the local housing market
- the availability of social housing, particularly given the impact of the high-rise regeneration schemes on currently available housing supply.

Agenda No

Council - 7 September 2021

Additional Accommodation to support the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy

Public Report of the Chief Officer - Communities and Homes

Recommendation

1. The Council agrees to support the Home Office request for additional accommodation, and will aim to provide three units of additional accommodation by 31 December 2021
2. Additional accommodation will be provided through a mixed tenure offer, consisting of both private sector housing and social sector housing.
3. Delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer – Communities and Homes to agree the final allocation of properties to be offered up for the scheme.
4. The position be revisited in early 2021 when:
 - The potential Registered Provider offer is better understood
 - There is likely to be more clarity in terms of the requirements from the emerging The Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme
5. Supplementary HRA budget allocation of £10,000 for the decoration of any council owned properties, with a view to these costs being potentially reimbursed via the Warwickshire County Council support package

1. Background

- 1.1 In June 2021, Cabinet agreed to participate in the UK Afghan Locally Employed Staff Relocation Scheme, now known as the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP).
- 1.2 A council owned property has been made available for an Afghan family and work is currently underway to decorate, furnish and allocate the property to a family identified by the Home Office.
- 1.3 With the withdrawal of UK and allied forces, 8,000 individuals at risk of reprisals have been evacuated to the UK.
- 1.4 Although councils across the Country have provided accommodation, many families are being accommodated in hotels.

- 1.5 The Home Office has approached councils to consider increasing the provision of accommodation for this cohort.

2. Support for families

- 2.1 It has now been confirmed that they will have indefinite leave to remain in the Country and will be able to claim benefits and find employment.
- 2.2 Funding is being provided by Central Government to cover accommodation set-up costs, void costs, and accommodation costs for up to four months. In addition financial support will also be provided for the family until a claim for Universal Credit can be made.
- 2.3 Accommodation provided needs to be decorated and furnished to support those fleeing Afghanistan without possessions and initially unable to work or claim benefits immediately upon arrival.
- 2.4 Warwickshire County Council will provide support to the family for a period of one year to assist them to integrate into the local community. It is noted that there is not an established Afghan community within Rugby and therefore support will be provided to integrate with the Afghan community in Coventry.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 In terms of set-up costs, the amount available for each property will be dependent upon the number of occupants, in the case of properties provided by the Council, they are normally let undecorated and without carpet, etc. This means that it is likely that the cost of providing furnished accommodation will exceed the funding available and will fall as charge to the Housing Revenue Account
- 3.2 It is anticipated that the cost of decorating and carpeting a council owned property will be in the region of £3,000 to £5,000 per property. Although WCC will have a fund to cover costs, due to the additional work required for council owned properties, the additional costs may not be reimbursed in full.

4. Supporting the Home Office request for additional accommodation

- 4.1 A local Registered Provider has indicated that they will be willing to provide accommodation as part of this scheme and a local private sector landlord has also indicated a willingness to be involved in the provision of accommodation.
- 4.2 Approaches will also be made to other Registered Providers (RP's), for assistance in providing accommodation.
- 4.3 It should however be noted that any accommodation offered up by the RP's cannot be part of any existing nomination agreement, or in breach of S106 requirements with regards to new build.
- 4.4 A local landlord has offered a four-bed property to this project and discussions are currently on-going regarding the suitability of this property.

- 4.5 It is proposed that the Council responds to the Home Office request with a commitment to provide an additional three units of family accommodation by 31 December 2021.
- 4.6 Although it is intended to provide accommodation from a range of partners, the actual tenure mix will depend on available accommodation and will be agreed by the Chief Officer – Communities and Homes in consultation with the Portfolio Holder – Communities, Homes, Digital and Communities.

5. Existing and future requests for assistance with accommodation

- 5.1 In addition to this current request for the provision of accommodation;

5.2 UK Resettlement Scheme

In March 2020, Cabinet agreed to provide three council properties between 2020 and 2024 to accommodate three families arriving in the UK who have refugee status. The first family is due to be accommodated before 31 December 2021 and a property has been identified for this family.

5.3 The Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme

The Government is also finalising a further scheme – The Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme. The scheme will provide protection for Afghan citizens identified as most at risk, such as women and girls. It is anticipated this scheme will include 5,000 people in the first year and 20,000 in future years. It has also been confirmed that Afghan citizens who could not be evacuated in the last few weeks will be guaranteed a place. The Home Office will therefore be approaching local authorities to provide accommodation under this future scheme.

6 Conclusion

- 6.1 Rugby Borough Council is committed to providing accommodation across a range of existing and future schemes, and will provide a balanced response taking into account the limited supply of social housing and affordable private sector accommodation in Rugby and the competing demands for accommodation.
- 6.2 A further report to Cabinet will be submitted when details of The Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme are known and any request for accommodation to support this scheme.

Name of Meeting: Council

Date of Meeting: 7 September 2021

Subject Matter: Additional Accommodation to support the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy

Originating Department: Communities and Homes

DO ANY BACKGROUND PAPERS APPLY YES NO

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Doc No	Title of Document and Hyperlink

The background papers relating to reports on planning applications and which are open to public inspection under Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972, consist of the planning applications, referred to in the reports, and all written responses to consultations made by the Local Planning Authority, in connection with those applications.

Exempt information is contained in the following documents:

Doc No	Relevant Paragraph of Schedule 12A