

DECISION NOTICE - CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY RELATED
Key Executive Decision taken by an OFFICER

KEY DECISION Subject: Temporary Accommodation

DECISION TAKER:

Name: Richard Protheroe

Job Title: Strategic Director

Signature:

Date:

REASON WHY THIS DECISION DID NOT APPEAR ON THE FORWARD PLAN AND THE URGENCY PROVISIONS WERE NOT FOLLOWED:

This key decision was taken as part of the Council's emergency response to the national COVID-19 pandemic.

Due to the necessary speed of decision taking at this time it was not possible to comply with the Council's Constitution that includes the requirement to give 28 days' notice of the decision to be taken; publish details 5 clear days before the decision was taken; publish the decision within 2 days of it being taken; and provide the 5 day call-in period before implementation. Nor was it possible to comply with the Urgency provisions in the Constitution

DECISION TAKEN:

The Temporary Accommodation team have procured a total number of 75 units of B+B accommodation for a 12 week period in order to accommodate additional cases during the COVID period.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

Following the direction from Dame Louise Casey on 26th March 2020 the Temporary Accommodation team were required to accommodate additional applicants who we otherwise would not have had a duty to accommodate outside of COVID direction.

There has been a need to accommodate 49 rough sleeper cases in addition to the 22 cases accommodated in B+B who are owed a duty under part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 (as amended)

7 SBC Emergency Accommodation units have been kept vacant in order to ensure we have sufficient supply for any cases that have confirmed COVID or suspected COVID.

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Government direction to all Hotel and B+B providers was to close for business unless they were providing accommodation to Local Authorities or agencies assisting key workers. The majority of providers would therefore only accept block bookings or close.

The other area for consideration is that food, security and support had to be put in place to ensure the management of the accommodation especially for the accommodation to rough sleepers.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED:

All LA's in the UK were faced with the same challenge and therefore we do not have the option to utilise other LA's stock for our temporary accommodation, our EA/TA provision is at capacity and therefore does not allow for the additional placement demand.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The initial proposed costs for block bookings are as follows;

Provider	Total rooms	Cost per night	84 day arrangement	Food costs (Maximum)	Security (increased to 2 security guards)	Total	Recoverable HB	Potential liability
Holiday Inn	30	30				122200		57285
Novotel	30	60				180180		39665
De Salis Hotel	15	60				88200		17942
Totals	75	160	302,400	61740	26439.84	390,580	275,688	114,892

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Our powers under part 7 Housing Act 1996 (as amended)

EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

To ensure that no specified groups are disadvantaged due to the measures set in place by Government.

CONSULTATIONS:

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SBC internal COVID Housing response cell which includes Comms, finance, policy, H+I, HR- concur
SLT- concur
Council Leader- Sharon Taylor and Portfolio Holder- Jeannette Thomas- concur

Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

I agree that this decision was reasonable in all the circumstances, was urgent and could not reasonably be deferred

I further agree that any delay likely to be caused by the call -in process would prejudice the Council's or the public interest and that the decision should not therefore be subject to call-in.

Signed:

Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date:

DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISION: