

# Decision under Delegated Powers

## Officer Requesting Decision

Katie Moore – Housing Needs Manager

## Officer Making the Decision

Alison Simmons – Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing

## Recommendation

To approve the temporary increase in hours on the H150 Housing Options Officer post for up to 37 hours per week for a period of up to 9 months, at a cost of up to £32,295.

To approve the use of Domestic Abuse Duty New Burdens Grant for 2021-2022 for the costs associated with this request.

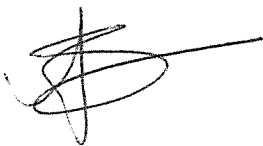
## Reason

To ensure there is sufficient capacity within the Housing Options Team to provide advice and assistance to persons who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless as a result of domestic abuse, in order to successfully prevent and relieve homelessness and to support the council to fulfill the new duties associated with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

## Authority for Decision

The delegated function of the Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive) to agree changes to the establishment, within budget and without major operational disruption or interruption of services or involving a change from direct to indirect provision or vice-versa or other policy implications has been sub-delegated to Heads of Service subject to certain restrictions, which these proposals fall within.

## Decision and Date



Alison Simmons  
Head of Strategic and  
Private Sector Housing

22nd July 2021

## **Background**

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 imposes a number of new duties on statutory agencies in relation to the support for victims of domestic abuse. These include a duty on local authorities to provide accommodation based support to victims of domestic abuse and their children who are residing in refuges and other safe accommodation and a duty for housing authorities to determine that all eligible homeless applicants who are victims of domestic abuse have a priority need under Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 (as amended).

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has allocated Charnwood Borough Council a New Burdens Grant to cover costs associated with preparing for and meeting the new duties.

The main role of the Housing Options Team is to provide advice and assistance to persons who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in order to prevent and relieve homelessness. This includes for persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness as a result of domestic abuse.

The Housing Options Team currently consists of:

- 1 x FTE M090 Housing Options Team Leader (permanent post on the establishment).
- 9 x FTE H150 Housing Options Officer posts (permanent posts on the establishment).
- 2 x FTE H150 Housing Options Officer posts (grant funded posts for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022).

This request is for use of this grant to fund a temporary increase in hours on the H150 Housing Options Officer post for up to 37 hours per week for a period of up to 9 months.

## **Comments from HR**

HR Adviser: Anna Cairns (19/7/21)

The normal recruitment process should be followed

## **Financial Implications**

Approximately £29,700 is required for the cost of 1 x FTE Scale E Housing Options Officer for a period of 9 months:

- £28,650 for Salary and On-Costs
- £1,050 for Essential Car User allowance.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has allocated Charnwood Borough Council a Domestic Abuse Duty New Burdens Grant for 2021-2022 of £32,295.

This funding sufficient to cover the cost associated with this request.

Accountancy: Neil Whittall (22/7/2021)

The above funding was received 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021

### **Risk Management**

Risk Identified	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Management Actions Planned
This DD is not agreed and there is insufficient capacity within the Housing Options service to manage workloads associated with the new duties. This could result in increased homelessness, temporary accommodation spend, complaints and legal challenges.	Medium	Medium	Offer over-time to existing staff within the Housing Options Team (this may have cost implications, but the budget available is likely to be sufficient to cover this).

Key Decision:

No

Background Papers:

None

