

**Acquisition of Properties**  
**6 Lowther Way, Loughborough**  
**Decision under Delegated Powers**

**Officer Requesting Decision**

Beverly Wagstaffe - Housing Strategy and Support Manager

**Officer Making the Decision**

Alison Simmons - Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing

**Recommendation**

To approve the purchase of 6 Lowther Way, Loughborough and for the Council to formerly Exchange Contracts and Complete the purchase.

**Reason**

To utilise approved funding for the purchase of additional HRA rental properties.

**Authority for Decision**

Section 8.3, of the Constitution gives delegated authority to the Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing to acquire additional properties for rent via the HRA where approved funding exists within the Capital Plan for the relevant financial year, and where any property acquired is subject to a Condition Survey, an Independent Valuation, Standard Legal checks, and meets identified housing needs (item 20 on page 8-20).

**Decision and Date**

Signed:



Date:

8/11/2019

Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing

## **Background**

The following property has now been identified to purchase:

- 6 Lowther Way, Loughborough – 2 bedroom house

There is an identified need for this size of property.

The seller of the property has accepted an offer of £161,000.

A Condition Survey and Valuation have been satisfactorily completed. Legal checks have identified that the property has a potential Chancel Repair Liability.

The Council's appointed Legal team, North West Leicestershire District Council Legal Services, have been instructed to ensure that Chancel Repair Insurance is in place before the Council Completes on this property.

## **Comments from HR**

Not applicable

## **Financial Implications**

The cost of acquiring this property is £161,000 with associated fees estimated at £2,500 and stamp duty of £5,550 (total cost of £169,050).

In August 2018, Cabinet approved a budget of £2,797,000 for 2019-2020 to support delivery of the Housing Acquisition Policy in acquiring additional HRA properties for rent.

To date the Council has purchased 6 other properties during 2019-2020 for the sum of £1,109,650 including associated fees with a further £833,860 committed with 5 other purchases including this property.

The total spent to date and including the funds committed equal £1,943,510, leaving a balance of £853,490 available for 2019-2020.

There is sufficient budget to cover the cost of acquiring 6 Lowther Way, Loughborough.

## **Risk Management**

No risks identified

Key Decision:

Yes, but exempted from call-in. See agenda item 14; Full Council meeting dated the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

Background Papers:

Housing Acquisition Policy approved by Cabinet on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018; reviewed and updated June 2019, DD084