

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

REQUEST FOR THE USE OF EMERGENCY POWERS – CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

SUBJECT: Temporary Accommodation

Authority to utilise and furnish 4 existing Council properties to be used as self-contained accommodation for Symptomatic Coronavirus residents who currently occupy hostel / shared accommodation or are rough sleeping in line with WG and PHW guidance.

Note – the cost of furnishing can be claimed from the WG rough sleeper grant.

1. **Originating / Department / Service** –

Environment and Housing - Housing Services

2. **Reason for Seeking Emergency Powers** –

PLEASE SPECIFY BELOW ~~and attach appropriate Committee report / minute/ memo~~ ^{*} (~~* delete as appropriate~~)

Due to the Government directive to ensure that no-one should be without a home during the Covid 19 pandemic, the Council has been required to source additional temporary accommodation. This accommodation is required to meet an increased demand to house applicants who would not normally be owed a statutory duty to be provided with temporary accommodation under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

Whilst additional temporary accommodation has already been sourced from hotels, if an applicant or a member of their household exhibits any symptoms of the virus another source of self-contained accommodation is required in order to minimise the spread of the disease. In addition, since the requirement for people to remain at home as much as possible, there has been an increase in domestic abuse across the Country, leading to refuges becoming full.

In order to deal with both of these issues, it is proposed to furnish four empty Council properties for immediate use rather than advertise them for rent to applicants on the Homes4U Scheme. Whilst every attempt will be made to assist any residents to claim Housing Benefit and to pay the utility costs in the normal way, this could have financial implications for the Council if the payments are not made.

3. **Policy Framework and Budget** –

PLEASE INDICATE as appropriate that the matter that you are seeking the use of Emergency Powers for is a Cabinet or Council function.

Cabinet

Council

4. **Relevant Scrutiny Committee** –

Homes and Safe Communities

IMPORTANT

The following sections **must** be completed **prior** to the request being submitted to the Democratic and Scrutiny Services Section for processing.

I confirm (delete as appropriate)

~~(a) That there are no financial implications and the relevant Cabinet Member, Leader and / or the Deputy Leader has been consulted and is in agreement with the use of Emergency Powers; **or**~~

(b) That, in view of the financial commitments, the Head of Financial Services, the appropriate Chief Officer, the relevant Cabinet Member, Leader and / or Deputy Leader have been consulted and are in agreement with the use of the Emergency Powers and that

~~(c) For matters relating to the Planning Committee the Chairman of the Planning Committee has also been consulted and is in agreement with the use of Emergency Powers;~~

~~(d) For matters relating to the Licensing Committee the Chairman of the Licensing Committee has also been consulted and is in agreement with the use of Emergency Powers.~~

~~(e) For matters relating to the Welsh Church Act Estate Committee the Chairman of the Welsh Church Act Estate Committee has also been consulted and is in agreement with the use of Emergency Powers.~~

~~(f) For matters relating to policy the relevant Scrutiny Committee Chairman has been consulted and is in agreement with the use of Emergency Powers.~~

Signed: Mike Ingram **Date:** 7th April 2020
(Instructing Chief Officer)

Please print name: Mike Ingram

I hereby approve under my Emergency Powers the attached recommendation(s) on behalf of the Cabinet / Council (please delete as appropriate).

Signed: ..D.R. Thomas..... **Date:** 15th April 2020
Managing Director

NB Should the relevant portfolio Cabinet Member be unable to be consulted only the Leader and / or Deputy Leader be consulted in their absence.

N.B. Cabinet: 23rd March, 2020 Minute No. 295