

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

REQUEST FOR THE USE OF EMERGENCY POWERS – CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

SUBJECT: Authority to submit Phase 2 Planning funding bid to the Welsh Government by 30th June 2020 to secure additional funding for homelessness and housing solution services

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

Housing & Building Services – Housing Solutions and Supporting People Team

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

In response to the COVID 19 pandemic, the Welsh Government issued guidance for local authorities on supporting rough sleepers <https://gov.wales/coronavirus-covid-19-local-authority-support-for-rough-sleepers-html> and outlined £10 million of funding available for Local Authorities to accommodate and support them <https://gov.wales/written-statement-coronavirus-and-local-government>. This was to ensure that people who were at risk of sleeping rough and those in inadequate temporary accommodation had access to the facilities that would enable them to adhere to public health guidelines on hygiene or isolation and mitigate their risk of infection.

Due to the Government directive to ensure that no-one should be without a home during the Covid 19 pandemic, the Housing Solutions Team have submitted Emergency Powers forms for permission to secure additional temporary accommodation to meet the 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.

Since the start of the pandemic, the Housing Solutions Team has assisted an additional 130 people into emergency B&B accommodation, with 61 currently in this accommodation and the numbers continuing to grow daily. Many of these people have struggled to engage with housing and support services in the past and are now benefitting from stable accommodation and intensive support. All clients in emergency and temporary accommodation are currently supported with floating support secured through the Supporting People Team. This support is largely provided over the phone however safe face to face visits are also being completed with a small number of the more vulnerable households.

On 3rd June 2020, the Welsh Government wrote to Local Authorities, setting out their vision for stage 2 of the pandemic response to homelessness, which expects Local Authorities to develop long term settled accommodation for everyone that has a housing need, ensuring that homelessness is rare, brief and non-repeated: <https://gov.wales/continuing-support-homeless-people->

[during-coronavirus-pandemic-local-authority-guidance](#). Local Authorities have been requested to develop a Phase 2 Plan, which will form the basis of a funding bid to new one off £20m funding including capital and revenue funding.

The attached briefing paper outlines our proposals for inclusion within our Phase 2 Plan.

Recommendation:

- 1) Approval of the submission of the Phase 2 Planning to the Welsh Government by 30th June 2020 to secure additional funding for homelessness and housing solution services.

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

~~(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:** 26/6/20
(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:** 4th July 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