

## RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

Tuesday, 29 October 2024

**Decision No:** (CAB 24/25 46123)

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET
PORTFOLIO AREA:	Cabinet Member for Housing Operations
SUBJECT:	Council Right to Buy Receipt proposals and approval to spend
AUTHOR:	Fiona Astin

### THE DECISION

- (i) That Cabinet approve the expenditure of up to £5m of the Right to Buy receipts collected in 2019/20 on a pilot programme of property purchases under the temporary flexibilities granted by Government during the 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years.
- (ii) That Cabinet grant delegated powers to the Director of Housing after consultation with and the Executive Director of Enabling Services, Executive Director of Growth and Prosperity, the Director of Legal and Governance and the Cabinet Member for Housing, to agree and approve the detail of the pilot programme of purchases in line with the details set out in this paper.

### REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To utilise the Council's pooled Right to Buy Receipts, taking advantage of the temporary flexibilities granted by Government, to acquire properties to help alleviate housing need in Southampton.

To allow sufficient delegated authority to enable properties to be secured efficiently and mitigate the risk of delays beyond the spend deadline which would trigger payment of Right to Buy monies with interest to government.

This pilot programme has the potential to deliver estimated savings of £657k per annum, based on the purchase of 24 properties saving £27,375 per annum each. If the pilot programme is successful, there is potential to seek further approval(s) from Council or Cabinet to extend the programme and deliver greater savings.

This proposal would help to reduce the annual expenditure on emergency accommodation, increase the Council's affordable housing stock, improve the quality of service provided and move towards delivering services within the confines of the cash limited budget.

**DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

The Council could decide not to spend its pooled Right to Buy Receipts. Any Right to Buy Receipts not utilised need to be paid to Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) with interest within the annual deadlines set out. Given that the Council has an extensive housing waiting list and unprecedented demand for emergency homeless families' accommodation, this would be a missed opportunity to meet a small proportion of that need.

**OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS CONCERNING THE DECISION**

None

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

None

**CONFIRMED AS A TRUE RECORD**

We certify that the decision this document records was made in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 and is a true and accurate record of that decision.

Date: 29 October 2024

Decision Maker:  
The Cabinet

Proper Officer:  
Claire Heather

**SCRUTINY**

Note: This decision will come in to force at the expiry of 5 working days from the date of publication subject to any review under the Council's Scrutiny "Call-In" provisions.

Call-In Period expires on

Date of Call-in *(if applicable) (this suspends implementation)*

Call-in Procedure completed <i>(if applicable)</i>
Call-in heard by <i>(if applicable)</i>
Results of Call-in <i>(if applicable)</i>