

## SPECIAL URGENCY DECISION

Leader of Council:

Name: Councillor Alyson Barnes  
Date agreed: 8<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Chair of Overview and Scrutiny:

Name: Councillor Samara Barnes  
Date agreed: 7<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Decision Taker:

Name: Rob Huntington

Details of Decision and Reasoning:

Decision to:

- Accept the additional £385,862 Local Authority Housing Fund grant

In December 2025, Rosendale Borough Council was invited to submit an Expression of Interest to the Local Authority Housing Fund.

The Council has been advised it's expression of interest has been approved. This provides £381,000 towards the purchase of four properties, two of which will be for temporary accommodation and two for Afghan families. £4.8k revenue has also been secured.

The Council is required to sign the Memorandum of Understanding to accept the grant, by the 10<sup>th</sup> of April.

Under normal circumstances and within the constitution, the decision to accept the grant would be via Full Council however, the decision request falls outside of the forward plan timescales and there is not a Council meeting within the required timescale to approve the decision. The next Full Council is the 1<sup>st</sup> of May and there is not time to convene a meeting of Full Council prior to this date.

Under the Constitution, the Chief Executive may agree action due to an emergency which must be taken to safeguard the interest of the Council.

This funding is capital funding announced by the government to support the Afghan cohort and Homelessness pressures.

We now require an urgent decision to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding by the 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

This is not a legally binding document but sets out the understanding of the grant.

In summary, the funding aims are:

1. Provide sustainable homes for those on Afghan resettlement schemes
2. Provide better temporary accommodation to those owed a relief duty
3. Reduce temporary accommodation costs
4. Reduce impact on the social housing waiting list

The funding is allocated for spend in 2027.

Decision to be taken by:

Rob Huntington, Chief Executive

Documents to be considered by the decision taker:

[Local Authority Housing Fund: Round 4 prospectus and guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)  
Memorandum of understanding

Implications:

Legal- In order to meet the deadlines for receipt of the funding it is imperative that the MOU be signed prior to the next meeting of Council.

HR – Delivery of this MOU will be supported by the Property Services Team.

Finance-  
Signing the updated MOU will release the May 2026 payment.

Status:

Open – for publication

Date:

8<sup>th</sup> April 2026

## NOTES

### A Key Decision is defined as one that either:

- a) is, in value worth more than £100,000, or
  - b) has a **significant impact** because (for example) it either:
    - (i) affects individuals or organisations outside the Borough; or
    - (ii) will have a long term (more than 5 years) or permanent effect on the council or the borough.
1. Status - Is the issue an open and public matter or is it a private and excluded matter as described in Schedule 12 A of the Local Government Act 1972. If it is an open matter it is for publication. If it is a private matter it is not for publication and you state the reason why and the appropriate paragraph number of Schedule 12A.
  2. Implications – List any financial staffing and legal implications and remember to consult with legal, human resources and finance. Also consider implications such as LA21 Environment, Human Rights Act 1998. Equal opportunities, Community Safety, IT, Land and Property and Partnership Working.
  3. When the decision has been made and the form signed by the decision taker and the portfolio holder the form should be sent to the Committee Services Manager.