

Notice relating to a forthcoming Cabinet decision

For both South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils to enter into agreements to purchase furnishings to equip properties under Service Family Accommodation (Vale) and Local Authority Housing Fund (South and Vale) schemes.

This is a key decision required to be taken shortly by Councillor Helen Pighills, Vale Cabinet member responsible for Community Wellbeing, and Councillor Maggie Filipova-Rivers, South Cabinet member responsible for Community Health and Wellbeing. The decision has not previously been included in the Cabinet work programme and advertised 28 clear days in advance.

The decision, if confirmed, would allow both councils to

1. To enter into credit agreements or business accounts with retailers to furnish and equip properties under the Service Family Accommodation and Local Authority Housing Fund housing schemes.
2. To agree that payment may be made in advance by Bankers' Automated Clearing System (BACS) upon receipt of a pro forma invoice or by Faster Payment to the specified retailers where payment in advance is required.
3. To enter into an agreement with Blackhawk to issue a one-off prepaid card to assist refugees on migration schemes to purchase food and other household essentials when they first move in.

It was not placed on the Cabinet work programme for 28 days as the situation in the migration scheme response is operating at pace. The fixtures and fittings have required extensive research to ascertain acceptable lead in times from resilient suppliers with accurate costings which have determined the governance path. There is now an urgent need to obtain furnishing and equip properties for Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) families as they will be required to leave their temporary accommodation no later than 31 August 2023. Therefore, the properties will need to have been prepared and ready by mid-August.

The council is required to notify its Scrutiny Committee chair of the intention to make this decision.

This notice is published in accordance with regulation 10 of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 (Statutory Instrument 2012 No.2089).

This notice is produced by Democratic Services.

Date: 6 July 2023

Email: democratic.services@southandvale.gov.uk