



SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

## Officer Delegated Decision

10 February 2025

Deputy Chief Executive and s151  
Officer

### Use of the HRA Priorities Reserve

To approve the use of the HRA Priorities Reserve to fund temporary additional staffing resource for the Damp and Mould team for a period of 12 months.

#### Contact

Alison Hall-Wright, Director of Housing and Projects

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<b>Decision made by:</b>	Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer
<b>Decision:</b>	To approve the use of the HRA Priorities Reserve to fund temporary additional staffing resource for the Damp and Mould team for a period of 12 months commencing 1 April 2025
<b>Public or Exempt:</b>	Public
<b>Reasons for exemption:</b>	N/A
<b>Conflicts of interest:</b>	No
<b>Policy compliant:</b>	Yes
<b>Details of delegation:</b>	<i>The Financial Regulations give the Chief Finance Officer approval to use discretionary reserves in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance when the request is over £100k</i>

## **1. Implications**

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

### ***Finance***

- 1.1 The HRA Priorities Reserve has an unallocated balance of £10m which could be used to fund the temporary staffing resource.

Completed by: Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer

### ***Legal and Governance***

- 1.2 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

Completed by: Graham Watts, Monitoring Officer

## **2. The Purpose of the Report**

- 2.1 To seek approval to use £138k of the HRA Priorities Reserve to fund 1 additional builder and 2 additional labourers for the Damp and Mould team for a period of 12 months to support completing the backlog of damp and mould works.
- 2.2 The Council created a Damp and Mould team in 2024 to complete surveys and the associated works on properties when reports of suspected damp and/or mould are received by the Council.
- 2.3 The Damp and Mould surveyor currently completes between 15 and 20 surveys each week, a report detailing all works then produced which are then allocated to the internal damp and mould team and external contractors.
- 2.4 The Government announced on 6 February 2025 that set time periods for investigating and completing the identified works will be introduced from October 2025. It is therefore essential that all outstanding works are completed by 30 September 2025 as this will mean the Council are able to adhere to the set time periods.

### **3. Available Options Considered**

- 3.1 The Council could choose not to recruit additional temporary resource but this would not support resolving the backlog of works or rely on external contractors but this would require a formal procurement process.

### **4. Preferred Option**

- 4.1 To use £138k of the HRA Priorities Reserve to fund 1 builder and 2 labourers for the Damp and Mould team for a period of 12 months

### **5. Reasons for the Decision(s)**

- 5.1 To ensure the Council has sufficient resource to complete the works identified in damp and mould surveys.

Signed by: **Richard Wyles**

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Dated: **10 February 2025**