

EXECUTIVE

11th January 2022

Homelessness Prevention Grant Allocation for 2022/23

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Craig Warhurst
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Judith Willis
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Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	Not Applicable
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finding somewhere to live• Aspiration, work and financial independence• Living independent, active and healthy lives• Communities which are safe, well maintained and green.
Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive RESOLVE as follows:-

- 1.1 That the initiatives in 3.9 be approved to receive allocation of funding 2022/23.
- 1.2 That delegated authority be granted to the Head of Community and Housing Services following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Housing to use any unallocated Grant during the year or make further adjustments as necessary to ensure full utilisation of the Grants for 2022/23 in support of existing or new schemes.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This report seeks Members' approval to award the DLUHC Homelessness Prevention Grant to specific schemes recommended by the Strategic Housing Manager. Additionally, it seeks to delegate authority to the Head of Community and Housing Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, to allocate any underspend of grant during 2021/22 on schemes to prevent homelessness and assist those who actually become homeless.

- 2.2 The purpose of the ringfenced Homelessness Prevention Grant fund is to give local authorities control and flexibility in managing homelessness pressures and supporting those who are at risk of homelessness. The Government expects local authorities to use it to deliver the following priorities:
- 2.3 To fully enforce the Homelessness Reduction Act and contribute to ending rough sleeping by increasing activity to prevent single homelessness
- 2.4 Reduce family temporary accommodation numbers through maximising family homelessness prevention
- 2.5 Eliminate the use of unsuitable bed and breakfast accommodation for families for longer than the statutory six week limit.

Financial Implications

- 3.1 The Council is anticipating that it will receive £314,926 Homelessness Prevention Grant 2022/23 which is ring fenced by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) for the prevention of homelessness. The Temporary Accommodation Management Fund (TAMF) previously received through the DWP has been amalgamated into this grant.
- 3.2 The amount the Council would have ordinarily expected from the former Temporary Accommodation Management Fund of £66,380.
- 3.3 The notification of the grant is expected during the last week of December 2021 and officers will verbally confirm at the meeting any changes in the anticipated grant.
- 3.4 The Council expects the following for Homelessness Prevention Services and Housing Options in 2022/23 (including grant from Worcestershire County Council), as follows:

Grant	2022/23
County Council YPPW Grant	£11,200
Homelessness Prevention Grant	£314,926

Underspend from 2021/22	£66,008
Total Grant Available	£392,134

Legal Implications

- 3.5 The Council has statutory duty under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 to assist those who are threatened with homelessness or experiencing actual homelessness and has placed additional duties on the Council regarding preventing and relieving homelessness
- 3.6 The Homelessness Prevention Grant has been ring fenced to homelessness prevention and tackling homelessness by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.7 The main provisions of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 have extended the period during which the Council has to treat someone as threatened with homelessness from 28 to 56 days. This applies to all eligible households who approach the Council for homeless prevention assistance regardless of any priority need, intentionality or local connection criteria.
- 3.8 There is also a duty to relieve homelessness for all eligible applicants for up to 56 days. The Council's resources now have a greater focus on preventing homelessness wherever possible.
- 3.9 Proposed Allocation of Homelessness Prevention Grant of £392,134.

Initiatives	£ (up to)
Redditch Nightstop - Outreach Worker to support 21 to 35 year olds and prevent homelessness or work towards planned moves into suitable and sustainable accommodation and the Safe Accommodation and Support scheme.	55,600
Redditch Nightstop Core Funding	13,000
CCP Rough Sleeper Outreach Service - 2.8 FTE posts across Bromsgrove and Redditch	75,246
Fry Accord – 18 units of supported accommodation for Ex Offenders or those likely to offend	15,457

St Basils – Provide 23 units of accommodation for young people aged 16- 23 years of age additional funding to provide 24 hour cover following a reduction in funding from County Council	14,200
Newstarts - Furniture Project to provide furniture for homeless households.	5,000
Homelessness Prevention - Spend to Save budget for use by Housing Options Officers	17,060
Temporary Accommodation Management – as 3.1 above	66,380
St Basils Smallwood Almshouses - Progression Coach to offer additional support that can operate outside of normal office hours to fit around a young persons education, training and employment.	26,500
Citizens Advice Debt Advice	23,000
Sanctuary Scheme for Victims of Domestic Abuse	20,000
Young Persons Pathway Worker	26,000
Crash Pad	14,033
County Partnership Manager	6,300
Hopes – Single and Childless Couples Homeless Prevention Service	4,996
Total	£382,772

- 3.10 Delegated authority be granted to the Head of Community and Housing Services following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing to use any unallocated Grant during the year or make further adjustments to current initiatives as necessary to ensure full utilisation of the Grant for 2022/23.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Homelessness support and prevention initiatives and schemes developed and funded through DLUHC Grant assist the Council in meeting its statutory duties to those threatened with homelessness and those who are actually experiencing homelessness, including those placed in Temporary Accommodation under the Homeless provisions of the Housing Act 1996 (as amended).

5. STRATEGIC PURPOSES - IMPLICATIONS

Relevant Strategic Purpose

5.1 Homelessness Prevention Grant allows the Council to support a range of holistic services to help prevent or tackle homelessness and rough sleeping in the District. The combination of practical support such as furniture and Sanctuary measures compliment those services that provide outreach support to help clients access accommodation, sustain tenancies, manage budgets, engage in positive activities and access employment. The breadth of services available support all of the strategic purposes provide opportunities for:

- Finding somewhere to live
- Aspiration, work and financial independence
- Living independent, active and healthy lives
- Communities with are safe, well maintained and green

Climate Change Implications

5.2 The recycling of furniture supports the Council's green thread as it minimises waste and provides reuse and recycling of household items wherever possible.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Equalities and Diversity Implications

6.1 The Homelessness Grant and Homelessness Prevention Grant will benefit customers by offering household's more options to prevent their homelessness, support them to remain in their own homes or help the Council to manage and support households in Temporary Accommodation.

6.2 The grant will also benefit the larger community as opportunities to prevent homelessness will be maximised.

Operational Implications

6.3 The management and administration of grant forms a significant part of the Strategic Housing Team's day to day operations.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 If the recommended schemes are not approved there is a risk that more households who are threatened with homelessness, or who are in housing need, will have limited alternative options. There is also

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therefore the risk that they may have to make a homeless approach and this could consequently lead to the following negative outcomes:

- Increased B&B costs
- Increased rough sleeping in the District
- Impacts on physical and mental health, educational achievement, ability to work and similar through increased homelessness

7.2 All recipients of Grant will enter into a grant agreement and have regular monitoring with officers on the delivery of the service

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Craig Warhurst	14 th December 2021
Lead Director / Head of Service	Judith Willis	8 th December 2021
Financial Services	Judith Willis	30 th December 2021
Legal Services	Clare Flannagan	15 th December 2021
Policy Team (if equalities implications apply)	Not applicable	
Climate Change Officer (if climate change implications apply)	Matt Bough	22 nd December 2021