

Homelessness Prevention Grant Allocation for 2023/24

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Craig Warhurst
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Judith Willis, Head of Communities and Housing Services
Report Author	Job Title: Amanda Delahunty Contact email:a.delahunty@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Contact Tel: 01527 881269
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 3.4 be approved to receive allocation of funding 2023/24.
- 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 2023/24 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

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underspend of grant during 2023/24 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:

- To fully enforce the Homelessness Reduction Act and contribute to ending rough sleeping by increasing activity to prevent single homelessness
- Reduce family temporary accommodation numbers through maximising family homelessness prevention
- Eliminate the use of unsuitable bed and breakfast accommodation for families for longer than the statutory six week limit.

2.3 The council received a number of applications for this funding and this criteria was used to support the award of this grant.

Financial Implications

3.1 The Council has been awarded £325,375 Homelessness Prevention Grant 2023/24 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 is £66,380.

3.3 The Council expects the funding for Homelessness Prevention in 2023/24, as follows:

Grant	2023/24
Homelessness Prevention Grant	£325,375
Underspend from 2022/23	£35,000
Total Grant Available	£360,375

Service / Operational Implications

3.4 Proposed Allocation of Homelessness Prevention Grant.

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.	17,769
Redditch Nightstop Core Funding	8,667
Redditch Nightstop Safe Accommodation and Support	20,000
CCP Rough Sleeper Outreach Service	47,556
GreenSquare Accord – 18 units of supported accommodation for Ex Offenders or those likely to offend	16,049
St Basils – Provide 24 hour cover to 23 units of accommodation for young people aged 16- 23 years	14,910
Newstarts - Furniture Project to provide furniture for homeless households.	10,000
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.	19,287
Citizens Advice Debt Advice	16,333
St Basils Young Persons Pathway Worker	18,195
St Basils Crash Pad emergency accommodation	35,086
County Partnership Manager	8,300

Batchley Support Group	10,000
Single and Childless Couples Homeless Prevention Service	33,460
Total	£359,052

- 3.5 These are voluntary organisations and without this funding it is unlikely this support would be offered or available which in turn would lead to increase direct revenue costs for the council.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Council has statutory duty under the Housing Act 1996 (as amended) 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
- 4.2 The Homelessness Prevention Grant has been ring fenced to homelessness prevention and tackling homelessness by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

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 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.

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

Operational Implications

- 6.4 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 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 with 80% having to be picked up by the local authority.
- Increased rough sleeping in the Borough
- Impacts on physical and mental health, educational achievement, ability to work and similar through increased homelessness

- 7.3 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
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REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Portfolio Holder	Councillor Craig Warhurst	10/1/2023
Lead Director / Head of Service	Judith Willis Head of Communities and Housing Service	10/1/2023
Financial Services	Peter Carpenter, Interim Deputy Section 151 Officer	10/1/2023
Legal Services	Claire Felton Head of Legal, Democratic and Property Services	10/1/2023
Policy Team (if equalities implications apply)	Not applicable	
Climate Change Officer (if climate change implications apply)	Matt Bough, Strategic Housing Manager	10/1/2023