

**EXECUTIVE**

**13<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

**Homelessness Prevention, Rough Sleeper and Domestic Abuse Grants  
Funding 2026/27**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Bill Hartnett
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Assistant Director	Judith Willis, Assistant Director Community and Housing Services
Report Author	Job Title: Amanda Delahunty, Housing Development and Enabling Manager Contact email: a.delahunty@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Contact Tel: 01527 881269
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	Not Applicable
Relevant Council Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Community and Housing</li></ul>
Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Executive Committee is asked to RECOMMEND that:-**

- 1) That Temporary Accommodation Services currently met by Homelessness Prevention Grant are now met from the Temporary Accommodation element of the Revenue Support Grant 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29.**
- 2) Subject to approval of recommendation 1 above by Council, the initiatives detailed at 4.4 be approved to receive the Council's Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Grant and Domestic Abuse Grant allocations of funding for 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29, subject to satisfactory performance; and should additional funding be announced at a later date by the Government for subsequent years then this would need to be the subject of a further report.**

**The Executive Committee is also asked to RESOLVE that**

- 3) Subject to the agreement of recommendations 1 and 2 above, delegated authority be granted to the Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, to use any unallocated Grants, or Homelessness Prevention Grant mid-year top up, during each year or make further adjustments and uplifts as necessary to ensure full**

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**utilisation of the Grants for 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29 in support of existing or new schemes.**

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 From 2026/27, the government is consolidating several existing grants into a single Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Grant. This new grant will encompass funding for prevention and relief activities currently supported through the Homelessness Prevention Grant, as well as the Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery Grant. The Grant will be awarded for a three year period.
- 2.2 Officers propose that the grants awarded under this funding are also for a three-year period with any uplift of grant allocation agreed by members in advance of the award period. Grant funding will be subject to satisfactory performance of the services with targets set for continual improvement.
- 2.3 The Government has made changes to the provision of Homelessness Prevention Grant in relation to its' use towards Temporary accommodation. It is proposed that a proportion of Homelessness Prevention Grant will be transferred to the Revenue Support Grant from 2026–27.
- 2.4 This funding will be allocated using the new Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA), which will include a dedicated Temporary Accommodation formula. The purpose of ringfencing the Homelessness Prevention Grant fund is to give the Council 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.
  - The Government requires that at least 49% of the grant is spent on prevention and relief activities and staffing.
- 2.5 The Council received a number of applications for this funding and the above criteria has been used to support the award of this grant for the next three years.

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- 2.6 Domestic Abuse New Burdens Grant funding has been allocated to ensure that councils can comply with the requirements to provide safe and supported accommodation for those fleeing domestic abuse and provide monitoring of services to central government via Worcestershire County Council who are responsible for the overall duties set out in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The grant will continue to contribute to the specialist County co-ordinator post and a specialist County Research and Intelligence Officer post and will also be used to support existing services that meet the needs of this cohort.

**3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES**

- 3.1 The management and administration of grants forms a significant part of the Homelessness and Housing Solutions and Strategic Housing day to day operations.

**4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Council is expecting

	Homelessness Prevention Grant	Domestic Abuse Grant	Total
2026/27	700,638	35,697	736,335
2027/28	744,361	35,697	780,058
2028/29	772,087	35,697	807,784

- 4.2 Costs currently met through Homelessness Prevention Grant for Temporary Accommodation will need to be met through Revenue Support Grant from April 2026 currently:

- Temporary Accommodation Management £ 66,380
  - Emergency Crash Pad for 16/17 yr olds £ 37,554
- Total £ 103,934

The Crash pads rents are paid for in advance and when occupied the Council receives housing benefit income towards these costs.

- 4.3 The Homelessness Prevention Grant and Rough Sleeping Grant will be ring fenced by MHCLG for activities that prevent and deal with homelessness based on this year's award. However, this is unlikely to be confirmed until late in December 2025 or early January 2026 and may be higher or lower than the anticipated amounts set out below.

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**4.4 Proposed Allocation of Homelessness Prevention Grant.**

<b>Initiatives</b>	<b>2026/27 (up to £700,638)</b>	<b>2027/28 (up to £744,361)</b>	<b>2027/29 (up to £772,087)</b>
St Basils Young Persons Supported Housing	67,005	67,005	67,005
Worcestershire Strategic Housing Partnership Co-ordinator – contribution towards county-wide development and delivery of housing initiatives in partnership with other agencies	10,500	10,500	10,500
Severe Weather Emergency Provision	33,460	33,460	33,460
Redditch Nightstop – Accommodation and Support	44,518	44,518	44,518
Redditch Nightstop Core Funding	13,000	13,000	13,000
Maggs Rough Sleeper Outreach Service	106,822	106,822	106,822
GreenSquare Accord – 6 units of supported accommodation for Ex Offenders or those likely to offend	15,586	15,586	15,586
Newstarts - Furniture Project to provide furniture for homeless households.	10,000	10,000	10,000
Homelessness Prevention - Spend to Save budget for use by Housing Options Officers	17,060	17,060	17,060
St Basils Young Persons Pathway Worker	31,116	31,116	31,116
Onside Advocacy Mental Health Support Worker	39,100	39,100	39,100
Homelessness Prevention Officers	150,000	150,000	150,000
Part Time Empty Homes Officer	7,681	7,681	7,681
Batchley Support Group	15,000	15,000	15,000
CAB financial advice for home owners and private renters	27,611	27,611	27,611
No First Night Out/No Second Night Out	18,394	18,394	18,394
St Pauls Housing Led/Housing First Support Service	60,642	60,642	60,642

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County Rough Sleeper Co-ordinator	5,000	5,000	5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£672,495</b>	<b>£672,495</b>	<b>£672,495</b>
<b>Underspend</b>	<b>£28,143</b>	<b>£71,866</b>	<b>£99,592</b>

Proposed allocation of Domestic Abuse Grant

<b>Initiatives</b>	<b>2026/27 (up to £35,697)</b>	<b>2027/28 (up to £35,697)</b>	<b>2028/29 (up to £35,697)</b>
Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator	4,813	4,813	4,813
Domestic Abuse Research and Intelligence Officer	4,884	4,884	4,884
Domestic Abuse Housing Solutions Officer Top Up	6,000	6,000	6,000
New Starts	5,000	5,000	5,000
Batchley Support Group	5,000	5,000	5,000
St Basil's Young Persons Pathway Worker (YPPW)	10,000	10,000	10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£35,697</b>	<b>£35,697</b>	<b>£35,697</b>
<b>Underspend</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>

- 4.5 There are a number of initiatives that could be supported utilising the underspend of Homelessness Prevention Grant including increasing support available for those who are vulnerable or have complex needs and for 2026/27 this will be agreed under delegated authority during the year. For the 2027/28 and 2028/29 years a report will be brought to members to confirm the spend for the following year.
- 4.6 These are voluntary organisations and without this funding the support provided would cease which will lead to an increase in homelessness pressures and have a negative impact on council finances and reputation.
- 4.7 The Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) have submitted a bid for a new service for £27,611 for targeted Debt Intervention for home owners who are facing repossession with an aim to intervene and provide advice to prevent homelessness.

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## **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 The Homelessness Prevention Grant has been ring fenced to homelessness prevention and tackling homelessness by the MHCLG.
- 5.3 The Domestic Abuse New Burdens Grant has been provided to ensure that councils comply with the requirements of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

## **6. OTHER- IMPLICATIONS**

### **Local Government Reorganisation**

- 6.1 The new unitary authority/authorities will be required as (a) local housing authority(ies) to provide duties under Homelessness legislation. The three-year funding allocation to organisations would be subject to any implications arising from Local Government Reorganisation.

### **Relevant Council Priority**

- 6.2 Community and Housing - Homelessness Prevention Grant and Domestic Abuse Grant allows the Council to support a range of holistic services to help prevent or tackle homelessness and rough sleeping in the Borough. The combination of practical support such as furniture compliments those services that provide outreach support to help clients access accommodation, sustain tenancies, manage budgets, engage in positive activities and access employment.

### **Climate Change Implications**

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

### **Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 6.4 The Homelessness Grant and Homelessness Prevention Grant and Domestic Abuse Grant will benefit customers by offering households 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.

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- 6.5 The grant will also benefit the larger community as opportunities to prevent homelessness will be maximised.
- 6.6 Domestic Abuse New Burdens Grant will ensure that there are resources to support the provision of a range of services available to meet the needs of those victims/survivors of domestic abuse who become homeless and need support to set up a new home and recover from their experience. The majority of those experiencing homelessness as a result of domestic abuse are women.

**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
- 7.2 All recipients of grant funding will enter into a grant agreement and have regular monitoring with officers on the delivery of the service and a monitoring report will be taken to the Executive Committee annually.

**8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

**REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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**9. REPORT SIGN OFF**

<b>Department</b>	<b>Name and Job Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Bill Hartnett, Portfolio Holder for Housing	25 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
Assistant Director	Judith Willis Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services	24 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
Financial Services	Deb Goodall, Assistant Director of Finance and Customer Services	24 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
Legal Services	Nicola Cummings, Principal Solicitor Governance	1st December 2025
Climate Change Officer (if climate change implications apply)	Matt Bough, Strategic Housing and Business Support Manager	24 <sup>th</sup> November 2025