REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Executive 2026

Tuesday, 24 November

Homelessness Prevention, Rough Sleeper and Domestic Abuse Grants Funding 2027/28

Relevant Portfolio Holder		Councillor Ashley Monk
Portfolio Holder Consulted		Yes
Relevant Assistant Director		Judith Willis, Assistant Director Community and Housing Services
Report Author Maria Bailey	Job Title: Senior Housing Strategy Officer Contact email: maria.bailey@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Contact Tel: 07768 307628	
Wards Affected		All
Ward Councillor(s) consulted		Not Applicable
Relevant Council Priorities		• Community and Housing
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 RESOLVE that:-

1) The following initiatives be approved. Proposed awards are based on an uplift of up to 3% on the grant already awarded on 13th January 2026:

RBC Homeless Prevention and Rough Sleeping Grant	
Recipient	**Total**
St. Basils Young Persons Supported Housing	£69,015.00
Worcestershire Strategic Housing Partnership Co-ordinator – contribution towards county-wide development and delivery of housing initiatives in partnership with other agencies	£11,000.00
Severe Weather Emergency Provision	£33,460.00

Redditch Nightstop – Accommodation and Support	£45,853.54
Redditch Nightstop Core Funding	£13,390.00
Maggs Rough Sleeper Outreach Service	£110,026.66
Green Square Accord – 6 units of supported accommodation for Ex Offenders or those likely to offend	£16,053.58
Newstarts - Furniture Project to provide furniture for homeless households.	£10,450.00
Rent Deposit and Spend to Save	£17,060.00
St Basils Young Persons Pathway Worker	£42,349.00
Onside Advocacy Mental Health Support Worker	£43,260.00
Homelessness Prevention Officers	£100,000.00
Part Time Empty Homes Officer	£7,681.00
Batchley Support Group	£15,000.00
CAB financial advice for home owners and private renters	£28,439.00
CAB - Hub /Drop In	£10,150.00
No First Night Out/No Second Night Out	£16,000.00
St Pauls Housing Led Intensive Support	£79,774.79
Maggs Home start Pack	£6,000.00
Temporary Accommodation Management	£66,380.00

Homelessness Strategy Coordinator	£10,000.00
Homeless Link Membership	£230.00
Housing Strategy Officer	£14,718.43
Total Committed Expenditure	**£766,291.00**

2) The following new initiatives for homelessness prevention grant be approved:

Recipient	**Total**
County Rough Sleeper Co-ordinator	£11,800.00
Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) Coordinator	£11,800.00
Total Committed Expenditure	**£23,600.00**

3) The following initiatives for domestic abuse grant be approved:

Recipient	**Amount**
Domestic Abuse Research and Intelligence Officer	£8,916
Domestic Abuse Homelessness Officer Top Up	£47,833
NewStarts	£5,000.00
Batchley Support Group	£5,600.00
St Basils Young Persons Pathway Worker (YPPW)	£10,000.00
Total Committed Expenditure	**£77,349.00**

4) delegated authority be granted to the Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Housing, to use any unallocated grant funding during the year or make further adjustments and uplifts as necessary to ensure full utilisation of the grants for 2027/28 in support of existing or new schemes.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The purpose of this report is to outline proposed homelessness grant funding allocations for the 2027/28 financial year.

3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

3.1 In 2026/27, the Government consolidated several grants into a single Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant. This grant funds homelessness prevention and relief activities. Government granted a three year award; 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29.

3.2 In line with the three year Government award, three year grants were approved on the 26th January 2026. Grant recipients were offered an uplift of up to 3% for 2027/28. Grant funding will continue to be subject to satisfactory performance of the service with targets set for continual improvement.

3.3 This report seeks Members' approval to award the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grants to additional schemes. Additionally, it seeks to delegate authority to the Assistant Director Community and Housing Services, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Housing, to allocate any underspend of grant during 2027/28 on schemes to prevent homelessness and assist to those who become homeless.

3.4 The purpose of the ringfenced Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse 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.

3.5 The Council received a number of applications for this funding, and the criteria below have been used to support the award of this grant for the next three years.

3.6 Domestic Abuse 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.

3.7 The management and administration of grants forms a significant part of the Homelessness and Housing Solutions and Strategic Housing teams' day to day operations.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grants are ring fenced by MHCLG for activities that prevent and deal with homelessness.

4.2 The Council therefore has the following for Homelessness Prevention and Domestic Abuse Services and Housing Options in 2027/28 as follows:

Homelessness Prevention Grant	
Grant	**2027/28**
Homelessness & Rough Sleeping	£789,891.00
Domestic Abuse Grant (Central Government)	£37,016.00
Anticipated Domestic Abuse Grant (Worcestershire CC)	£40,333.00
Total Grant Available	**£867,240.00**

4.3 A new Shared Homelessness Strategy Co-ordinator post has been created to support the delivery of the actions contained within the Shared Homelessness Strategy. A Shared Severe Weather Emergency Provision (SWEP) Coordinator role has been created to co-ordinate the SWEP provision and ensure rough sleepers are supported to access services so that their rough sleeping experience is rare, brief and non-recurring.

4.4 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. Performance monitoring of these services is available in Appendix 1.

4.5 Officers are requesting delegated authority be granted to the Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Community and Housing Services, to use any unallocated grant funding during the year or make further

adjustments to current initiatives as necessary to ensure full utilisation of the grants for 2027/28.

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 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 to address statutory duties under Homelessness legislation.

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 enables reuse and recycling of household items wherever possible.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

6.4 The 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. The proposals are likely to have an overall positive impact, particularly for people experiencing homelessness, rough sleeping, domestic abuse, poor mental health and other forms of social disadvantage.

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

6.6 Domestic Abuse 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. Grant recipients are expected to have an equal opportunities and diversity policy to assure accessibility for people with a protected characteristic.

Community Impact Implications

6.7 The prevention role of these groups is crucial in helping people to remain in their existing accommodation wherever possible. There has been less churn in social housing so fewer properties are becoming available and social housing options are limited. This is even more relevant due to affordability issues in all sectors.

6.8 The grant awards provide support to people with a range of needs, including people fleeing domestic violence and those with mental health conditions. The support ensures people transition through services successfully and young people are supported to navigate unfamiliar systems. Some groups work closely with people with an offending background, to support them to reduce offending and anti-social behaviour.

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

Appendix 1 - Grant funded voluntary and community sector performance

9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Ashley Monk Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities	10/11/2026
Assistant Director	Judith Willis Assistant Director of Community and Housing Services	20/10/2026
Financial Services	James Walton, 151 Officer	20/10/2026
Legal Services	Nicola Cummings, Principal Solicitor Governance	28/10/2026
Climate Change Officer (if climate change implications apply)	Matt Bough, Strategic Housing and Business Support Manager	22/10/2026