

Record of Executive Member Decision Taken Under the Scheme of Delegation	On
	6 May 2021

Title	Report of
Funding and procurement of Homelessness Services	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

Is this report confidential?	No
------------------------------	----

Purpose of the Report

1. The Council has been allocated funding of £151,426 by the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government. This funding has been confirmed for 2021/22 only. This report details the proposed use of the funding and seeks approval for these proposals.
2. The proposals would support the priorities and actions detailed in the new Prevention of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy approved at Cabinet in September 2020.

Recommendations

3. That the funding be allocated as detailed in paragraphs 12 to 18 of the report.
4. That the revenue budget be adjusted to accommodate the funding and additional expenditure.

Reasons for recommendation

Government expectation is for the funding to be spent on the following priorities:

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

8. The proposed use of this funding meets these requirements and also the priorities of the Prevention of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020 – 2025.

Other options considered and rejected

9. The funding could be allocated to new alternative projects, however, the proposals reflect existing services and uses of the funding that are tried and tested. The proposal leaves scope to allocate a proportion of the funding to other initiatives.

Corporate outcomes

10. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

An exemplary council		Thriving communities	
A fair local economy that works for everyone		Good homes, green spaces, healthy places	√

Background to the report

11. The Council has been awarded £151,426 by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). This funding is to be allocated to the prevention of homelessness in accordance with Government expectations. The Council has received MHCLG funding for a number of years and this has been spent in accordance with previous delegated decisions. The ability to commission services and prevent homelessness has been affected this last year by the pandemic.

Detailed Proposals

12. Pre tenancy training

£ 5,000

This is currently delivered by KEY to all age groups. It is a course designed to ensure that people who have never held a tenancy or who have a history of failed tenancies are equipped to manage a tenancy in the future. It is proposed to extend this for a further 12 months.

13. Sanctuary Scheme **Contract value subject to demand up to £8,000**

This is a service that provides security measures for victims of Domestic Abuse / Burglary to enable them to feel safer in the home. It is administered by the Housing Options Team and surveys and works are carried out by Preston Care and Repair. The current contract runs until June 2021. As it is a low value contract it is proposed that a best value exercise be undertaken and a contract awarded to continue the service. A further Elected Member decision will be submitted following the procurement exercise to award the contract.

14. Homeless Database

£ 5,000

The Homeless Database is hosted by CIVICA. The funding identified is to finance the hosting, licences and support for the database.

15. Bonds, Rent in Advance and landlord incentives

£25,000

This is a pot of money to enable people who are homeless to access permanent housing. Where bonds are paid it is intended that this money comes back to the Council at the end of tenancy if there is no claim on it by the landlord. This pot of money can also be used flexibly to prevent homelessness.

**16. Access to services for rough sleepers or those at risk of rough sleeping
£20,000**

A pot of money to be used to accommodate and access services for single people who are verified rough sleepers, particularly during the period that cold weather provision is in place. This pot of money can also be used flexibly to prevent homelessness for those at risk of it.

17. Funding in previous years has also supported the provision of a Young People's Housing Advice Service and a Floating support service. Both of these services are provided by KEY at present. The contracts expire on April 30th 2021 and May 31st 2021 respectively. It is proposed to extend both services to 3^{1st} July 2021 and carry out two separate procurement exercises for these services. Proposed Contract value of £30,000 per service with a contract of one year for each with the option to extend for a further two years subject to funding and identified need. The cost of contract extension to the end of July 2021 is £9,875.

18. This leaves **£18,501** unidentified spend – It is proposed to allocate this funding following further evaluation of the effects of the pandemic and the outcome of other funding bids.

Risk

19. The risks and mitigating actions have been input into the Grace risk register.

Equality and diversity

20. There are no Equality Act implications associated with this proposal. The proposals provide support for the most vulnerable in our community.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

21. The grant will be added to the budget and separate expenditure budgets added for the various services it will be funding. These budgets are considered discrete as they deliver different services and are therefore permitted to be authorised through the Executive Member decision making process.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

22. There are no issues of concern from a Monitoring Officer perspective. The proposal is to spend the monies received by Government on a number of separate, discrete proposals to address the general issue of homelessness. This is largely in line with what we have done in previous years. The highest value contracts (Floating Support Service and Young Person's Housing Advice Service) are Intermediate Value contracts for the purposes of Contract Procedure Rules. Separate procurement exercises will be carried out in respect of them.

Background documents

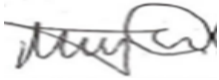
There are no background papers to this report

Appendices

There are no appendices to this report

Report Author:	Email:	Telephone:	Date:
Suzanne Ravenscroft (Housing Options Team Leader)	suzanne.ravenscroft@southribble.gov.uk	07814857817	07/04/2021

Following careful consideration and assessment of the contents of this report, I approve the recommendation(s) contained within this report in accordance with my delegated power to make executive decisions.

Signed:	
	<i>Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member (Health and Wellbeing)</i>
Date:	6.5.2021
Publication Date (DSO use only):	6.5.2021

This decision will come into force and may be implemented five working days after its publication date, subject to being called in in accordance with the Council's Constitution.