



COUNCIL CABINET

12 April 2023

ITEM 15

Report sponsor: Strategic Director of
Communities and Place

Report author: Head of Housing Options and
Homelessness

DLUHC Rough Sleepers Initiative (RSI) Targeted Funding application 2023 - 2025

Purpose

- 1.1 In March 2014 Derby City Council delegated the delivery and management of the housing options and homelessness service to Derby Homes. Later, In December 2016 Council Cabinet approved the TUPE transfer of Housing Options employees to Derby Homes. In addition, Cabinet approved Derby Homes as the Council's chosen vehicle for delivering a co-ordinated Homelessness Offer for Derby, responding to the aims and objectives of Derby City Council's Homelessness Strategy. On 11 February 2021, the Council and Derby Homes signed an "Agreement for the provision of Housing Options, Advice and Homelessness Services" – this includes the financial arrangements on how Derby Homes will recharge the Council for works on the Homelessness service.
- 1.2 Government published a Rough Sleeping Strategy (RSS) in August 2018, setting out their commitment to halve rough sleeping by 2022, and end it entirely by 2027. This was subsequently updated in the Conservative Manifesto December 2019 to end rough sleeping by 2024 through an extension of the Rough Sleeping Initiative and the announcement of additional funding.
- 1.3 Derby has been consistently highlighted as an area that is achieving positive outcomes with national recognition from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.
- 1.4 Derby was successful in obtaining an RSI 5 award of £2,785,600 to cover the period 1 July 2022 to 31 March 2025 (3 years).
- 1.5 The Government Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) has confirmed Derby has been identified as an area that can apply for additional funding from the Rough Sleeping Initiative in 2023/24 and 2024/25.
- 1.6 On 10th March 2023 Government invited applications for Targeted RSI Funding. RSI Targeted Funding is a grant opportunity to run 2-year funding opportunity. The closing date for application is 14th April 2023. This bid opportunity is available to cover the delivery period 1 July 2023 to 31 March 2025 to run alongside the existing RSI 5 award 2022 - 2025.

Recommendations

- 2.1 To approve the submission of a Targeted RSI Funding grant bid 2023/25 up to a maximum of £450,000. The delivery period for this bid, if successful, will be 1 July 23 to 31 March 2025.
- 2.2 To delegate approval of the acceptance of the resultant DLUHC revenue RSI grant to the Strategic Director of Communities and Place, following consultation with the Director of Finance and Cabinet lead for Adults, Health and Housing, subject to acceptable grant conditions.

Reasons

- 3.1 This bid, if successful, will ensure we are able to continue to support some of our most vulnerable citizens. The bid enables the council to continue to be able to offer accommodation and support appropriate to the needs of rough sleepers, those at risk of rough sleeping and those recovering from rough sleeping.
- 3.2 The bid, if successful will also ensure that we are able to continue to capitalise on the gains made so far in ending rough sleeping in Derby.
- 3.3 In line with the Council's finance procedures rules, Cabinet approval is required prior to submitting a bid for external funding, and for accepting a bid for external funding.

Supporting Information

- 4.1 The Derby Homeless and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2020-2025 is appended to this report AP1.
- 4.2 The full Targeted RSI Funding grant bid 2023/25 finances is appended to this report (AP2).
- 4.3 Derby City Council have been given the opportunity to bid for further funding to top up the RSI 5 allocation for the remaining years 23/24 and 24/25 based on identified gaps and need.
- 4.4 A core component of Derby's Rough Sleeping plan is to identify the specific needs of rough sleepers and those who repeatedly lose their accommodation and remain at high risk of a return to rough sleeping. It is to seek to provide sufficient targeted support to enable individuals to access services they need and develop skills they require to live as independently as possible, thus sustaining a tenancy over time.
- 4.5 Without specialist accommodation provision like this, those who end up rough sleeping and who are at high risk of rough sleeping have high levels of complexity & need. This results in very few, standard housing providers willing accept them into general needs accommodation.

- 4.6 The key part of the proposal is for 20 additional units of Multiple Complexities Accommodation with enhanced levels of support for those with medium to high complexities. This accommodation offer is designed for those with medium and high-level support needs, providing a more flexible accommodating offer for the rough sleeper cohort with five hours of support per week per individual. We currently fund 18 units through this grant and this bid will allow for an additional 20 units.

Public/Stakeholder Engagement

- 5.0 The bid has been developed taking into consideration the views and opinions of representatives from key stakeholders. The bid has been co-produced with lead advisors from the Department of Levelling Up Homes and Communities.

Other Options

- 6.0 The Council could choose not to submit a bid under the Targeted RSI Funding 2023/25 grant opportunity. This is not recommended and would threaten the ongoing opportunities to add additionality to the viability of the Cities Rough Sleeping Strategy.
- 6.1 The Council could choose to bid for alternate provision to support rough sleepers in the City. Derby Homes, as the delegated delivery agent of the Housing Options and Homelessness Services, and in conjunction with the lead Department of Levelling Up Homes and Communities feel that the bid, as presented, provides the best opportunity to continue to enhance existing provisions to reduce rough sleeping in Derby.

Financial and Value for Money Issues

- 7.0 The intention is to continue the current RSI grant arrangements and passport any grant award over to Derby Homes, who will be responsible to deliver the scheme in line with the grant conditions. Therefore, it is Derby Homes who are bearing the financial risk of incurring costs in excess of the grant award, repayments of any grant not spent, or repayment of any grant not spent in line with grant conditions

Legal Implications

- 8.0 None arising from this report

Other Significant Implications

- 9.0 None arising from this report

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal	Alison Parkin Director of Financial Services	31.03.2023
Finance	Amanda Fletcher, Head of Finance, Communities and Place	31.03.2023
Service Director(s)	Clare Mehrbani, Director of Housing (Derby Homes)	
Report sponsor	Rachel North, Strategic Director of Communities and Place	31.03.2023
Other(s)	Michael Kirk, Finance Director & Company Secretary (Derby Homes)	30.03.2023

Background papers:**List of appendices:**

Appendix 1 – Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy

Appendix 2 – Targeted RSI Funding grant bid financials 2023/25