

Time started	1.04pm
Time ended	1.11pm

Urgent Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Meeting 24 February 2022

Present: Councillor Poulter (Chair)

In Attendance Councillor Barker – Cabinet Member for Governance
Simon Riley – Strategic Director of Corporate Resources
James Joyce – Head of Housing Options and Homelessness
Alex Hough – Head of Democracy

13/21 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Webb.

14/21 Identification of Urgent Items to which Call-in will not apply

It was noted that the decision sought at 17/21 did not constitute a Key Decision and therefore call-in did not apply. However, approval was required by Cabinet for bids in excess of £250,000 under the Financial Procedure Rules.

The reason for urgency was that the deadline for submission of bids to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities was 25 February 2022. It had not been possible for a report to be prepared for the Council Cabinet meeting held on 16 February 2022, owing to the need to consult with the Council's delivery partners for rough sleeping initiatives prior to preparing an application.

15/21 Declarations of interest

There were none.

16/21 Minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

Urgent Decision – Contract and Financial Procedure Matters

17/21 DLUHC Rough Sleepers Initiative (RSI) grant application 2022 - 2025

The Leader of the Council considered an urgent report of the Strategic Director of Communities and Place seeking approval to bid for and if successful accept funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities' (DLUHC) rough sleeping initiative grant for 2022 to 2025. It was reported that the Council had successfully bid for previous rounds of funding and had implemented a series of interventions in the city to reduce the number of rough sleepers in Derby.

It was noted that Derby had been highlighted as an area that had achieved positive outcomes in relation to rough sleeping and had received national recognition by DLUHC. The Leader noted that the number of rough sleepers in Derby recorded in the latest available Rough Sleeping Estimate was 6, the lowest level in a decade.

The Leader questioned whether it was possible for rough sleeping to be reduced further. It was noted that the reasons why an individual may resort to rough sleeping were complex and that the interventions detailed in the report sought to address them: these included counselling, dedicated social workers and interventions designed to provide education, training and employment.

The Leader thanked colleagues and partners involved in tackling rough sleeping, noting the recognition that Derby had received nationally.

Options Considered

The report proposed the submission of a bid to the Rough Sleeper Initiative Grant (RSI 5) 2022-25 up to a maximum of £3,000,000, to fund a series of further interventions detailed at Appendix 2 to the report.

It was reported that the Council could choose not to submit a bid under the Rough Sleepers Initiative 2022-25 grant opportunity. This was discounted as it would threaten the ongoing viability of the city's Rough Sleeping Strategy.

It was further noted that 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 felt that the bid, as presented, provided the best opportunity to continue to reduce rough sleeping in Derby.

Decision

Resolved:

To approve the submission of an RSI grant bid 2022/25 up to a maximum of £3,000,000. The delivery period for this bid, if successful, will be 1 July 22 to 31 March 2025.

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 Strategic Director of Corporate Resources and Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Housing, subject to acceptable grant conditions.

Reasons

It was reported that bid, if successful, would ensure the Council was able to continue to support Derby's most vulnerable citizens. The bid enabled the Council to continue to offer accommodation and support appropriate to the needs of rough sleepers, those at risk of rough sleeping and those recovering from rough sleeping.

The bid, if successful would also ensure that the Council is able to continue to capitalise on progress made so far throughout the pandemic – through delivery of the 'everyone in' offer. The bid would enable the continued funding of a street outreach and engagement

team, provide practical support and fund supported housing provision for rough sleepers or those at risk of becoming so.

MINUTES END