



**URGENT LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
CABINET MEMBER MEETING
24 FEBRUARY 2022**

ITEM 5

Report sponsor: Strategic Director of
Communities and Place
Report author: Head of Housing Options and
Homelessness

**DLUHC Rough Sleepers Initiative (RSI) grant application 2022 -
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. The numbers of Rough Sleepers recorded in our Rough Sleeping Estimate in November 2020 had reduced to 6, the lowest in a decade. The figure for 2021 has increased (number currently under embargo) but remains lower than pre-pandemic levels.
- 1.4 Derby was successful in obtaining an RSI award of £712,125 to cover the period 1 July 2021 to 31 March 2022 (9 months).
- 1.5 Government has confirmed their commitment to continue funding all existing RSI programmes for the period 1 April 2022 to 30 June 2022 without the need to bid for this period. The grant payment for this first three-month period of the new financial year will be as a minimum 75% of the amount due for the quarter (Q1 22/23) with a local negotiation with Grantees to ensure that the services proposed are delivered. If we are unable to achieve 100% grant for this period existing services will be maintained through use of Homeless Prevention Grant for this three-month period. This will enable us to continue to deliver services, funded at the same level as 2021/22 until 30 June 2022.

- 1.6 On 20th January 2022 Government invited applications for Rough Sleeper Initiative Grant (RSI 5) 2022 -25. This RSI grant opportunity is a 3-year funding opportunity. The closing date for application is 25th February 2022. This bid opportunity is available to cover the delivery period 1 July 2022 to 31 March 2025.

Recommendations

- 2.1 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.
- 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 Strategic Director of Corporate Resources 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 throughout the pandemic – through delivery of the ‘everyone in’ offer. The bid will enable us to continue to fund the street outreach and engagement team, providing practical support and fund supported housing provision for rough sleepers or those at risk of becoming so.
- 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 RSI 2022/25 bid finances is appended to this report (AP2).
- 4.3 The REST team are currently managing around 150 customers with a history of rough sleeping in the city. A significant proportion of these (32%) are in Stage 1 of the housing pathway (emergency or temporary accommodation, sofa surfing, Safe Space or NFA) and many of these have been assessed as having medium to high support needs – requiring intensive support. Through development of a range of housing solutions either through RSI or alternative funding sources we have been able to move many people on into Stage 2 (47%) but require ongoing funding to actively support the housing providers and the customers to effectively manage the customers and prevent a return to rough sleeping.

- 4.4 The focus of RSI5 is building on the 'prevention' of rough sleeping response in the city. We are looking to reconfigure resources to develop 'up stream' identification and management in order to prevent customers 'falling out' of services and becoming rough sleepers in the first instance. We will also focus our resources on 'recovery' - building pathways and partnerships with education, training and employment organisations. This will support and enable those already in the Stage 2 pathways to take the next step in their journey towards recovery.
- 4.5 The following interventions/Services are proposed within the RSI 2022/25 bid:
- 4.6 Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) System Management. This post has ensured the focus and effort of all resources within the RSI, as well as the local COVID-19 response for rough sleepers. The role has also developed greater multi agency working at both an operational and management level in order to achieve this goal. The work of this post includes identification of blockages and barriers outside of "housing" then negotiating and facilitating changes or new ways of working with partner organisations. The number of rough sleepers has reduced into single figures on any given night, from a high of nearly 40 three years ago. This bid will allow for the continuation of this service in 2022 - 25
- 4.7 Safe Space Multi Agency Assessment & Support Hub (24/7). The grant funds a 40 % contribution of the overall costs associated with the facility. The remainder, (60%) is funded through Homeless Prevention Grant and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. This bid will allow for the continuation of this service in 2022 - 25.
- 4.8 MARSH Co-ordination
- The MARSH Co-ordinator is a critical role in the delivery of the 'multi-agency rough sleeper hub' virtually hosted by the Safe Space. The MARSH co-ordinator chairs a fortnightly complex needs rough sleeper meeting which is a multi-agency problem solving meeting for people rough sleeping. The MARSH Co-ordinator then escalates key issues through appropriate management channels in order to address potential blockages in the system. The post is currently filled by a seconded Police Inspector, and we will be looking to our partners to mainstream this position at Year 3.
- 4.9 Personal budgets are used to provide positive activities that have enabled the rough sleeper cohort to try something new and to develop this interest for themselves. This includes the provision of counselling to assist with the transition off the streets. The continuation of this work will assist move on into accommodation enabling better access to funds for basic furnishings as an example. This bid will allow for the continuation of this service in 2022 - 25.
- 5.0 The street outreach and in-reach team provide initial engagement with any rough sleeper and support any of these customers into accommodation, helping rough sleepers adjust where necessary and sustain their accommodation. This resource is needed to focus on preventative work regarding training, education, employability and meaningful activities, pathway progression and developing use of co-existing non-housing service pathways to maximise access to specialised support and other services. Included within this team is a Move on and Placement role which will oversee progression throughout the rough sleeper pathway, monitoring capacity, demand and facilitating flow. This bid will allow for the continuation of this service in 2022/25.

- 5.1 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 the continuation of this service in 2022/25.
- 5.2 A supported housing pathway for 6 rough sleepers identified with high support needs and are medium to high risk of returning to rough sleeping. This provision provides increased support to meet the needs and complexities of customers, helping them to adapt and progress along an accommodation pathway. This will allow for continuation of this service.
- 5.3 The continuation of 6 units of a Housing First model, with rent levels in line with the LHA rate. This provision is aimed at those with a high risk of failure in other housing pathways and provides support to meet medium and high levels of need. Up to 9.5 hours of support per person per week are available. Included within this element of our bid is some additional budget to cover bad debt, utilities and council tax issues as well as any damage caused to the property.
- 5.4 Match funding for a Prison Navigator who will work with rough sleepers in prison and engage with the Multi Agency Rough Sleeper Hub to arrange suitable accommodation upon release that best fits their level of need and wants. This will increase maintenance of accommodation and help to reduce re-offending in the city. The role will also be able to access other resettlement accommodation options. This bid is a new intervention that will be jointly funded by the probation service.
- 5.5 Over 80% of all our managed cohort are either open to safeguarding or have previous recent safeguarding concerns. The level of complexity of the individuals and limitation on options to develop an effective safeguarding plan is significant and requires a level of specialism and time commitment, both which is not readily available within existing resource. In addition, the social care needs relating to learning, mental and physical disability for many of our target priority group require access to a social worker and statutory funding streams, which have otherwise proven challenging to access in timely way. This bid will allow continued funding for this post for up to 2 years.
- 5.6 Primary Care - non patient facing GP multi-disciplinary time. This will assist with improved outcomes for rough sleepers who have a history of poor engagement and failure to comply with treatment. This will improve the health outcomes for rough sleepers and increase the likelihood that they will sustain their accommodation. This component is being part funded by the Clinical Commissioning Group with a small amount allocated to year 1 only to establish this approach.
- 5.7 Winter Pressures are planning for the next winter and in particular for the rough sleepers without recourse to public funds who cannot be accommodated within existing pathways. Rough sleepers and those who present late in the day during winter months, as homeless tonight and/or are evicted or have abandoned accommodation at high risk of rough sleeping will be able to access B&B and daytime support and access to multi agency services out of the Safe Space MARSH Hub. This offer will keep them connected to housing and other services, and away from the street, and will maximise opportunities to establish the most appropriate accommodation options/route to housing. These SWEP beds are a winter extension to the Safe Space Hub offer.

Public/Stakeholder Engagement

- 5.1 The bid has been developed taking into consideration the views and opinions of representatives from key stakeholders at two separate stakeholder events as well as an event specifically for those with lived experience. The bid has been co-produced with lead advisors from the Department of Levelling Up Homes and Communities.

Other Options

- 6.1 The Council could choose not to submit a bid under the Rough Sleepers Initiative 2022-25 grant opportunity. This is not recommended and would threaten the ongoing viability of the Cities Rough Sleeping Strategy.
- 6.2 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 reduce rough sleeping in Derby.

Financial and Value for Money Issues

- 7.1 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

- 8.1 None arising from this report

Other Significant Implications

- 9.1 None arising from this report

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal	Simon Riley, Strategic Director of Corporate Resources	22/02/2022
Finance	Amanda Fletcher, Head of Finance, Communities and Place	22/02/2022
Service Director(s)	Clare Mehrbani, Director of Housing (Derby Homes)	18/02/2022
Report sponsor	Rachel North, Strategic Director of Communities and Place	
Other(s)	Michael Kirk, Interim Director Finance Director (Derby Homes)	18/02/2022

Background papers:	None.
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy Appendix 2 – RSI Bid 2022/2025