



**URGENT LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
CABINET MEMBER MEETING
5 December 2019**

ITEM 5

Report sponsor: Director of Communities and Place

Report author: Head of Housing options and Homelessness

MHCLG Rough Sleepers Initiative grant application 2020/21

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.
- 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. By 2027, Government want Councils to base their response to rough sleeping on a rapid rehousing approach and have included this within their rough sleeping initiative. This means if a person is at risk of rough sleeping they will:
 - have their needs assessed quickly
 - be offered appropriate support
 - helped rapidly into a home
 - provided appropriate support
- 1.3 In October 2019 Government announced a bidding round of £50 million for the Rough Sleeper Initiative to fund street outreach services and rapid re-housing pathways to tackle rough sleeping nationally. This amalgamates two previous bid opportunities; Rapid Rehousing pathway and Rough Sleepers Initiatives (RSI) into one combined bid opportunity. Derby was successful with a bid in 2018 for both a rapid rehousing pathway and rough sleepers initiative grant and has been highlighted as an area that is achieving positive outcomes with national recognition from the Ministry of Housing Communities' and Local Government. We have used the learning from our 'early adopter' grant status to refine our model in Derby which a successful bid for 2020/21 will support, if approved.
- 1.4 The Safe Space is currently operating out of temporary premises at Charnwood Street in Derby. The new premises at 10 Normanton Road has now been purchased by Derby City Mission and is now available but requires capital funding to modernise and ensure the premises is fit for use as the City's Safe Space. Grant funding from MHCLG is available to help support the capital modernisation programme, and if approved a request would be made for up to £55,000 of that funding. This money will

be paid by Derby Homes to Derby City Mission by means of a grant agreement. In addition the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) is prepared to match fund a further £15,000 grant to assist the capital works programme. The OPCC funding would be paid directly to Derby City Mission.

Recommendations

- 2.1 To delegate approval to the Strategic Director of Communities and Place following consultation with the Director of Finance and Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Housing to submit a Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) bid to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), for revenue funding up to a maximum of £730,000 and capital funding to a maximum of £55,000.
- 2.2 If Derby City Council is successful in the bidding process:
 - To delegate approval of the acceptance of any resultant MHCLG revenue and capital RSI grants to the Strategic Director of Communities and Place, following consultation with the Director of Finance and Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Housing, subject to acceptable grant conditions.
 - To approve the transfer of any resultant RSI grants received, from Derby City Council to Derby Homes.
 - To add up to £55,000 capital funding to the corporate capital programme, funded by grants from MHCLG.
- 2.3 To authorise Derby Homes under Teckal principles to identify and process approve all necessary grant payments to third parties in relation to the project, subject to the approval of the Strategic Director of Communities and Place.

Reasons

- 3.1 By submitting a bid for revenue funding to respond to high levels of rough sleeping in the City, this would, if successful, support a reduction in the number of people sleeping rough in the City. The last multi agency count / estimate of rough sleeping in Derby took place in November 2018, capturing 26 people who were on the streets. This was a reduction on the previous year which captured 37 people sleeping rough as a result of the investment from MHCLG and partnership funding between Derby Homes, Police and Crime Commissioner, Police and Public Health.
- 3.2 The funds will provide an invaluable resource to tackle rough sleeping in the city, making the city centre feel a safer and more attractive proposition to visitors.
- 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 We continue to develop a robust rough sleeping strategy for Derby. We have developed an infographic which outlines the strategy pictorially and is appended to this report as AP1.
- 4.2 The strategy is developing well, with resources allocated to those living on the streets that want to work with us to access accommodation and treatment services. We are now focussing on expanding preventative measures and also a focus on those that do not easily engage with accommodation and treatment services. The development of a Safe Space in Derby, along with outreach services and a diversification of housing offer for this cohort, alongside specialist support is all needed to better engage and support those that for whatever reason are choosing a life on the streets. The Safe Space will also act as an early assessment and response unit for those that are at risk of rough sleeping,
- 4.3 Derby Homes, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Public Health are already contributing to the proof of concept for a Safe Space/Rapid assessment unit. The additional funds from MHCLG will enable the safe space concept to continue operations 24/7. Without the additional funds the Safe Space would only be financially viable to operate between 12 and 16 hours per day. The Safe Space opened in January 2019 being located temporarily in a building owned by Derby City Mission on Charnwood Street which will be moving to a better suited building on Normanton Road in February 2020. The operating costs of the new location will be included in the proposal. Our bid intends to build on the Safe Space and the REST street outreach/In-reach service bringing better alignment of both services through one operating model.
- 4.4 The Safe Space model is a visionary one that fits directly with current MHCLG thinking, offering shelter and on-site support to rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping immediately and holistically. The core support service that enables the model to operate 24 hours a day forms part of the bid submission, alongside a strengthened management resource to bring together into one service the Safe Space and REST outreach/in reach service. This will ensure that any rough sleeper or complex needs customers have support available to them 24 hours a day.
- 4.5 Integrated within the delivery of safe space will be a team of 5 navigators to work intensively with the rough sleepers to bring them off the streets, into services, accommodation and beyond. These navigators form part of the bid and will be pivotal in providing the necessary support, advocacy, challenge, statutory service navigation, relationship building of trust and motivation needed to break the cycle of rough sleeping and to prevent entry into long term rough sleeping.

- 4.6 The bid will include funds to continue providing a health care professional with additional support from a health technician to meet the health needs of this vulnerable group, who often suffer from poor health. This provision will act as a further enabler as we work with individuals to assist them off the streets and into stable accommodation.
- 4.7 A further component to this bid will be for the provision of up to 12 units of accommodation, aimed at those with high support needs. This will expand the existing 'Homes for you' programme that is running and provides an asset based approach to support. An Assets Based approach is taken which seeks to build on the engagement and resilience aspects of the recipient first, as a building block to wider statutory and support. This will link succinctly with the work that the navigators will undertake, providing support from the streets and into accommodation through an element of floating support as part of move on support.
- 4.8 Included within the proposed bid will be a component that seeks continuation funding for a street outreach team to identify and engage rough sleepers in the City. The street outreach service provides an invaluable link between customers who are rough sleeping, the voluntary sector, faith sector and statutory services. This is an integral part of the strategic jigsaw which is required to assist some of the most vulnerable and often complex people in the city. The proposal will be to fund a team of up to 6 outreach and in-reach workers who are able to support people from the streets into accommodation and help provide stability through this transition.
- 4.9 A further element of the bid will be to administer personal budgets for rough sleepers to enable bespoke packages of engagement and support. Personal budgets will enable innovative solutions to be sought for each rough sleeper. The money will be used primarily on an individual basis with flexible amounts of money for each individual. Spend of this element of the bid, as with all other elements, will be monitored by MHCLG through Derby Homes' submissions to their DELTA online portal.
- 4.10 The final element of the bid is to provide a resource that will support the project, analyse findings, make recommendations on the future delivery of the services outlined and promote this vision across a wider partnership that will seek to widen the partnership and attract investment.

Public/Stakeholder Engagement

- 5.1 The bid has been developed taking into consideration the views and opinions of representatives of the Strategic Homeless Board, Homeless Liaison forum members and lead advisors from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Other Options

- 6.1 The Council could choose not to submit a bid under the Rough Sleepers Initiative 2020-21 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 MHCLG advisor for Rough Sleeping 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 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.
- 7.2 We anticipate the revenue bid to be up to £730,000 and capital bid to be up to £55,000 and the current proposals for grant support are below:

| Description of proposed revenue spend | Total Spend £ |
|--|------------------|
| Operational Management | 71,500 |
| Safe space building running costs | 50,500 |
| Safe Space core service | 263,000 |
| Grant to East Midlands Ambulance Service to fund a paramedic provision service @37 hours a week and technician @ 18.5 hours | 79,000 |
| Derby Homes to grant or employ "Navigators" x 5. Provision of key worker service to rough sleepers. | 178,000 |
| Test of Concept Evaluation and analysis – Consultancy to provide long term feasibility recommendations for future service delivery | 50,000 |
| Street Outreach / in-reach service | 212,000 |
| Personal Budgets | 15,000 |
| Housing first for high support need customers | 48,000 |
| Total costs | 967,000 |
| Partnership contribution to be deducted from total costs (partnership agreement in place) | 237,000 |
| Grant application amount to MHCLG | 730,000 |
| Description of proposed capital spend | |
| Modernisation of Safe Space building at 10 Normanton Road | 55,000 |

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 | Olu Idowu, Head of Legal Services | 25 November 2019 |
| Finance | Amanda Fletcher, Head of Finance, Communities and Place | 3 December 2019 |
| Service Director(s) | Clare Mehrbani, Director of Housing (Derby Homes) | |
| Report sponsor | Rachel North, Strategic Director of Communities and Place | 3 December 2019 |
| Other(s) | | |

Background papers:

List of appendices: Appendix 1 – Infographic street homelessness

Street Homelessness in Derby

A pathway into housing



Proactive Engagement and Enforcement Partnership (PEEP) SAFESPACE

A multi-agency team made up of police, housing providers, drug and alcohol programmes, street rangers, probation services, faith groups and voluntary organisations providing:

- Voluntary treatment
- Enforced treatment where necessary
- Probation recall and arrest

A non-accommodation space for individuals to stay that is:

- Designed to tackle city centre issues such as street homeless, begging and anti-social behaviour
- A partnership with public health, police, housing providers and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner