

Time started	10.00am
Time ended	10.15am

Urgent Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Meeting 11 April 2022

Present: Councillor Poulter (Chair)

In Attendance James Joyce – Head of Housing Options and Homelessness

24/21 Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

25/21 Identification of Urgent Items to which Call-in will not apply

It was confirmed that consent had been granted from the Chair of the Executive Scrutiny Board for the matter under consideration as an urgent key decision (detailed at minute number 27/21) to be exempted from call-in.

The reason for urgency was that the deadline for submission of bids to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities was 12 April 2022. It had not been possible for a report to be prepared for the Council Cabinet meeting held on 9 March 2022 and the next scheduled meeting was 13 April which was after the deadline for submission of bids.

26/21 Declarations of interest

There were none.

Urgent Decision – Key Decision

27/21 DLUHC Rough Sleepers Accommodation Programme (RSAP)
Grant application 2022/23

The Leader of the Council considered an urgent report of the Strategic Director of Communities and Place which stated that in January 2022 The Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities launched a further bidding opportunity through the Rough Sleepers Accommodation Programme (RSAP) for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023. This made available financial resources to support local authorities and their partners to prevent people from returning to the streets and to work to bring in those remaining on the streets.

Derby had successfully bid into DLUHC's predecessor programmes Next Steps Accommodation Programme (NSAP) in 2020/1 and RSAP 2021/2, enabling the acquisition of 30 units of accommodation for those with a history of rough sleeping, rough sleeping or recovering from rough sleeping. These grants had enabled both the acquisition of properties and associated support for individuals through revenue funding.

A submission had been developed for RSAP 2022/3 which would see Derby acquire a further 10 units of accommodation for those with a history of rough sleeping, rough sleeping, or recovering from rough sleeping, with associated revenue funding to provide appropriate support.

Whilst bidding for this round of RSAP we had been informed as part of our co-production with our DLUHC advisor, that the submissions for the Midlands were over-subscribed compared to other areas of the country. As a result, bidding would be highly competitive on price, value, and deliverability. Derby was in a good position having previously successfully delivered this programme on time and on budget.

Derby Homes, on behalf of Derby City Council, had co-produced a bid with DLUHC for Derby totalling £621,250. This was split £540,000 capital and £81,250 revenue. The capital funding was a 45% contribution towards the acquisition of 10 properties. The remaining 55% to be funded through the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). The revenue funding was two year funding (Q4 2022/23 and 2023/2024) towards support for people awarded non-secure tenancies in the properties.

DLUHC had advised us that they may (before the submission date) extend the revenue proposal for a further 12 months - to include 2024/2025. Approval was therefore being sought to bid for up to £687,550. This would be split £540,000 capital and revenue for £147,550.

The closure date for applications was midday 12th April 2022.

Options Considered

1. The Council could choose not to submit a bid under the Rough Sleepers Accommodation Programme 2022/23. This was not recommended and would threaten the ongoing viability of the Cities Rough Sleeping Strategy and risk an increase in rough sleepers, with the additional risks associated with the coronavirus and those rough sleeping.
2. The Council could choose to bid for alternate provision to support rough sleepers in the City. We felt that the bid, as presented, provided the best opportunity to continue to manage rough sleeping in Derby.

Decision

1. To authorise the submission of a Rough Sleepers Accommodation Programme (RSAP) bid 2022/3 to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), for £540,000 capital funding (2022/23) and revenue funding up to a maximum of £147,550 which comprised of £16,250 in Q4 2022/23, £65,000 in 2023/2024 and if applicable £66,300 in 2024/2025.
2. If Derby City Council is successful in the bidding process:
 - To delegate approval of the acceptance of the resultant DLUHC RSAP 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.

- To authorise the transfer of the revenue aspect of the resultant grant award to Derby Homes, in line with the 2021 Partnership Agreement.
 - Subject to successful award, to add up to £1,200,000 to the Housing Revenue Account capital programme for 2022/23, with £540,000 grant funding and £660,000 as match funding for the grant application funded from Housing Revenue Account reserves.
 - To delegate the acquisition of up to 10 properties to the Strategic Director for Communities and Place in order to meet the timescales required for this project.
3. To authorise Derby Homes to identify and process all necessary grant payments to third parties in relation to the project, in line with existing agreed processes and subject to the approval of the Strategic Director of Communities and Place.
 4. To approve the use of non-secure tenancies for the purpose of allocating to the newly acquired properties, in line with the requirements of the bid.

Reasons

1. The submission of a bid would enable the Local Authority to continue to expand the availability of supported accommodation for those at risk of rough sleeping, rough sleeping or with a history or returning to rough sleeping.
2. The bid also sought to increase the availability of accommodation for rough sleepers, and those at risk of rough sleeping.
3. The bid would provide the necessary resources to ensure appropriate levels of support for those with complex needs and challenging behaviours and would offer enhanced pathways for those currently unwilling or unable to access existing pathways.
4. In line with the Council's finance procedures rules, Council Cabinet approval was required prior to submitting a bid for external funding and for accepting a bid for external funding.
5. The bid required the use of non-secure or flexible tenancies wherever capital was provided by DLUHC under the RSAP programme. At present the tenancy strategy did not support the use of flexible tenancies, although this was included in the refreshed tenancy strategy to explore further, but consultation was yet to commence. The use of non-secure tenancies was currently permitted within the existing tenancy strategy.

MINUTES END