



Derby City Council

**STRATEGY AND POLICY CABINET
MEMBER MEETING
25 November 2016**

ITEM 5

Report of the Strategic Director of Communities and Place

Homelessness Prevention Grant – Bid Approval

SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks approval to submit a bid against £40m government funding which has been made available to support innovative approaches to tackle homelessness.
- 1.2 Derbyshire Homeless Officers Group (DHOG), which comprises of the Borough and District Councils within Derbyshire, alongside Derby City Council are working on a joint funding application against the £20m trailblazer strand and a further application against the £10m rough sleeper grant funding.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To approve the submission of 2 separate bids to the DCLG homelessness fund and agree that Derby City Council acts as the lead Authority on the funding application, undertaking the role of accountable body. The combined bids are estimated to be in the region of £500K.
- 2.2 To delegate to the Strategic Director of Communities and Place and the Director of Finance, following consultation with the Cabinet Member to accept the funding and grant conditions, should the applications be successful.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 This is an opportunity to access additional funding to develop and support new and innovative homelessness prevention work at a time of increased pressure on the service and wider Council finances.
- 3.2 Derby City Council is the largest Authority within the grouping and is currently leading on the bid preparation on behalf of the wider cohort. The City Council has a proven track record in successful funding applications.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

4.1 On the 17 October 2016 the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) announced an additional £40m of funding was available under the homelessness prevent programme. The funding which is available for Local Authorities and groups of Local Authorities to apply for by the 28 November 2016 covers three strands:

- £20M for local authorities to pilot new initiatives to tackle homelessness in their area
- £10M for targeted support for those at imminent risk of sleeping rough, or those new to the streets
- £10M in Social Impact Bonds to help long-term rough sleepers with the most complex needs.

The purpose of the funding is to prevent and tackle homelessness and rough sleeping presenting an opportunity to mirror the new proposed duties that will be placed on Local Authorities if and when the current Private Members Bill receives Royal Assent.

4.2 The first strand has been described as a Trailblazers fund and is set to run from quarter four 2016/17 through until the end of financial year 2018/19. Twenty Million pounds (£20m) has been allocated to this stream with a mandate to work with all eligible households, whether in priority need or not to prevent them from becoming homeless as early as possible.

4.3 The second strand of the funding programme has been allocated £10m to work with rough sleepers or people at imminent risk of sleeping rough. A rapid system of support should be provided to assist with recovery and move – on from their homelessness. Successful applications will be funded to provide a service from quarter four 2016/17 through until the end of financial year 2018/19.

4.4 The final strand of the funding stream is for a further £10m to support the most entrenched rough sleepers through outcomes achieved and paid via social impact bonds.

4.5 Derbyshire Homeless Officers Group(DHOG) which comprises of all the Borough and District Councils within Derbyshire alongside Derby City Council have worked together to agree upon a joint funding bid to the £20m trailblazer fund described within paragraph 4.2 as well as bid to the £10m rough sleepers fund described within paragraph 4.3. Neither of these strands require match funding.

4.6 DHOG have agreed not to bid against the final strand, paragraph 4.4 due to the timescales and associated risks.

- 4.7 The proposed bid for an allocation of the trailblazers fund will focus on an IT system will develop a Housing Action Plan that replicates the approach proposed by the Homelessness Reduction Bill ‘prevention’ approach. Such a system will enable customers to make a housing advice application which provides a localised action plan based on household, age, locality and local services (parameters set individually by each Housing Authority).
- 4.8 A unique selling point for prospective landlords will be an online advice service for private landlords as it is ultimately landlords who are the furthest ‘upstream’, knowing when a customer or tenant is likely to be threatened with homelessness. This will allow each Local Authority advance notification and time to try and prevent homelessness.
- 4.9 The second proposed bid against the £10m Rough Sleeping Grant Fund will enhance and complement homeless prevention services. The bid will propose to create a No First Night Out service. This is similar but more pro-active than the current No Second Night Out service which operates in the City. The partnership of Local Housing Authorities will seek to mobilise the existing network of volunteers within the faith sector. In Derby City alone the churches coalition have an active volunteer base of around 250 people, ready to assist with the operational delivery of the churches nightshelter. A further 150 volunteers are available to assist vulnerable people within Derby alone and the network of churches will be used to mobilise a volunteer base across the county. The work that the volunteers will undertake is envisaged to include two hours per evening of searching for people new on the streets, offering a warm place to sleep for the night. This will be further complemented by a mentoring service offering support to vulnerable tenants in their home when threatened with homelessness or once they are assisted off the streets into a new home.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 DHOG were initially hoping to further extend the partnership and work with our peers in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. This extended partnership has not yet consolidated and therefore DHOG are proceeding in their own right with DCC proposed as the lead organisation.
- 5.2 Not to apply for the funding was a further option which was not considered given the difficulties Local Authorities across Derbyshire have meeting demand and assisting customers in housing need.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s)	Olu Idowu – Head of Legal Services Mandy Fletcher Maria Murphy – Managing Director of Derby Homes
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Other(s)	
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For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Matt Palmer 01332 642158 matt.palmer@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications
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IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 Match funding from the Council is not expected to be a requirement of the grant therefore it should not create a financial pressure. The full requirements of the grant conditions will be assessed once they have been seen and prior to acceptance of the grant. Part of the accountable body role will be to ensure compliance with the T&C of the grant and which will have to be delivered within existing resources.

Legal

- 2.1 This will be a ring fenced fund and to the extent that the proposal envisages the Council being the lead authority for all the Derbyshire local housing authorities, this creates an obligation to take up Accountable Body status with the funding provider. An agreement will need to be put in place between the Council and the other Derbyshire housing authorities entitled to access the fund setting out clearly the terms for access to and the basis upon which funding will be made available. Support from legal service in settling these principles is available and will be necessary

Personnel

- 3.1 None directly arising

IT

- 4.1 There are no immediate IT implications from this report and, depending on the solutions adopted; the scheme might not impact the DCC's IT support arrangements at all. However, Information Services would ask to have early sight of the draft bid (if one is submitted) to get a better understanding of the detailed proposals.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 None directly arising

Health and Safety

- 6.1 None directly arising

Environmental Sustainability

- 7.1 There are no environmental implications applicable to the funding application

Property and Asset Management

- 8.1 There are not any properties that are affected by either Derby City Council or Derby Homes as a result of this funding application

Risk Management and Safeguarding

- 9.1 No risk identified with the bidding process

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 10.1 The proposal to bid for additional resources to support homelessness prevention support commitments within the Council Plan to ensure that Derby is a place where people are safe and the vulnerable are put first.