

Decision under Delegated Powers

Officer Requesting Decision

Alison Simmons, Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing

Officer Making the Decision

Rob Mitchell, Chief Executive

Recommendation

To enter into a Next Steps Accommodation Funding Agreement with Homes England to enable the Council to receive grant award of £586,487.

Reason

The grant will be used to provide accommodation and support for those who are homeless, at imminent risk of homelessness and rough sleepers.

The Funding Agreement must be signed by all Parties prior to any funds being distributed to the Council.

Authority for Decision

Delegation of Executive functions - Section 8.3 of the Constitution states that the Chief Executive, Strategic Directors and Heads of Service can take such action as is required in the case of an emergency or **urgency** subject to:

- (i) consultation with the Leader (or, in the Leader's absence, the Deputy Leaders);
- (ii) consultation with the Chief Executive and relevant Strategic Directors in each case; and
- (iii) a report on the action taken being made to the next meeting of the Cabinet.

Decision and Date

Approved 21 December 2020



Rob Mitchell
Chief Executive

Background

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) invited local authorities, registered providers, and their local partners to engage with the next stage of the COVID 19 Rough Sleeping response. The Next Steps Accommodation Programme makes available the financial resources needed to support local authorities and their partners to do this work.

The overall objectives of the Next Steps Accommodation Programme are to reduce rough sleeping and to seek to ensure rough sleepers brought into emergency accommodation in response to COVID 19, do not return to sleeping rough. As COVID 19 remains a risk, it is essential that people, particularly those who are at increased risk of severe illness, are kept safe.

The Programme, comprised of the two distinct funding streams and aims to bring together a range of solutions, including both short term/interim accommodation and longer term move on options, and the support linked to this accommodation.

The Council 's bid was for the purchase a 5 bed property with ensembles to be used as supported accommodation. Support will be provided by a partner agency to prepare rough sleepers to be tenancy ready before moving onto permanent accommodation. In addition, the purchase of two 1 bedroom units to be used for move on accommodation from emergency accommodation for those rough sleepers who are tenancy ready on fixed term tenancies.

At the end of the funding period the scheme will continue to provide supported accommodation for rough sleepers with rental income being used to provide on-going support and cover the ongoing maintenance costs.

The Council have been awarded Next Steps Accommodation Programme funding £586,487 for Charnwood. The Council are required to enter into a Next Steps Accommodation Programme Funding Agreement. The Funding Agreement is non-negotiable, and the Funding Agreement will need to be entered into by all Parties prior to any funds being distributed.

Reason for the Urgency

The Funding Agreement must be signed and sealed by the Council so the accommodation and support provision can be acquired and be in place and opened by the 31st March 2021. Without the funds the Council are unable to provide the accommodation and support proposed.

Comments from HR

Not applicable in this case.

Financial Implications

The Funding Agreement are non-negotiable, and the Funding Agreement will need to be entered into by all Parties prior to any funds being distributed.

The Council are required to provide match funding which is the subject of an additional delegated decision for the use of disabled facility grant funding for this purpose.

Consultation with Leader (or deputy appointed)

The Leader, Councillor Morgan has been consulted and confirmed that he was content with the approach.

Consultation with Chief Executive and relevant Strategic Director(s)

Consultation has been effectively concluded and the Chief Executive and all Directors have concluded that the recommendations of this report are both necessary and urgent.

Risk Management

List risks in table below or state that 'No specific risks have been identified with this report'.

Risk Identified	Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Risk Management Actions Planned
Failure to enter into the agreement the Council will not receive funding to provide the supported accommodation	4	4	16	The Council will continue to use Bed and Breakfast accommodation

Key Decision: Yes

Background Papers: None