

OUTURN EXPENDITURE OF CLG HOMELESSNESS GRANT FUNDING FOR 2012/13 AND PROPOSED USE OF GRANT FOR HOMELESSNESS PREVENTATION OR TO HELP SUPPORT HOMELESS FAMILIES FOR 2013/14

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr Del Booth
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Sue Hanley – Director Of Leisure, Environment and Community Services/ Deputy Chief Executive
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor Consulted	No
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 Since the Homelessness Act 2002, the Government has allocated grant funding to local authorities to prevent and tackle homelessness.
- 1.2 The annual grant to BDC, allocated through Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has been used each year since 2002 to fund a range of homelessness support services and schemes that focus upon the prevention of homelessness and repeat homelessness.
- 1.3 In dealing with the national deficit, the coalition government is making significant changes to the way in which Welfare Benefits are awarded. In order to support local authorities to prevent or react to homelessness, DCLG has awarded BDC £112,830pa homelessness grant for the next two financial years.
- 1.4 This report provides members with information relating to spending on schemes in place funded by DCLG Grant during 2012/13 and seeks Member approval for the award of grant to specific schemes in 2013/14 that have been considered by the Homelessness Strategy Steering Group and are recommended by the Strategic Housing Manager.
- 1.5 In addition to Homelessness Grant mentioned above, in 2012 the Council received additional non tenure specific 'Economic Recovery Fund' of £30,000. This is intended to assist people who have suffered an income shock due to redundancy or short time working, whether they are home owners or tenants, and to facilitate mortgage rescue.
- 1.6 The Homelessness Grant and Economic Recovery Fund have been incorporated into a strategic fund for homelessness, which partner organisations have made requests to in order for them to provide services for homeless customers or to prevent homelessness.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the update on the homelessness prevention and support schemes funded through DCLG Homelessness Grant during 2012/13 be noted.
- 2.2 That the submissions for the funding of schemes during 2013/14 considered by the Bromsgrove Homelessness Strategy Steering Group and recommended by the Strategic Housing Manager (table 5.4) be approved to receive funding from the Council's strategic fund for Homelessness for 2013/14.
- 2.3 That the Head of Community Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Housing be granted delegated authority to allocate any under spend or make further adjustments necessary to ensure full utilisation of the strategic fund for homelessness for 2013/14 in support of existing or new schemes.
- 2.4 That officers refresh the policy and procedure for the allocation of DCLG Homelessness Grant funding for 2014/15 allocation.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 On the 1st February 2012 the Executive Cabinet gave approval to the Homelessness grant funding for 2012/13 being used in accordance with the recommendations made. The Executive Cabinet also gave delegated authority to the Portfolio Holder and the Head of Communities to re-allocate any under spend or make further adjustments necessary to ensure full utilisation of the grant allocation for 2012/13.
- 3.2 The Council has received notification from the DCLG that its Homelessness Grant allocation for 2013/14 & 2014/15 is £112,830 each year.
- 3.3 The Council received £30,000 for non tenure specific economic recovery funding to continue to support home owners and mortgage rescue. A carry forward of £700 was brought forward from a previous allocation of this funding. £5,000 is anticipated to be required for 2012/13 to facilitate the mortgage rescue of a household facing repossession.

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- 3.4 The Homelessness grant funding and the remaining Economic Recovery fund has been utilised in allocations for projects in 2013/14.

Legal Implications

- 3.5 Prevention of homelessness through the initiatives and schemes developed and funded through CLG Grant assist the Council in meeting its statutory duties to homeless applicants under the Homeless provisions of the Housing Act 1996, and the requirements of the Homelessness Act 2002.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.6 The table below shows the allocation awarded for 2012/13 projects

Allocation of CLG Homeless Grant 2012/13		
Amount Carried Forward from 11/12	18,531	
Homelessness Grant for 12/13	114,000	
Total	132,531	
Homelessness Grant for 2012/13	Bid allocation	Actual SPEND IN YEAR
CAB Mortgage Rescue Adviser allocated 08/08	17,600	17,600
Housing Options Service	15,000	15,000
Floating Homelessness Prevention Officers	24,000	24,000
Rent Deposit Scheme for under 25's	21,500	21,500
Newstart Furniture Project	8,500	8,500
Homelessness Coordinator	2,500	4,500
Night Assessment Centre	3,000	5,375
Step Up - salary	21,000	21,000
St Basils – exp approved in 11/12 inc in carry forward	0	15,000
Total	113,100	132,475

- 3.7 The number of people presenting as homeless, those accepted and the outcome of homelessness prevention services are monitored by the Strategic Housing Team on a quarterly basis. The table below forecasts an increase across all areas for 2013 and this trend is likely to be exacerbated by a raft of Welfare Reforms from April 2013.

Performance	Total	Total	Total	Total	Projected
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info 2009/10	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Presentations	119	123	115	127	144
Acceptances	69	63	66	67	78
No of people in temp accommodation	13 on 31/3/09	14 on 31/3/10	31 on 31/3/11	26 on 31/3/12	50 estimate for 31/3/13
Preventions	172	155	198	204	220
Housing advice (BDHT)	695	766	756	787	832

- 3.8 Officers identified a number of strategically relevant funding requirements for the authority and utilised this funding to ensure continued provision of service. These are identified in the table below.
- 3.9 A total of 8 bids were received for the remaining funding of £111,776. These bids were considered by the Homelessness Strategy Steering Group and were evaluated by the Housing Strategy Manager following a scoring methodology.
- 3.10 Two bids were rejected as they were considered to be of a low strategic priority and could achieve funding through other means. The organisations were asked to consider whether the scheme/initiative could be delivered for less than the initial bid and as a consequence one bid was more than halved.
- 3.11 The table below shows bids recommended for approval for 2013/14 by the Strategic Housing Manager as they are able to demonstrate that they are strategically relevant to Bromsgrove District, help reduce the risk associated with homelessness and the Council's Statutory Duty, and provide value for money outcomes.

Allocation of Homelessness Budget 2013/14

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Homelessness Budget	138,530
Committed continuation funding of existing schemes or initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Home Visits £15,000• Step Up Officer £6,254• Homelessness Co-ordinator £2,500• Night Assessment Centre £3,000• Mortgage Rescue Facilitation Fund £6,676	33,430
CAB Owner Occupation Debt Adviser – Offers free, impartial specialist advice for owner occupiers to prevent repossession and homelessness and assists clients at risk of mortgage repossession. In April 2013 debt and welfare benefits will fall outside the scope of legal aid and therefore it is anticipated that casework for this adviser at CAB will increase.	17,600
Homelessness Prevention Support Officers – Supports clients to maintain their accommodation and prevent them from becoming homeless. Also supports applicants to obtain accommodation and prevent repeat homelessness. During 2013/14 the officers will focus efforts on those affected by the Benefit Cap.	25,000
St Basils Rent Deposit Scheme and Education Initiative for under 25's – The rent deposit scheme sources safe, affordable accommodation for young people in the Private Rented Sector. St Basils provide financial support to ensure affordability and support with independent living skills. The education initiative carry out workshops in schools and colleges to educate young people on issues relating to homelessness and what might be the triggers for young people becoming homeless.	25,500
NewStarts Furniture Project – is the only provider of quality, reusable household goods, donated to homeless families, free of charge. In addition NewStarts provide emergency food parcels for individuals and families in need.	10,000
St Pauls Personalisation Fund – The Worcestershire Homeless Intervention Team provide effective outreach support services to	2,000

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Rough Sleepers and resettlement support for those who have succeeded in gaining their own accommodation. As part of developing the service and adopting the Government's No Second Night Out standard they will be adopting a personalisation approach to working with clients in Bromsgrove District and require access to a personalisation budget to provide a more tailored service.	
Basement Drop in Service – The Drop-In Service is a place where young people can access one-to-one support, workshops and practical help to address any issues they are facing, including homelessness, issues that arise when moving away from home for the first time (e.g. managing money, debt, benefits), unemployment and health issues (e.g. mental health issues, drug and alcohol misuse). In the last year, they have supported 200 young people to: secure/maintain accommodation; develop independent living skills; improve their physical and mental health; and investigate/take up education and employment opportunities.	25,000
Total Requirement for Projects/Services	138,530

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.12 This grant will benefit the Council's customer, by offering household's more options to prevent their homelessness and where possible to enable them to remain in their own homes. The Council will be encouraging them to be more independent and take responsibility for their housing situation.
- 3.13 The grant will also benefit the larger community as opportunities to prevent homelessness will be maximised.
- 3.14 Welfare and Housing Benefit changes are anticipated to impact on certain ethnic groups more adversely than others. The above initiatives will help the Council to ensure that anyone disadvantaged by these changes is supported to sustain their accommodation in the short term so that they can seek more suitable accommodation in the future and avoid becoming homeless.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

4.1 If the recommended schemes are not approved there is a risk that more households who are threatened with homelessness or who are in housing need will have limited alternative options. There is the risk that they may have to make a homeless approach and this could consequently lead to the following risks:

- Inability by the Council to meet the statutory duty to provide temporary accommodation in the District thus necessitating placement in B&B accommodation outside of the District.
- Increased B&B costs.
- Increased Rough Sleeping in the District

5. **APPENDICES**

None

6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7. **KEY**

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