

**BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**19<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

**Homelessness Prevention Grant Allocation for 2022/23**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Shirley Webb
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Judith Willis
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Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	Not Applicable
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work and financial independence</li><li>• Living independent, active and healthy lives</li><li>• Affordable and sustainable homes</li><li>• Communities which are safe, well maintained and green</li></ul>
Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	
This report contains exempt information as defined in Paragraph(s) of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended	

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Cabinet RESOLVE as follows:-

- 1.1 That the initiatives in 3.7 be approved to receive allocation of funding 2022/23.
- 1.2 That delegated authority be granted to the Head of Community and Housing Services following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Housing to use any unallocated Grant during the year or make further adjustments as necessary to ensure full utilisation of the Grants for 2022/23 in support of existing or new schemes.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 This report seeks Members approval to award the DLUHC Homelessness Prevention Grant and the usual Homelessness Grant to specific schemes recommended by the Strategic Housing Manager. Additionally, it seeks to delegate authority to the Head of Community and Housing Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, to allocate any underspend of grant during 2021/22 on

schemes to prevent homelessness and assist those who actually become homeless.

2.2 The purpose of the ringfenced Homelessness Prevention Grant fund is to give local authorities control and flexibility in managing homelessness pressures and supporting those who are at risk of homelessness. The Government expects local authorities to use it to deliver the following priorities:

2.3 To fully enforce the Homelessness Reduction Act and contribute to ending rough sleeping by increasing activity to prevent single homelessness

2.4 Reduce family temporary accommodation numbers through maximising family homelessness prevention

2.5 Eliminate the use of unsuitable bed and breakfast accommodation for families for longer than the statutory six week limit.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 In addition to the annual Homelessness Grant, the Council has been awarded by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), Homelessness Prevention Grant £158,954 (subject to confirmation). This report sets out how the Council intends to utilise this funding to create a package of support and services to prevent homelessness and support those who become homeless.

3.2 The annual homelessness grant 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.

3.3 The Homelessness Prevention Grant has been ring fenced by the DLUHC for activities that prevent and deal with homelessness.

3.4 The Council has agreed a budget of £112,000 for the 2022/23 Homelessness Grant allocation. In addition, Worcestershire County Council ordinarily allocates £11,200 to the Council to part fund the Young Persons Pathway Worker post. In addition the DLUHC Homelessness Prevention Grant award is £158,594.

3.5 The Council therefore has the following for Homelessness Prevention Services and Housing Options in 2022/23 (including grant from Worcestershire County Council), as follows:

<b>Grant</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
Homelessness Grant	£112,000
County Council YPPW Grant	£11,200
Homelessness Prevention Grant	£158,594
Carry Forward Sunrise Project from 2021	£39,000
Underspend from 2021/22	£12,000
<b>Total Grant Available</b>	<b>£332,794</b>

3.6 It is recommended that the Grant monies are allocated as follows:

<b>Grant Allocation</b>	<b>2022/23 £ (up to)</b>
Young Persons Pathway Worker – support to prevent homelessness for under 25's	26,000
Worcestershire Strategic Housing Partnership Co-ordinator – contribution towards county-wide development and delivery of housing initiatives in partnership with other agencies	6,300
Hopes - Single Person and Childless Couples Homelessness Prevention Service top up	5,424
St Basils Crash Pad – provide a unit of emergency accommodation to young homeless people	10,909
NewStarts - Provide Furniture and Volunteering Opportunities for Ex-Offenders – supports tenancy sustainment and provides future employment opportunities/reduces risk of reoffending	15,000
Fry/Accord Housing Related Support – helping ex-offenders remain housed/seek employment	23,224
St Basils Foyer – provides stable accommodation/support for young people - 14 units – fully occupied during last financial year	30,000

Managing Temporary Accommodation Costs for BDHT	15,500
CCP- outreach and prevention service targeting rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping.	25,082
North Worcestershire Basement Project - Support for young people at risk of homelessness	40,000
bdht – Homelessness Reduction Act New Burdens	36,975
Step Up – Private Tenancy Scheme	18,200
Sunrise Project intensive support (2 year project agreed 2021)	39,000
Sanctuary Scheme for victims of Domestic Abuse	10,000
Citizens Advice – Targeted Debt Intervention	23,000
No First Night Out/No Second Night Out	£7,280
<b>Total committed expenditure</b>	<b>331,894</b>

- 3.7 An element of the BDHT three year contract includes the management of Temporary Accommodation for Homeless Households. An element of the Homelessness Prevention Grant replaced the Temporary Accommodation Management Fund (TAMF) which is allocated for the purpose of managing temporary accommodation and supporting those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.
- 3.8 The notification of the grant is expected during the last week of December 2021 and officers will verbally confirm at the meeting any changes in the anticipated grant.
- 3.9 Delegated authority be granted to the Head of Community and Housing Services following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing to use any unallocated Grant during the year or make further adjustments to current initiatives as necessary to ensure full utilisation of the Grant for 2022/23.

**4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Homelessness support and prevention initiatives and schemes developed and funded through DLUHC Grant assist the Council in meeting its statutory duties to those threatened with homelessness and

those who are actually experiencing homelessness, including those placed in Temporary Accommodation under the Homeless provisions of the Housing Act 1996 (as amended).

**5. STRATEGIC PURPOSES - IMPLICATIONS**

**Relevant Strategic Purpose**

- 5.1 Homelessness Prevention Grant allows the Council to support a range of holistic services to help prevent or tackle homelessness and rough sleeping in the District. The combination of practical support such as furniture and Sanctuary measures compliment those services that provide outreach support to help clients access accommodation, sustain tenancies, manage budgets, engage in positive activities and access employment. The breadth of services available provide opportunities for:
- Work and financial independence through the provision of support services and debt advice
  - Living independent, active and healthy lives through the provision of support to access positive activities including healthy eating and exercise.
  - Affordable and sustainable homes through the provision of supported accommodation.
  - Communities which are safe, well maintained and green through the provision of supported accommodation.

**Climate Change Implications**

- 5.2 The recycling of furniture supports the Council's green thread as it minimises waste and provides reuse and recycling of household items wherever possible.

**6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

**Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 6.1 The Homelessness Grant and Homelessness Prevention Grant will benefit customers by offering household's more options to prevent their homelessness, support them to remain in their own homes or help the Council to manage and support households in Temporary Accommodation.
- 6.2 The grant will also benefit the larger community as opportunities to prevent homelessness will be maximised.

**Operational Implications**

- 6.3 The management and administration of grant forms a significant part of the Strategic Housing Team's day to day operations.

**7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 7.1 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 also therefore the risk that they may have to make a homeless approach and this could consequently lead to the following negative outcomes:

- Increased B&B costs
- Increased rough sleeping in the District
- Impacts on physical and mental health, educational achievement, ability to work and similar through increased homelessness

- 7.2 All recipients of Grant will enter into a grant agreement and have regular monitoring with officers on the delivery of the service

**8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

**9. REPORT SIGN OFF**

**BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**19<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

<b>Department</b>	<b>Name and Job Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Shirley Webb	13 <sup>th</sup> December 2021
Lead Director / Head of Service	Judith Willis	8 <sup>th</sup> December 2021
Financial Services	Judith Willis	30 <sup>th</sup> December 2021
Legal Services	Clare Flannagan	15 <sup>th</sup> December 2021
Policy Team (if equalities implications apply)	Not applicable	
Climate Change Officer (if climate change implications apply)	Matt Bough	22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2021