

## **CABINET**

**19<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

### **Homelessness Prevention Grant and Domestic Abuse Grant**

|                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Relevant Portfolio Holder                                                                                | Councillor Shirley Webb                                                                                                                                                              |
| Portfolio Holder Consulted                                                                               | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Relevant Head of Service                                                                                 | Judith Willis<br>Assistant Director Community and Housing Services                                                                                                                   |
| Report Author                                                                                            | Job Title: Amanda Delahunty<br>Contact<br>email: <a href="mailto:a.delahunty@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk">a.delahunty@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk</a><br>Contact Tel: 01527 881269 |
| Wards Affected                                                                                           | All                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Ward Councillor(s) consulted                                                                             | Not Applicable                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Relevant Strategic Priorities(s)                                                                         | Housing                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Key Decision                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting. |                                                                                                                                                                                      |

#### **1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Cabinet is asked to RECOMMEND that:-**

- 1.1 Subject to the final decision by central Government, that the proposed element of the Revenue Support Grant 2026/27 attributed to Temporary Accommodation is ring fenced to the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Grant.**

**The Cabinet RESOLVE that subject to agreement of 1.1:-**

- 1.2 the initiatives in 4.6 be approved to receive the Homelessness Prevention Grant and Domestic Abuse Grant allocations of funding for 2026/27.**
- 1.3 delegated authority be granted to the Assistant Director 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 and uplifts as necessary to ensure full utilisation of the Grants for 2026/27 in support of existing or new schemes;**

#### **1. BACKGROUND**

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- 1.1 From 2026/27, the government plans to consolidate several existing grants into a single Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Grant. This new grant will encompass funding for prevention and relief activities currently funded through the Homelessness Prevention Grant, as well as the Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery Grant. It is expected that this will be a three year award.
- 1.2 Officers propose that the grants given under this funding are for a three year period with any uplift of grant allocation aligned with any MHCLG grant uplift year on year. Grant funding will be subject to satisfactory performance of the service with targets set for continual improvement.
- 1.3 The Government's recent consultation has made changes to the provision of Homelessness Prevention Grant in relation to its use towards Temporary accommodation. It is proposed that a proportion of Homelessness Prevention Grant will be transferred to the Revenue Support Grant from 2026–27. This funding will be allocated using the new Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA), which will include a dedicated Temporary Accommodation formula.
- 1.4 The percentage of Homelessness Prevention Grant allocation, removed for temporary accommodation is anticipated to be approximately 51% of the usual grant, and provided through Revenue Support Grant in the Local Government Finance Settlement.
- 1.5 This report seeks Council's approval for the temporary accommodation element of the Revenue Support Grant to be ringfenced to homeless prevention activities set out in 4.6.
- 1.6 This report seeks Members approval to award the MHCLG Homelessness Prevention Grant including Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery Grant and Domestic Abuse New Burdens Grant in addition to the Council's own Homelessness Grant to specific schemes recommended by the Development and Enabling Manager. Additionally, it seeks to delegate authority to the Assistant Director Community and Housing Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Housing, to allocate any underspend of grant during 2026/27 on schemes to prevent homelessness and assist those who become homeless.
- 1.7 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:

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- To fully enforce the Homelessness Reduction Act and contribute to ending rough sleeping by increasing activity to prevent single homelessness.
  - Reduce family temporary accommodation numbers through maximising family homelessness prevention
  - Eliminate the use of unsuitable bed and breakfast accommodation for families for longer than the statutory six week limit.
  - The Government requires that at least 49% of the grant is spent on prevention and relief activities and staffing.
- 1.8 The council received a number of applications for this funding and the above criteria was used to support the award of this grant.
- 2.9 Domestic Abuse New Burdens Grant funding has been allocated to ensure that councils can comply with the requirements to provide safe and supported accommodation for those fleeing domestic abuse and provide monitoring of services to central government via Worcestershire County Council who are responsible for the overall duties set out in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The grant will contribute to a specialist County co-ordinator post and a specialist County Research and Intelligence Officer post and will also be used to support existing services that meet the needs of this cohort.

### **2. OPERATIONAL ISSUES**

- 3.1 The management and administration of grant forms part of the Strategic Housing day to day operations.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 In addition to the annual Homelessness Grant £112,000, the Council is expecting to be awarded by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government (MHCLG), Homelessness Prevention Grant £349,018, £34,899 Rough Sleeping and Prevention Grant and £35,774 Domestic Abuse New Burdens funding. 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 It is anticipated that 51% of this the £349,018 MHCLG Homelessness Prevention Grant and £34,899 Rough Sleeping and Prevention Grant

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will form part of the Revenue Support Grant in the Local Government Finance Settlement which would equate to £195,798

- 4.3 The Homelessness Prevention Grant and Rough Sleeping will be ring fenced by MHCLG for activities that prevent and deal with homelessness.
- 4.4 The Council has a budget of £112,000 for the 2026/27 Homelessness Grant allocation in addition to the MHCLG grant award.
- 4.5 The Council therefore has the following for Homelessness Prevention and Domestic Abuse Services and Housing Options in 2026/27 as follows:

| <b>Grant</b>                                                 | <b>2026/27</b>  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Homelessness Grant                                           | £112,000        |
| Homelessness Prevention Grant (including Temp Accom element) | £349,018        |
| Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery Grant                 | £34,899         |
| <b>Sub Total</b>                                             | <b>£495,917</b> |
| Domestic Abuse Grant                                         | £35,744         |
| <b>Grant Total Grant Available</b>                           | <b>£531,661</b> |

- 4.6 It is recommended that the funding is allocated as follows:

| <b>Homelessness Grant Allocation</b>                                                                                                                                            | <b>2026/27<br/>£<br/>(up to<br/>£495,917)</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>The Council is committed to maintain the spend below to meet its statutory duties under homelessness legislation</b>                                                         |                                               |
| BDHT Housing Agency Agreement Top Up Staffing Costs                                                                                                                             | 52,475                                        |
| Static Temporary Accommodation for an additional 4 units of accommodation                                                                                                       | 30,688                                        |
| Worcestershire Strategic Housing Partnership Co-ordinator – contribution towards county-wide development and delivery of housing initiatives in partnership with other agencies | 10,500                                        |
| Severe Emergency Weather Provision                                                                                                                                              | 18,347                                        |
| St Basils Foyer – provides stable accommodation/support for young people - 14 units – fully occupied during last financial year                                                 | 50,203                                        |

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| St Basils Crash pad – provides emergency temporary accommodation for 16 and 17 year olds                                                                                              | 19,711          |
| Bromsgrove Home Choice CBL and Homelessness Module                                                                                                                                    | 14,600          |
| <b>Sub Total</b>                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>£196,524</b> |
| <b>The services support the delivery of the Council's Homelessness Service.</b>                                                                                                       |                 |
| St Basils Young Persons Pathway Worker – support to prevent homelessness for under 25's and Crash Pad to provide a unit of emergency accommodation for young people.                  | 41,116          |
| NewStarts - Provide Furniture and Volunteering Opportunities for Ex-Offenders – supports tenancy sustainment and provides future employment opportunities/reduces risk of reoffending | 10,000          |
| GreenSquare Accord Housing Related Support – helping ex-offenders remain housed/seek employment                                                                                       | 31,172          |
| Maggs Rough Sleeper outreach and prevention service targeting rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping.                                                                     | 35,607          |
| North Worcestershire Basement Project - Support for young people at risk of homelessness                                                                                              | 30,000          |
| BDHT - Sunrise Project intensive support                                                                                                                                              | 46,886          |
| Mental Health Link Worker (part funded)                                                                                                                                               | 21,554          |
| CAB – Debt Advice for Home Owners and Private Renters                                                                                                                                 | 27,611          |
| CAB – Affordability Assessments                                                                                                                                                       | 6,021           |
| Housing First/Housing Led Service                                                                                                                                                     | 29,563          |
| Part time Empty Homes Officer                                                                                                                                                         | 7,680           |
| Spend to Save Top Up                                                                                                                                                                  | 5,683           |
| County Rough Sleeper Coordinator                                                                                                                                                      | 5,500           |
| Rough Sleeper Access to Accommodation Fund and NFNO/NSNO                                                                                                                              | 1,000           |
| <b>Sub Total</b>                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>299,393</b>  |
| <b>Total committed expenditure</b>                                                                                                                                                    | <b>£495,917</b> |
| <b>Underspend</b>                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>£0</b>       |

| <b>Domestic Abuse Grant Allocation</b>                  | <b>2026/27<br/>Up to<br/>£35,744</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| County Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator                      | 5,112                                |
| County Domestic Abuse Research and Intelligence Officer | 4,573                                |
| Top up to DA Housing Options Officer                    | 6,059                                |
| NewStarts Furniture Project                             | 5,000                                |
| Basement Project                                        | 15,000                               |
| <b>Total committed expenditure</b>                      | <b>£35,744</b>                       |
| <b>Underspend</b>                                       | <b>0</b>                             |

- 4.7 With the exception of BDHT, the majority of the above are voluntary sector organisations and without this funding the support provided would cease which will lead to an increase homelessness pressures and have a negative impact on council finances and reputation. Performance monitoring of these services is available in Appendix 1
- 4.8 Their prevention role is crucial in helping people remain in their existing accommodation wherever possible. This is even more relevant due to affordability issues in all sectors. In addition, there has been less churn in social housing, so fewer properties are becoming available and social housing options are very limited.
- 4.9 An element of the grant supplements the cost of the Housing Agency Agreement 5 year contract with BDHT which ends on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2028.
- 4.10 The Citizens Advice have submitted bid for a new service £27,611 for targeted Debt Intervention for home owners and private renters who are facing repossession or eviction with an aim to intervene and provide advice to prevent homelessness.
- 4.11 Officers are proposing £29,563 for a Housing First/Housing Led service. This is currently provided by St Pauls Hostel which is a county initiative but likely to come to an end on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026, however, the intensive support service is still required locally.
- 4.12 The Council is proposing to provide funding for additional officer hours to support bringing empty properties back into use.
- 4.13 Officers are requesting delegated authority be granted to the Assistant Director Community and Housing Services following consultation with

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the Portfolio Holder for Health and Well Being and Strategic 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 2026/27.

**5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Council has statutory duty under the Housing Act 1996 (as amended) to assist those who are threatened with homelessness or experiencing actual homelessness and has placed additional duties on the Council regarding preventing and relieving homelessness.
- 5.2 The Homelessness Prevention Grant has been ring fenced to homelessness prevention and tackling homelessness by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
- 5.3 The Domestic Abuse New Burdens Grant has been provided to ensure that councils comply with the requirements of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

**6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

**Local Government Reorganisation**

- 6.1 The new unitary authority/authorities will be required as a local housing authority to provide duties under Homelessness legislation. The 3 year funding allocation to organisations would include a clause that it is subject to any implications arising from Local Government Reorganisation.

**Relevant Council Priority**

- 6.2 Homelessness Prevention Grant and Domestic Abuse Grant supports the Council's priority of Housing. It allows the Council to support a range of holistic services to help prevent or tackle homelessness and rough sleeping in the district.
- 6.3 The combination of practical support such as furniture, compliments those services that provide outreach support to help clients access accommodation, sustain tenancies, manage budgets, engage in positive activities and access employment.

**Climate Change Implications**

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

### **Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 6.5 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.
- 6.6 The grant will also benefit the larger community as opportunities to prevent homelessness will be maximised.
- 6.7 Domestic Abuse New Burdens Grant will ensure that there are resources to support the provision of a range of services available to meet the needs of those victims/survivors of domestic abuse who become homeless and need support to set up a new home and recover from their experience, many of whom are women.

## **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 with 80% having to be picked up by the local authority.
  - 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**

Appendix 1 Outcomes Monitoring Table

## **9. REPORT SIGN OFF**



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| <b>Department</b>                                             | <b>Name and Job Title</b>                                        | <b>Date</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Portfolio Holder                                              | Councillor Shirley Webb Portfolio Holder Strategic Housing       | 28/10/25    |
| Lead Director / Head of Service                               | Judith Willis Assistant Director Community and Housing Services  | 28/10/25    |
| Financial Services                                            | Deb Goodall, Assistant Director of Finance and Customer Services | 28/10/25    |
| Legal Services                                                | Nicola Cummings, Principal Solicitor Governance                  | 28/10/25    |
| Climate Change Officer (if climate change implications apply) | Matt Bough, Strategic Housing and Business Support Manager       | 28/10/25    |