

CABINET

7th January 2026

Homelessness Prevention, Rough Sleeper and Domestic Abuse Grants Funding 2027/28 and 2028/29

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Kit Taylor
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Judith Willis Assistant Director Community and Housing Services
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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 RESOLVE that:-

- 1) The initiatives in 4.5 be approved to receive the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Grant and Domestic Abuse Grant allocations of funding for 2027/28 and 2028/29, subject to satisfactory performance; with any uplift and additional initiatives being implemented prior to that period to be the subject of a further report to the Cabinet; and**
- 2) 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 from this source of grant funding during the year or make further adjustments and uplifts as necessary to ensure full utilisation of the grants, including any mid year Homelessness Prevention Grant top up, for 2027/28 and 2028/29 in support of existing or new schemes.**

BACKGROUND

- 2.1 From 2026/27, the government has consolidated existing Rough Sleeper and Domestic Abuse grants into a single Homelessness Prevention Grant. This new grant encompasses funding for prevention and relief activities and is being awarded for three-years.**

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- 2.2 Officers propose that the grants awarded to partners utilising this funding are for a three-year period. Any uplift (cost of living or service expansion) in advance of each year's award will be brought to members to approve. Grant funding will be subject to satisfactory performance of the services with targets set for continual improvement.
- 2.4 The grant award is sufficient to meet all spend commitments within this report and there is no requirement for the temporary accommodation element in the Revenue Support Grant in the Local Government Finance Settlement to be utilised to fund these schemes for the period April 2026- March 2029.
- 2.5 Further to the Homelessness Prevention Grant and Domestic Abuse Grant report of the 19th November 2025 where Council approved for the temporary accommodation element of the Revenue Support Grant to be ringfenced to homeless prevention activities for 2026/27, this report advises that this element of Revenue Support Grant is no longer required.
- 2.6 The purpose of ringfencing the Homelessness Prevention Grant fund is to give the Council 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
- 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.

2 OPERATIONAL ISSUES

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

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 In addition to the annual Homelessness Grant £112,000, the Council has been awarded by (MHCLG), Homelessness Prevention Grant of £508,380 for 2027/28 and £571,063 for 2028/29.

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- 4.3 The new Homelessness Prevention Grant is ring fenced by MHCLG for activities that prevent and deal with homelessness.
- 4.4 The Council therefore has the following for Homelessness Prevention and Domestic Abuse Services and Housing Options in 2027/28 and 2028/29 as follows:

Grant	Expected 2027/28	Expected 2028/29
BDC Homelessness Prevention Grant	£112,000	£112,000
Homelessness Prevention Grant (including Temp Accom element)	£508,380	£571,063
Grant Total Grant Available	£620,380	£683,063

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

Homelessness Grant Allocation	2027/28 £ (up to £620,380)	2028/29 £ (up to £683,063)
Housing Options Service Top Up Staffing Costs	52,475	52,475
Static Temporary Accommodation for an additional 4 units of accommodation	30,688	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	10,500
Severe Emergency Weather Provision	18,347	18,347
St Basils Foyer – provides stable accommodation/support for young people - 14 units – fully occupied during last financial year	50,203	50,203
St Basils Crash pad – provides emergency temporary accommodation for 16 and 17 year olds	19,711	19,711
Bromsgrove Home Choice CBL and Homelessness Module	14,600	14,600
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	41,116
NewStarts - Provide Furniture and Volunteering Opportunities for Ex-Offenders – supports tenancy sustainment and provides	15,000	15,000

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future employment opportunities/reduces risk of reoffending		
GreenSquare Accord Housing Related Support – helping ex-offenders remain housed/seek employment	31,172	31,172
Maggs Rough Sleeper outreach and prevention service targeting rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping.	35,607	35,607
North Worcestershire Basement Project - Support for young people at risk of homelessness	45,000	45,000
BDHT - Sunrise Project intensive support	46,886	46,886
Mental Health Link Worker (part funded)	21,554	21,554
CAB – Debt Advice for Home Owners and Private Renters	27,611	27,611
CAB – Affordability Assessments	6,021	6,021
Housing First/Housing Led Service	29,563	29,563
Part time Empty Homes Officer	7,680	7,680
Spend to Save Top Up	5,683	5,683
County Rough Sleeper Coordinator	5,500	5,500
Rough Sleeper Access to Accommodation Fund and NFNO/NSNO	1,000	1,000
County Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator	5,112	5,112
County Domestic Abuse Research and Intelligence Officer	4,573	4,573
Top up to DA Housing Options Officer	6,059	6,059
Total committed expenditure	£531,66	£531,661
Underspend	£88,719	151,402

- 4.6 The Housing Options Service Top Up will be awarded to BDHT during 2027/28 and then will be earmarked for funding for the service subject to a contract extension for 2028/29.
- 4.7 The funding provided supports the Council in its' prevention role and is crucial in helping people remain in their existing accommodation wherever possible. Where homelessness cannot be avoided, services provide support to ensure that it is a brief as possible and non recurring. Affordability issues in all sectors and less churn in social housing, mean that fewer properties are becoming available and resolving homelessness is increasingly challenging.

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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 MHCLG.
- 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(ies) to provide duties under Homelessness legislation. The three-year funding allocation to organisations would be subject to any implications arising from Local Government Reorganisation.

Relevant Council Priority

- 6.2 Homelessness Prevention 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

- 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

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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 funding will enter into a grant agreement and have regular monitoring with officers on the delivery of the service and a monitoring report will be taken to Cabinet annually.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Kit Taylor Portfolio Holder Strategic Housing	3.12.25
Lead Director / Head of Service	Judith Willis Assistant Director Community and Housing Services	3.12.25
Financial Services	Deb Goodall, Assistant Director of Finance and Customer Services	3.12.25
Legal Services	Nicola Cummings, Principal Solicitor Governance	3.12.25
Climate Change Officer (if climate change implications apply)	Matt Bough, Strategic Housing and Business Support Manager	3.12.25