BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET 18th November 2026

Homelessness Prevention, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant

Relevant Portfolio Holder		Councillor Sue Baxter, Cabinet Member for Planning and Strategic Housing
Portfolio Holder Consulted		Yes
Relevant Head of Service		Judith Willis Assistant Director Community and Housing Services
Report Author Maria Bailey	Job Title: Senior Housing Strategy Officer Contact email: maria.bailey@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Contact Tel: 07768 307628	
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 following initiatives be approved. Proposed awards are based on an uplift of up to 3% on the grant already awarded on 19th November 2025;**

BDC Homeless Prevention Grant, Rough Sleeping, Homelessness Prevention Fund and Domestic Abuse Grant	
Recipient	**Total**
Static Temporary Accommodation - additional 4 units of accommodation	£23,349.00
Worcestershire Strategic Partnership Coordinator - contribution towards county-wide development and delivery of housing initiatives in partnership with other agencies	£11,000.00
Severe Weather Emergency Provision	£10,000.00
St. Basils Foyer - provides stable accommodation / support for young people - 14 units	£15,000.00

St. Basils Crash Pad - provides emergency temporary accommodation for 16 and 17 years olds	£20,302.00
Bromsgrove Home Choice Plus and Homelessness Module	£14,600.00
St. Basils Young Person Pathway Worker - support to prevent homelessness for under 25's and the Crash Pad to provide emergency accommodation for young people	£42,349.00
NewStarts - provide furniture and volunteering opportunities for ex-offenders - supports tenancy sustainment and provides future employment opportunities / reduces risk of offending	£15,450.00
Green Square Accord Housing Related Support - helping ex-offenders remain housed / seek employment	£32,107.16
Maggs Rough Sleeper outreach and prevention service targeting people rough sleeping and those at risk of sleeping rough	£36,675.21
BDHT - Sunrise Project intensive support	£48,292.06
Mental Health Link Worker (part funded)	£22,262.00
CAB - debt advice for home owners and private renters	£28,439.00
CAB - affordability assessment	£6,201.00
CAB - Tenancy sustainment rent arrears	£5,000.00
Housing Led Intensive Support service	£39,292.06
Part-time Empty Homes Officer	£7,680.00
Spend to Save Top Up	£5,683.00
County Rough Sleeping Coordinator	£11,800.00
Domestic Abuse Research and Intelligence Officer	£11,039.00
Domestic Abuse Housing Officer	£45,954.00
St. Basils - accommodation support	£51,709.00
Housing Strategy Officer	£18,833.51

National Residential Landlords Association Membership	£250.00
Total Committed Expenditure	**£523,267**

2) **the following new initiatives for Homelessness Prevention Grant be approved:**

Recipient	**Total**
BDHT Housing Agency Agreement - top up staffing costs	£102,475.00
Severe Weather Emergency Protocol Coordinator	£11,800.00
Homelessness Strategy Coordinator	£10,000.00
North Worcestershire Basement Project - Support for young people at risk of homelessness	£45,000.00
Council owned Temporary Accommodation	£11,000.00
Total Committed Expenditure	**£ 180,275.00**

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 2027/28 in support of existing or new schemes.**

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 The purpose of this report is to outline proposed homelessness grant funding allocations for the 2027/28 financial year.

3.0 OPERATIONAL ISSUES

3.1 In 2026/27, the Government consolidated several grants into a single Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant. This grant funds homelessness prevention and relief activities. Government granted a three-year award: 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29.

3.2 In line with the three-year Government award, three-year grants were approved on the 19th November 2025. Grant Recipients were offered an uplift of 3% for 2027/28. Grant funding will continue to be subject to satisfactory performance of the service with targets set for continual improvement.

3.3 This report seeks Members' approval to award the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG's) Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant to additional schemes recommended by the Officers. Additionally, it seeks to delegate authority to the Assistant Director Community and Housing Services, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Housing, to allocate any underspend of grant during 2027/28 on schemes to prevent homelessness and assist those who become homeless.

3.4 The purpose of the ringfenced Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse 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:

- 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.

3.5 Domestic Abuse 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.

3.6 The management and administration of these grants forms part of the Strategic Housing team's day to day operations.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant are ring fenced by MHCLG for activities that prevent and deal with homelessness.

4.2 The Council has a budget of £112,000 for the 2027/28 Homelessness Fund allocation in addition to the MHCLG grant award.

4.3 The Council therefore has the following for Homelessness Prevention and Domestic Abuse Services and Housing Options in 2027/28 as follows:

Grant	2027/28
Homelessness Prevention Fund	£112,000.00
Homelessness & Rough Sleeping	£514,099.00
Domestic Abuse Grant	£37,110.00
DAG - Anticipated Grant from Worcestershire CC	£40,333.00
Total Grant Available	**£703,542.00**

4.4 The proposed allocation of this grant funding for the 2027/28 financial year is detailed in the recommendations above. This includes funding for new grant initiatives.

4.5 Additional grant awards are recommended as:

- An additional £50k has been allocated to support the BDHT contract due to an increase in costs in respect of the Housing Agency contract that were not adjusted for in the Council's revenue budget. A total of £102,475 homelessness prevention grant now contributes to the cost of this service.

- The Basement Project have also submitted a new proposal as they have reduced their drop-in hours due to a reduction in demand and are, instead, delivering Centrepoint's Upstream programme. This is an early intervention school-based initiative, designed to prevent youth homelessness, by identifying vulnerable secondary school pupils aged 11-16 before crisis occurs. A new Shared Homelessness Strategy Co-ordinator post has been created to support the delivery of the actions contained within the Shared Homelessness Strategy. A Shared Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) Coordinator role has been created to co-ordinate Severe Weather Emergency provision and ensure rough sleepers are supported to access services so that their rough sleeping experience is rare, brief and non-recurring.

- An additional £23,349 is allocated to purchase 4 additional units of static temporary accommodation from receipts from low cost housing sales. The temporary properties will support the Council's commitment to eliminate the use of B&B type accommodation for homeless families by 2029 and to ensure temporary accommodation used to relieve or prevent homelessness is suitable. Due to the increasing pressures of homelessness and demand for temporary accommodation, it has not always been possible to place households in self-contained, suitable temporary accommodation.
  The Homelessness (Suitability of Accommodation) (England) Order 2003: Use of B&B, states, bed and breakfast accommodation can only be provided to applicants with family commitments if no other accommodation is available and only for up to six weeks.
  In addition, the National Plan to End Homelessness (2025) sets out national policy to improve the quality and suitability of temporary accommodation, to end the unlawful use of bed and breakfast for families except for very short emergency use and ensure that emergency provision does not become a long-term substitute for settled housing

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 is likely to lead to an increase in homelessness pressures and have a negative impact on the council's finances and reputation.

4.8 Members are asked to note that the performance of all of the Voluntary and Community Sector Groups for which additional funding has been requested have been monitored in respect of their use of previous grant funding. The performance monitoring information for these services is available in Appendix 1

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Council has a 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, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant has been ring fenced to homelessness prevention and tackling homelessness by the MHCLG.

5.3 The Domestic Abuse 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 address duties under Homelessness legislation.

Relevant Council Priority

6.2 Homelessness, Rough Sleeping 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

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

Equalities and Diversity Implications

6.5 The Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant and the Homelessness Prevention Fund will benefit customers by offering households 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 The Domestic Abuse 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.

Community Impact Implications

6.8 The prevention role of these groups is crucial in helping people to remain in their existing accommodation wherever possible. There has been less churn in social housing and housing development, so fewer properties are becoming available and social housing options are very limited in Bromsgrove District. This is even more relevant due to affordability issues in all sectors.

6.9 The grant awards provide support to a people with a range of needs, including people fleeing domestic violence and those with mental health conditions. The support ensures people transition through services successfully and young people are supported to navigate unfamiliar systems. Some groups work closely with people with an

offending background, to support them to reduce offending and anti-social behaviour.

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 this Grant funding will enter into a grant agreement with the Council and will be subject to regular monitoring with officers on the delivery of the service.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1 - grant funded voluntary and community sector organisations' performance

9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	**Name and Job Title**	**Date**
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Sue Baxter Portfolio Holder for Planning and Strategic Housing	13/10/26
Lead Director / Head of Service	Judith Willis Assistant Director Community and Housing Services	16/10/26
Financial Services	James Walton, Section	12/10/26

	151 Officer	
Legal Services	Nicola Cummings, Principal Solicitor - Governance	16/10/26
Climate Change Officer (if climate change implications apply)	Matt Bough, Strategic Housing and Business Support Manager	12/10/26

Appendix 1
Grant Funded Bromsgrove Voluntary and Community Sector
Homelessness Prevention Performance (2026/27, Quarter 1)