

REPORT TO:	HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 10
DATE OF MEETING:	18th NOVEMBER 2021	CATEGORY:
		DELEGATED or RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR SERVICE DELIVERY	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	PAUL WHITTINGHAM Paul.Whittingham@southderbyshire.gov.uk	DOC:
SUBJECT:	BID FOR GOVERNMENT ROUGH SLEEPER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME FUNDING	
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: HCS01

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Committee retrospectively approves the bid for Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme Funding.
- 1.2 That the Committee approves the contribution by the Council of three one bedroom properties to the programme.

2.0 Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 To outline the contents of the bid for Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme funding (RSAP) submitted jointly with Trent and Dove Housing, who will purchase and upgrade four properties in the district for applicants who are at risk of sleeping rough. The bid was submitted on 20th October 2021 within the timescale required by Government.
- 2.2 The report also outlines the Councils contribution to this project in the provision of three one bedroom properties which will stay within the management of the Council.
- 2.3 Trent and Dove Housing will provide support for the people rehoused through this scheme through a dedicated support worker as part of their "Next Steps" programme that already operates in East Staffordshire.

3.0 Executive Summary

- 3.1 The Housing and Community Services Committee approved the Homeless and Rough Sleeping Strategy and Action Plan on 28th January 2021
- 3.2 This followed a review which identified that 64% of applicants had at least one identified support need and also that 44% of housing applicants required one bedroomed accommodation.

- 3.3 As a result of this review the strategy identified a number of key actions to address these needs.
- 3.4 The bid for RSAP funding attached at Appendix A is in response to this. It seeks capital and revenue funding for the provision of seven units of accommodation in the district. Four of these units will be purchased and upgraded by Trent and Dove Housing using the capital funding element of the bid. A dedicated support worker will be employed by Trent and Dove in order to provide the support required by applicants. The Council will contribute three flats from the current housing stock to the scheme although will retain all landlord duties for the properties.
- 3.5 An initial proposed bid to provide four properties was rejected by the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MCHLG) as it was felt that the number of clients was not sufficient. However the MCHLG then extended the bid deadline to 20th October, allowing the Council with Trent and Dove to submit the bid which is attached.

4.0 Detail

- 4.1 The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy which was agreed by the Housing and Community Services Committee on 28th January 2021, identified a range of key actions that would be required to address the issues identified within the review of homelessness services.
- The need for an increased focus on helping people to maintain their existing accommodation.
 - Develop supported housing provision for clients with multiple and complex needs, Housing First could be part of this solution.
 - Develop a greater range of options and provision for single people specifically for people under the age of 35.
- 4.2 Historically the Council has recorded low levels of rough sleeping within the district with between nil and two rough sleepers being reported in the district in the annual “snapshot” survey in November. It has been recognised in the strategy review and through day to day contact with customers that there are a number of applicants that are repeat users of homelessness services. In some cases these applicants are successful in obtaining temporary and sometimes permanent accommodation. Unfortunately they often do not have the ability or means to sustain this accommodation which ultimately means that they not only lose their home but also make it more difficult to rejoin the Housing Register. Sample case studies of clients that may be assisted by the project are attached at Appendix B.
- 4.3 Trent and Dove Housing in partnership with East Staffordshire District Council have attempted to address this issue with their “Next Steps” programme which provides both accommodation and support for those at risk of homelessness. The Next steps project “aims to put in place the necessary support that will enable people to gain their independence and live in one of our properties permanently in the future. The selected individual will receive tailored support which includes assistance to join the housing register, setting up personal bank account, applying for benefits that they are entitled to access to mental health support and advice and guidance to find a career”
- 4.4 Discussions with Trent and Dove Housing and the (MCHCLG) Homeless Advisor have identified a possible model for the delivery of this type of service in South Derbyshire.

- 4.5 This is based on the provision of seven units of accommodation supported by a dedicated worked employed by Trent and Dove Housing. Four of the units will be purchased by Trent and Dove with three one bedroom units being provided by the Council from its own housing stock.
- 4.6 Using existing Council owned properties as part of this project will allow for vulnerable tenants in the community to receive a higher degree of support than would ordinarily be provided. This support is aimed at growing their independence and ability to sustain their tenancy. A draft job description for the Support Worker to be employed by Trent and Dove is attached at Appendix C.
- 4.7 After the completion of a successful period within the project a permanent tenancy will be offered either by the Council or Trent and Dove Housing , if a Council tenancy is offered then another property will be added in to the scheme to ensure that the Council contribution of three properties is maintained.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 The project costs are £400000 capital over two years for the purchase of properties and £86159 over two years revenue costs for the provision of the dedicated support worker. The bid requests £16000 in capital support and the full amount of £86159 in revenue support. Trent and Dove will be providing the remainder of the capital support themselves with no financial contribution required from the Council. The revenue support for the scheme will continue until April 2024. Prior to this the funding for all homelessness schemes is expected to be reviewed by the government.

6.0 Corporate Implications

Employment Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct employment implications for the Council within this report

Legal Implications

- 6.2 As the local authority with the statutory responsibility for homelessness, the Council are required to be the lead agency for this bid. Trent and Dove are the main partner agency. Consequently the Council will be responsible for ensuring that Trent and Dove Housing deliver the project within the terms of the bid conditions and they will be required to enter into a formal agreement with regard to this to indemnify the Council against any claims to “clawback” funding.

The Council has completed a an assessment that confirms that the bid is compliant with “Public authorities’ assessment of how individual subsidies comply with UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement principles”.

Corporate Plan Implications

- 6.3 This report makes a direct contribution to the Councils Corporate Plan Aims regarding Supporting and safeguarding the most vulnerable by-

- With partners encourage independent living and keep residents healthy and happy in their homes.
- Promote health and wellbeing across the District.
- Improve the condition of housing stock and public buildings.

Risk Impact

- 6.4 The contents of this report will assist the Council in ensuring that statutory obligations to homeless households are addressed.

7.0 Community Impact

Consultation

- 7.1 A consultation exercise with the public, service users and stakeholders was completed as part of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy Review.

Equality and Diversity Impact

- 7.2 An Equality Impact Assessment will be completed should the bid be accepted before the inception of the project.

Social Value Impact

- 7.3 The contents of this report make a direct contribution to the aim of the Councils Sustainable Communities Strategy to help “ More people feel safe and secure in their home and in the community, particularly those who are most vulnerable”

Environmental Sustainability

- 7.4 There are no direct environmental sustainability issues raised by this report.

8.0 Conclusions

- 8.1 The Councils Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy identified clear needs for the diverse provision of housing and support for single people.
- 8.2 This bid for Rough Sleeper funding would assist in creating this provision and also in managing vulnerable tenants within the Councils own housing stock

9.0 Background Papers

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and Action Plan approved by the Housing and Community Services Committee on 28th January 2021

Notes:

- * Category – Please see the Committee Terms Of Reference in [Responsibility for Functions - Committees](#). This shows which committee is responsible for each

function and whether it has delegated authority to make a decision, or needs to refer it elsewhere with a recommendation.

- ** Open/Exempt - All reports should be considered in the open section of the meeting, unless it is likely that exempt information would be disclosed. Please see the [Access to Information Procedure Rules](#) for more guidance.
- *** Committee Terms Of Reference in [Responsibility for Functions - Committees](#).