

Arun District Council

REPORT TO:	HOUSING & WELLBEING COMMITTEE – 6 OCT 2022															
SUBJECT:	HOMELESSNESS GRANT FUNDING 2022-2023															
LEAD OFFICER:	CLAIRE DYKE, HOUSING OPTIONS MANAGER MOH HUSSEIN, INTERIM HEAD OF HOUSING															
LEAD MEMBER:	COUNCILLOR J PENDLETON															
WARDS:	ALL															
CORPORATE PRIORITY / POLICY CONTEXT / CORPORATE VISION: This funding supports the Council's aim of Improving the wellbeing of Arun by supporting those who are homeless, street homeless or at risk of homelessness in emergency or temporary accommodation to improve health outcomes																
DIRECTORATE POLICY CONTEXT: The recommendations in this report contribute towards the delivery of our Homelessness Strategy which focuses on the prevention of homelessness as well as supporting those residents who have become homeless or who are rough sleeping.																
FINANCIAL SUMMARY:																
<table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Funding Stream</th><th>Amount</th><th>To be spent by</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Homelessness Prevention Grant</td><td>£823,509</td><td>March 2023</td></tr><tr><td>Accommodation for Ex-Offenders</td><td>£116,696</td><td>September 2022</td></tr><tr><td>Covid Management Fund</td><td>£74,660</td><td>March 2023</td></tr><tr><td>Rough Sleeper Initiative Funding</td><td>£1,714,261</td><td>March 2025</td></tr></tbody></table>		Funding Stream	Amount	To be spent by	Homelessness Prevention Grant	£823,509	March 2023	Accommodation for Ex-Offenders	£116,696	September 2022	Covid Management Fund	£74,660	March 2023	Rough Sleeper Initiative Funding	£1,714,261	March 2025
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1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the levels of grant funding received from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the West Sussex Covid Management Fund. This grant funding forms part of general fund budgets for homelessness services in Arun.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To note and approve the grant related expenditure in respect of homelessness, the prevention of homelessness, rough sleeping and mitigating the impact of COVID-19.

3.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

3.1 This report details the expenditure in relation to Government grants, and funding received in respect of tackling and preventing homelessness and rough sleeping, and to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

4.0 DETAIL

4.1 There are multiple funding streams supporting the work of the Housing Options Team, without which would otherwise impact on the Council's general Fund. Some of these funding streams are subject to bids, and some are allocations. Often, in year opportunities arise at short notice and require Officers to put together funding bids and expenditure programmes at short notice.

4.2 All allocations and successful funding bids are ring fenced specifically for the purpose of preventing homelessness and rough sleeping.

4.3 Homelessness Prevention Grant (HPG)

4.3.1 HPG is awarded to all Local Authorities in England annually to support the prevention and relief of homelessness. The grant allocation for 2022/23 in total is £823,509.

4.3.2 £810,548 of this grant has been awarded to offset salary costs of staff employed to prevent homelessness, incentives and grants to secure accommodation in the private rented sector, and emergency accommodation costs.

4.3.3 An additional £12,961 was awarded to support local authorities with the new burdens imposed by the delivery requirements of the Domestic Abuse Act. This funding is being used to support victims of domestic violence who are living in emergency and temporary accommodation and will provide them with the practical advice and guidance they need, but also emotional support.

4.4 Accommodation for Ex-Offenders

4.4.1 In August 2021/22, Arun District Council was awarded £201,432 (£192,432 in 21/22 and £9,011 for 2022/23). In February 2022 agreement was given by DLUHC to carry any remaining sums into the first half of 2022/23 (to be used by September 2022) as many Local Authorities had experienced issues in getting their projects mobilised and accessing assured shorthold tenancies was proving to be more problematic than expected. The project is run in partnership with Stonepillow and the funding covers staffing costs, tenancy training and incentives to access the private rented sector.

4.4.2 At the time of writing, Arun have been invited to bid for further funding for this project to cover the second half of 2022/23, to March 2023. Committee will be updated on the outcome of that bid on the 6 October.

4.5 Covid Management Fund (COMF)

4.5.1 West Sussex County Council were awarded Covid Management Funding in 2020/21 but experienced issues with mobilisation. As a result, the funds were devolved to the District and Boroughs in 2021/22. The Housing Options Team was awarded £95,000 to support the deliver of preventative services, including staff costs, assistance with removals and storage and enhanced discretionary housing payments.

4.5.2 West Sussex gave authority for any underspends of COMF at District and Borough level to be carried forward into 2022/23, leaving £74,660 remaining to be spent by March 2023.

4.6 Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) Funding (Funding announcements are embargoed)

4.6.1 RSI funding has been awarded to Arun for the last three years and is funding that is awarded through bids. Traditionally bids were submitted on an annual basis, however, DLUHC recognised the additional burdens that this placed on Local Authorities and as a result, changed the funding term from annually to three years for the years 2022-2025. At present, DLUHC have confirmed that there will be no further funding available beyond March 2025.

4.6.2 The total award for this period is £1,714,261 split as follows:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
£733,396	£568,311	£412,554

4.6.3 The funding is used to provide the following services, either delivered by Arun District Council or by our partners, Turning Tides and Stonepillow

- a) Rough Sleeper Coordinator
- b) Inreach/Outreach Service
- c) Tenancy Sustainment and Prevention Services
- d) Off the street accommodation costs for non-statutory placements
- e) Dual Diagnosis Worker
- f) Specialist Support Navigator for Non-UK Nationals
- g) Support Navigators
- h) Personalisation
- i) Funds to access the private rented sector

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 None required

6.0 OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

6.1 To approve the expenditure outlined above

6.2 To not approve the expenditure. However, this is not considered to be a viable option as it will adversely impact on our ability to prevent and relieve homelessness and reduce the number of people sleeping rough.

7.0 COMMENTS BY THE GROUP HEAD OF CORPORATE SUPPORT/SECTION 151 OFFICER

7.1 The figures included in the report will be included in budgets for 2023/24 and 2024/25 as required.

8.0 RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 None

9.0 COMMENTS OF THE GROUP HEAD OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE & MONITORING OFFICER

9.1 No specific legal implications.

10.0 HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

10.1 None

11.0 HEALTH & SAFETY IMPACT

11.1 None

12.0 PROPERTY & ESTATES IMPACT

12.1 None

13.0 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) / SOCIAL VALUE

13.1 None

14.0 CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT/SOCIAL VALUE

14.1 None

15.0 CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

15.1 None

16.0 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT

16.1 None

17.0 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION / DATA PROTECTION CONSIDERATIONS

17.1 None

CONTACT OFFICER:

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: