

**ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL
REPORT TO AND DECISION OF RESIDENTIAL AND WELLBEING
COMMITTEE
ON 3 JUNE 2021**

SUBJECT: Grant Funded Homelessness Expenditure

REPORT AUTHOR:	Satnam Kaur, Group Head of Residential Services
DATE:	20 April 2021
EXTN:	37717
AREA:	Residential Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report details expenditure in relation to Government Grants and Funding received in respect of tackling and preventing homelessness and rough sleeping.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee is asked to:

1. Note expenditure for the Homelessness Prevention Grant 2020/2021;
2. Note and approve expenditure for the rough sleeping initiative funding rounds three (2020/21) and four (2021/22); and
3. Note the balance in earmarked reserve for homelessness and rough sleeping initiatives.

1.0 BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 From 2017/18 to 2020/21, Government funding, ring fenced to activities that prevent or relieve homelessness was provided via the Flexible Homelessness Support Grant/Homelessness Reduction Grant/New Burdens funding. We have circa £500,000 of this funding in reserves and it proposed to use this for software requirements and in year opportunities that arise to extend or maintain service provision in respect of homelessness prevention, including match funding initiatives with our partners.
- 1.2 For 2021/22 the Flexible Homelessness Support Grant and Homelessness Reduction Grant have been combined and replaced with the Homelessness Prevention Grant. This grant is ringfenced to ensure that the Council is resourced to take action to prevent homelessness from occurring and provides the funding to continue to implement the new burdens and duties contained with the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.

- 1.3 Our Homelessness Prevention Grant allocation for 2021/22 is £811k and is proposed to be used as follows:

Contributions to Housing Options Team salaries	£260,000
Funding towards nightly paid accommodation	£251,000
Payments to secure alternative accommodation	£200,00
Payments to sustain existing accommodation	£50,000
Other specialist/software development fees	£50,000

- 1.4 In addition to the above the Council has been successful for funding bids in relation to tackling and ending rough sleeping via the Rough Sleeper Initiative Funding (RSI). In 2020/21 we were awarded RSI3 of £319,000 to cover the following activities in partnership with Turning Tides and Stonepillow:

- **Street-based response** - Assertive outreach that performs a function intercepting and engaging with those who are sleeping rough in order to direct them into services away from the street. This is the crucial first stage in getting people into a pathway of services
- **First stage accommodation** - The first line of accommodation providing a safe space away from the street, mitigating the risks individuals face when sleeping rough.
- **Housing support and housing-led solutions** - Options for the supply of longer-term accommodation options.
- **Specialist Support workers and Rough Sleeper Co-ordinator** - specialist workers are skilled at getting the necessary support to those who are most vulnerable and have the most complex needs. This may be through having expertise in a specific work area such as substance misuse or that they play a role in co-ordinating the resources available locally

- 1.5 Approximately £50k of the funding £319k awarded for 2020/21 has been earmarked to continue funding a post (Rough Sleeper Co-Ordinator) in 2021/22.

- 1.6 A further bid of circa £700k has been submitted for round four of the RSI. The bid contains all the activities funded through our RSI3 award plus additional specialist support workers, winter provision, Housing First provision and funding to offset the additional placements that we continue to fund as a result of the “Everyone in” initiative triggered as a result of the pandemic. Although the we are still awaiting the outcome we have been advised by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government that there will be no overall reduction in our RSI 2021/22 allocation, meaning that we will receive at least the equivalent of the 2020/21 award of £319,000.

- 1.7 The Council also claimed £50k from the Cold Weather Fund in 2020/21 due to C-19 placements. The Council claimed £262k from the Next Steps Accommodation Programme (NSAP) in 2020/21 which was used to fund C-19 placements. A successful bid was submitted to the Uplift Fund which will be used to mitigate C-19 related accommodation costs in 2021/22.

1.8 There is currently c.£1m in earmarked reserves of which £339k has been committed to fund projects leaving a balance of £741k to support future projects. It should be noted that this funding has to be spent in line with the original conditions from the grant giver. The Earmarked reserve balance is summarised in the table below:

Earmarked Reserve Funded Expenditure

	Balance 31/3/2020 £'000	Added (applied) 2020/21 £'000	Balance 31/3/2021 £'000	Committed £'000	Balance £'000
Flexible Homeless Grant	352	0	352	(100)	252
New Burdens	131	0	131	(24)	107
Private Rented Access Fund	25	(25)	0	0	0
Community Housing Fund	552	(5)	547	(165)	382
Rough Sleeping Initiative	0	50	50	(50)	0
Total	1,060	20	1,080	(339)	741

2.0 PROPOSAL(S):

2.1 There are multiple funding streams supporting the work of the Housing Options Team, 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. The purpose of this report is to note and approve grant related expenditure in respect of homelessness prevention and rough sleeping.

3.0 OPTIONS:

3.1 Not applicable as the funding is ringfenced and not to use the funding would adversely impact on our ability to prevent and relief homelessness and tackle rough sleeping.

4.0 CONSULTATION:

Has consultation been undertaken with:	YES	NO
Relevant Town/Parish Council		✓
Relevant District Ward Councillors		✓
Other groups/persons (please specify)		✓

5.0 ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES: (Explain in more detail at 6 below)	YES	NO
Financial	✓	
Legal		✓
Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment		✓
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act		✓
Sustainability		✓
Asset Management/Property/Land		✓
Technology		✓
Other (please explain)		✓
6.0 IMPLICATIONS: 6.1 The prevention of homelessness and rough sleeping has been under significant financial pressure and it is important that members are aware of the level of grant funding that is applied to the service during the year as this funding is not part of the Local Government financial settlement and the expenditure could fall on the Council in future years.		
7.0 REASON FOR THE DECISION: 7.1 To keep Members informed about additional funding and to regularise the position in respect of grant funded homelessness expenditure in respect of tackling and preventing homelessness and rough sleeping.		
8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS: To view the correspondence from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Fund for 2021/22 – please click on this link Homelessness and Rough Sleepers Fund – 2021-22		