

 Executive 31st May 2018		Agenda Item No. <h1 style="text-align: center;">11</h1>
Title	MHCLG Rough Sleepers Initiative 2018-2020	
For further information about this report please contact	Lisa Barker, Head of Housing Services telephone: 01926 456043 e-mail: lisa.barker@warwickdc.gov.uk	
Wards of the District directly affected	All	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	Executive on 4 th January, minute number 96	
Background Papers	Report to Executive, Homelessness initiatives and the new Legislation, January 2018	

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	No
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	Yes
Equality Impact Assessment Undertaken	No
<p>The initiatives are designed to support people who sleep rough, enabling them to receive targeted support and to access accommodation suitable for their needs. Rough sleepers have complex issues and are amongst the most marginalised and disadvantaged groups in our society.</p>	

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	14.05.18	Bill Hunt
Head of Service		Lisa Barker
CMT	14.05.18	Chris Elliott; Bill Hunt; Andrew Jones
Section 151 Officer	14.05.18	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	14.05.18	Andrew Jones
Finance	14.05.18	Andrew Rollins
Portfolio Holder(s)	14.05.18	Cllr Phillips – Housing & Property
Consultation & Community Engagement		
<p>The proposals have been subject to discussion with MHCLG advisors; Local statutory partners including Warwickshire County Council, Warwickshire Police, Stratford District Council, and; Voluntary sector partners including Helping Hands, Salvation Army, Home Group, both night shelters, Coventry Cyrenians and P3.</p>		
Final Decision?	Yes	
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. **Summary**

- 1.1 This report informs Members of the government's Rough Sleepers Initiative 2018-2020, and the progress on submitting a bid for funding to put in place initiatives which are locally accepted as being gaps in service.
- 1.2 It provides details on each component of the bid and seeks member support to enable the initiative to be taken forward.
- 1.3 It seeks approval for worst case scenario funding to be approved, thereby assuring delivery of the proposals and the work to reduce rough sleeping.

2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 That Executive approves the principle of a submission of a funding bid to the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government's (MHCLG) Rough Sleepers Initiative for:
 - A fixed term Rough Sleepers Co-Ordinator post to run to 31/3/20
 - A fixed term Housing First worker post to run to 31/3/20
 - Two fixed term Outreach Worker posts (one for Warwick district and one for Stratford district) to run to 31/3/20
 - The costs of operating a shared supported housing initiative in Leamington
 - A contribution towards the costs of operating a direct access hostel in Leamington
- 2.2 That Executive notes that, subject to approval of recommendation 2.1, the Council will seek match funding of £100,000 in 2018/19 and 2019/20 from Warwickshire County Council towards the costs of the direct access hostel.
- 2.3 That Executive notes that MHCLG have asked the Council to include a proposal for an outreach worker to work within the Stratford District Council (SDC) area within any bid submitted and that discussions have been held with SDC officers who support the proposed approach.
- 2.4 That Executive notes that for the bids to be viable that financial provision needs to be made for both the remainder of the financial year 2018/19 and the full financial year 2019/20 but that the availability of MHCLG funding provision for the latter year will not be known until after the necessary recruitment processes have been completed and the arrangements for the housing provision put in place, to allow any 18/19 MHCLG allocation to be drawn down, requiring the Council to make provision to fund the latter period for each of the proposed elements of the bid (excluding the SDC outreach worker) from its own resources as a risk mitigation.
- 2.5 That, subject to approval of recommendation 2.1 and, subject to MHCLG agreeing to fund all five components, Executive approves the use of funding of up to £79,100 from unallocated balance of the Flexible Homeless Support Grant monies General Fund elements of the project and up to and up to £603,600 from the HRA Capital Investment Reserve (CIR) were the MHCLG 19/20 funding or the WCC funding contribution referred to in recommendation 2.2 not to be forthcoming.
- 2.6 That Executive note that if MHCLG decide not to support any component of our bid, a further report will be brought which considers funding priorities for the Flexible Homeless Support Grant.

3. **Reasons for the Recommendations**

3.1 On March 30th 2018, government announced a new £30m fund to tackle rough sleeping across the 80 councils with the most significant numbers of people sleeping rough. Rough sleeping nationally has increased by 160% since 2010 although locally a 75% rise has been experienced. With a rough sleeping figure of 21 last autumn (the governments annual official figures), Warwick District Council were contacted by MHCLG on 11th April 2018 and invited to participate.

3.2 Whilst there are many clear gaps in the provision of services to rough sleepers across healthcare, housing related support and accommodation provision, advisors from CLG together with statutory and voluntary sector partners confirmed five elements which together are considered to be key to tackle rough sleeping in Warwick District. The five key areas are:

a) Rough sleepers co-ordinator: A senior manager to co-ordinate the work of statutory and voluntary sector partners across the district in taking forward work and plans to tackle rough sleeping.

b) Housing First officer: An intensive support worker to assist rough sleepers with complex needs to maintain accommodation whilst accessing and receiving treatment to combat addiction problems.

c) Additional outreach worker: For an additional worker to provide dedicated time across Warwick District, making contact with people sleeping rough and forming bespoke person plans with a view to enabling the transition to accommodation, treatment and engagement with services.

d) Shared Supported Housing: The council will provide five 3 bedroomed properties to a voluntary sector partner for the provision of medium term shared housing with support for people transitioning from the streets to residential settings.

e) Direct access hostel: Provision of accommodation for up to 22 rough sleepers, where residents can stay all day and with the provision of some health and pastoral care on an in reach basis. Open 24 hours a day, the project demands that a minimum of two members of staff are on duty at any one time over the entire 24 hour period. It is proposed to use William Walsgrove House on Lillington Road for the hostel, with current residents and Home group staff (who rent office space at the address) moving to the newly acquired Beauchamp House in Warwick. Beauchamp house was deemed to be too far from Leamington for rough sleepers to use

3.3 A total of £1,233,300 is required to deliver the proposals to March 2020. A bid equalling the full costs of funding each element has been submitted to MHCLG apart from for the direct access hostel where the MHCLG bid is complemented with an associated request to WCC to match fund the WDC contribution. Whilst it is likely that WDC will receive funding from both parties, there are currently no guarantees that the full costs will be met and indeed, no guarantees that any funding at all will be provided. Furthermore, MHCLG will announce the funding awards at the end of June 2018 but we understand from the advisors that the announcement will only include funding for 2018/19 with funding for 2019/20 being announced over the summer. This position creates uncertainty for ourselves and our partner organisations and gives rise to complexities for recruiting sufficiently experienced staff if contracts only run until March 2019.

- 3.4 Approval of this funding will provide the confidence that our delivery partners require to recruit suitable candidates and to deliver the schemes.
- 3.5 The level of funding sought has been calculated on a worst case scenario basis and is likely to be reduced considerably once the outcome of our bid to MHCLG and request for match funding from WCC has been announced.

4. Policy Framework

Fit for the Future (FFF)

- 4.1 The Council's FFF Strategy is designed to deliver the Vision for the District of making it a Great Place to Live, Work and Visit. To that end amongst other things the FFF Strategy contains several Key projects. This report shows the way forward for implementing a significant part of one of the Council's Key projects.
- 4.2 The FFF Strategy has 3 strands – People, Services and Money and each has an external and internal element to it. The table below illustrates the impact of this proposal if any in relation to the Council's FFF Strategy.

FFF Strands		
People	Services	Money
External		
Health, Homes, Communities	Green, Clean, Safe	Infrastructure, Enterprise, Employment
<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Improved health for all Housing needs for all met Impressive cultural and sports activities Cohesive and active communities	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Area has well looked after public spaces All communities have access to decent open space Improved air quality Low levels of crime and ASB	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Dynamic and diverse local economy Vibrant town centres Improved performance/productivity of local economy Increased employment and income levels
Impacts of Proposal		
Supporting the delivery of new initiatives to improve the health of rough sleepers through the provision of housing with support and associated services	The 'feel' of the town centre will benefit if rough sleepers move into accommodation	The support services will assist rough sleepers to become ready for training or work.
Internal		
Effective Staff	Maintain or Improve Services	Firm Financial Footing over the Longer Term
<u>Intended outcomes:</u> All staff are properly trained All staff have the appropriate tools All staff are engaged,	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Focusing on our customers' needs Continuously improve our processes Increase the digital	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Better return/use of our assets Full Cost accounting Continued cost management

empowered and supported The right people are in the right job with the right skills and right behaviours	provision of services	Maximise income earning opportunities Seek best value for money
Impacts of Proposal		
The project could give rise to significant opportunities for Council staff to develop skills around partnership working with the private sector, community bodies and other public-sector bodies.	Opportunities to improve the delivery of services to rough sleepers and to develop a robust strategy to tackle rough sleeping across the district	The initiatives are designed with clear exit strategies and taking into account the current review of housing related support being undertaken by WCC

Supporting Strategies

- 4.3 Each strand of the FFF Strategy has several supporting strategies and the relevant ones for this proposal are explained here. The council adopted the current Housing and Homelessness Strategy in April 2017. This includes an objective of providing suitable accommodation, information and advice for the homeless in an effort to prevent and reduce homelessness and an action of "Implementing the extension of our legal duties to the homeless, including single people under the Homelessness Reduction Bill."

Changes to Existing Policies

- 4.7 There is nothing in this report which seeks to change existing Council policies. It does however set out how an existing action within the Housing & Homelessness Strategy is to be built upon and taken forward.

Impact Assessments

- 4.8 An impact assessment has not been completed because the proposals provide for a greater level of service and support for the homeless and potentially homeless and should therefore have positive impacts upon recipients of the service.

5. Budgetary Framework

- 5.1 Government grants for FHSG and for new burdens total £644,550 with recently announced additional FHSG for 2019/20 of £228,035. Executive in January 2018 approved spending of £371,910 for the period 2017-20 leaving an estimated uncommitted balance of £272,640 for the known FHSG allocation for 2017-19.

Progress has been made in seeking match funding from Warwickshire County Council (WCC) for the hostel of £100,000 in both years.

The total funding required is £550,600 for 2018/19 and £682,700 for 2019/20 for Warwick District. The MHCLG bid requires gross costs and therefore the bid will contain the full gross amount. The detail is identified in the table below.

Initiative	GF /	Funding	Funding
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	HRA	requirement 18/19	requirement 19/20*
Rough Sleepers Co-ordinator	GF	£32,000 (8 months - August start)	£49,100
Additional outreach worker Leamington	GF	£19,600 (8 months - August start)	£30,000
Housing First worker	HRA	£19,600 (7 months - September start)	£34,200
Shared Supported Housing	HRA	£21,600 (7 months - September start)	£37,700
Direct Access Hostel	HRA	£457,800 (7 months -September start)	£531,700
Total		£550,600	£682,700

* Inflation added at 2%.

5.2 The Direct Hostel will require 15 WTE of staffing in order to maintain a 24 hour service, at a full year cost of £491,000 in 2018/19 prices. Running costs for the property are forecast to be in the region of £30,000 p.a. It is expected that 22 rooms with service charges would generate approximately £130,000 income p.a. (with a 10% factor for voids); this has not been allowed for within the above figures.

6.2 Should the direct access hostel be supported, some minor works would be required of up to £50,000 to enable the increase in bed spaces to be made. This is contained within the above figures and would be funded from the Major Repairs Reserve.

6. Risks

6.1 The risks associated with this report relate to specific individual risks associated with each separate component scheme, with achieving the level of external funding that is being requested and with delivering the proposals effectively to execute a reduction in the numbers of people sleeping rough on our streets.

6.2 Taking each in turn, the risks relating to the operation of specific schemes have been considered and include risks associated with lone working and working with individuals who are actively drug users and/or have a history of violence or pose a risk to themselves. Officers are ensuring that operating organisations have up to date risk assessments in place alongside sufficient mechanisms to mitigate those risks.

6.3 The outcome of the bid to MHCLG will not be known until the end of June and it is not yet clear what timescales are required for WCC to determine our request for match funding of the direct access hostel. There is a possibility that MHCLG will not fund the proposals in their entirety and thereby put at risk the plans for achieving a reduction in street homelessness. Furthermore, MHCLG have stated that they are likely to only disclose the outcome of the bidding for 2018/19 funding. This presents risks to the recruitment of staff who are unlikely to apply

for a post lasting 6 months as they are for a post with a minimum of 18 months.

- 6.4 There is a risk that the council will not have the capacity to deliver the proposals and to sufficiently co-ordinate and plan work which moves rough sleepers into accommodation. In order to mitigate this risk, it is proposed to fund a rough sleeping co-ordinator to be employed by the council to take forward this work.

7. Alternative Option(s) considered

- 7.1 The Council could decide not to bid for funding from the governments Rough Sleepers Initiative or not to provide gap funding however this would do nothing to reduce the numbers of rough sleepers on the streets of our towns.
- 7.2 Careful consideration has been made of the need for a direct access hostel as this is the most expensive of the proposals. It was found that without the hostel, outreach workers would have no accommodation to offer to rough sleepers who are not ready to live independently when they transition from street living.
- 7.3 There are reputational risks for the council in not proceeding with the proposals given the levels of public sympathy towards rough sleepers that has grown considerably in recent months. Furthermore, the council's reputation with government departments and particularly MHCLG would be tarnished and could lead to being issued with a directive by the ministry.