

Decision under Delegated Powers

Officer Requesting Decision:

Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing – Alison Simmons

Officer Making the Decision:

Chief Executive – Rob Mitchell

Recommendation:

Following the successful MHCLG Rough Sleeping Initiative Fund bid for the revised pathway for rough sleepers across the LLR approve the:

- Extension and increase in hours of the CBC Lettings Officer post to 74 hours at Salary Grade E at a cost of £75,800 (including on-costs) plus 2 essential car user allowances at a cost of £2,800 for the period 01/04/2020 to 31/03/2021 (a total cost of £78,600).
- The deletion of the CBC Lettings Liaison Officer post at Salary Grade D with effect from 31/03/2020.

Reason:

To enable the continued delivery of the MHCLG funded Rough Sleeper Pathway across Leicestershire and Rutland in order to increase access to and the availability of accommodation in the private and social sectors for rough sleepers.

Authority for Decision:

Section 8 of the Council Constitution contains authority for the Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive) to agree changes to the establishment, within budget and without major service or policy implications, affecting no more than five posts (irrespective of their post number) in any single case (item 6 on page 8-4 of the Constitution).

Decision and Date:

Approved 11th June 2020

Background:

The District and Borough Councils within Leicestershire and Rutland County Council submitted a bid to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Rapid Rehousing Pathway Fund and were awarded funding for accommodation support services and the expansion of the CBC Lettings Service across Leicestershire and Rutland during 2019/2020, to enable the delivery of an accommodation pathway for rough sleepers.

The District and Borough Councils within Leicestershire and Rutland County Council submitted a further bid for a revised pathway to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Rough Sleeping Initiative Fund and were awarded funding for outreach, emergency accommodation, accommodation support services and the continued delivery of the CBC Lettings Service across Leicestershire and Rutland during 2020/2021, to enable the delivery of an enhanced accommodation pathway for rough sleepers.

Grant funding of £77,100 was awarded for the delivery of the CBC Lettings Service for rough sleepers across Leicestershire and Rutland for a period of 12 months during 2020-2021.

The 2020/2021 funding bid was coordinated by North West Leicestershire District Council and the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government therefore paid the grant to North West Leicestershire District Council. Charnwood Borough Council entered into an agreement with North West Leicestershire District Council for the transfer of the funding for the CBC Lettings element of the pathway.

During 2019/2020 the role of the CBC Lettings Team included the procurement of accommodation for rough sleepers and the provision of support to rough sleepers once accommodated.

During 2020/2021 the revised pathway requires CBC Lettings Team to focus on procuring accommodation, working with public and private sector landlords to increase the availability of accommodation for rough sleepers across Leicestershire and Rutland.

The support element of the pathway will now be provided by The Bridge East Midlands. The CBC Lettings Liaison Officer post is therefore being deleted and the hours for the CBC Lettings Officer post are being increased.

The CBC Lettings Team during 2020/2021 will consist of the CBC Lettings Coordinator (to manage the team and service and identify private sector properties for homeless households within Charnwood), and 2 FTE CBC Lettings Officers (to identify public and private sector properties for rough sleepers across Leicestershire and Rutland).

Summary of Advice Provided by HR:

HR Adviser: Anna Cairns (18/5/20)

The normal recruitment process should be followed regarding advertising the above posts.

If any of these posts are offered as secondments, a Variation eform will need to be completed.

Financial Implications:

The cost of 2 x FTE CBC Lettings Officer on scale E is £75,800 (including on-costs) plus 2 essential car user allowances at a cost of approximately £2,800 for the period 01/04/2020 to 31/03/2021 (a total cost of £78,600).

£77,100 Rough Sleeping Initiative Grant was awarded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for 2020-2021. This funding covers the majority of the total costs relating to the 2 x FTE CBC Lettings Officer posts for this period.

The remaining amount of £1,500 will be funded through the £141,844 Flexible Homelessness Support Grant as awarded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for 2020/2021.

Risk Management:

Risk Identified:	Likelihood:	Impact:	Risk Management Actions Planned:
This DD is not agreed and there will be insufficient resources for the delivery of a social lettings service within Charnwood and across Leicestershire and Rutland.	Medium	Medium	The funding can be returned to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (please note that there may be administrative charges relating to this).
It is not possible to recruit to the posts on fixed term contracts.	Low	Medium	Attempts to recruit temporary agency staff via Matrix (please note that this may have increased financial implications).

Key Decision: No

Background Papers: DD104 2019