

Decision under Delegated Powers

Officer Requesting Decision

Katie Moore – Housing Needs Manager

Officer Making the Decision

Alison Simmons – Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing

Recommendation

To approve the use of £68,000 of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Homelessness Prevention Grant award for the provision of emergency accommodation with support between 1st April 2021 and 31st March 2022.

Reason

To ensure the provision of emergency accommodation for single homeless persons, including those who are rough sleeping or at imminent risk of rough sleeping, located within Charnwood to enable the provision of meaningful advice and assistance by the Housing Options Team and assist the team to relieve homelessness.

Authority for Decision

Under section 8.3 of the Delegation of Executive Functions, the Chief Executive, Strategic Directors and Heads of Service have authority under item 7 (page 8-16) to submit bids for and enter into agreements for grants and other funding sources and this delegated decision sets out the manner in which the grant funding is to be spent.

Decision and Date



Alison Simmons
Head of Strategic and
Private Sector Housing

10th June 2021

Background

Housing authorities are required to ensure that suitable temporary accommodation is available for eligible homeless applicants who have a priority need under Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 (as amended). Wherever possible, this accommodation should be provided within the district of the housing authority.

Housing authorities are required to provide meaningful advice and assistance to all eligible homeless applicants (regardless of whether they have a priority need) in order to assist them to prevent or relieve their homelessness.

Housing authorities are required to provide advice on the prevention of homelessness and how to secure accommodation when homeless to all persons who are at risk of homeless or homeless within their district.

In some cases the Housing Options Team have difficulty providing meaningful advice and assistance, for example due to persons who are rough sleeping not having the facilities to maintain contact or due to persons who have complex needs being unable to engage without support. In some cases individuals are reluctant to accept offers of emergency accommodation located outside of Charnwood, due to concerns that they will be unable to maintain contact with existing services (such as benefit, probation services, drug and alcohol support services) and support networks (such as family and friends).

An emergency accommodation provision with support within Charnwood will assist the Housing Options Team to provide single homeless persons (including those who are rough sleeping or at imminent risk of rough sleeping) with meaningful advice and assistance and support them to transition from homelessness into longer-term accommodation.

Comments from HR

N/A

Financial Implications

Approximately £68,000 is required for the cost of 3 x emergency bedspaces with support for a period of 12 months.

£288,892 Homelessness Prevention Grant was awarded to Charnwood Borough Council by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for 2021-2022.

A sufficient amount of this grant award is still available to cover the costs associated with this request.

Risk Management

Risk Identified	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Management Actions Planned
This DD is not agreed and there is a lack of emergency accommodation with support within Charnwood. This could result in increased rough sleeping within Charnwood.	Medium	Medium	Attempt to increase bed and breakfast provision and floating support services within Charnwood (this would have cost implications, but there is likely to be sufficient funding available to cover these costs).

Key Decision:

No

Background Papers:

N/A

