

# 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 creation of a £50,000 Repossession and Eviction Prevention Grant Fund.

To approve the use of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Preventing Repossessions and Evictions Grant award and the the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government COVID Contain grant award for the costs associated with this request.

## Reason

To assist the Housing Options Team to successfully prevent households from becoming homeless from private sector accommodation.

## 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

9th July 2021

## **Background**

The main role of the Housing Options Team is to provide advice and assistance to persons who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in order to prevent and relieve homelessness within Charnwood.

The Housing Options Team has seen an increase in case loads during the COVID-19 pandemic. Further increases in case loads are expected over the coming months, due to anticipated increases in the number of households experiencing mortgage or rent arrears.

A Repossession and Eviction Prevention Grant Fund will assist the Housing Options Team to prevent households from becoming homeless from private sector accommodation. Grants will be provided to assist tenants of private rental accommodation to repay rent arrears and to assist owner-occupiers to repay mortgage arrears. Grant awards will be paid direct to landlords / mortgage providers.

The Repossession and Eviction Prevention Grant Fund will be £50,000 in total. All grant awards must be authorised by the Housing Needs Manager (or Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing).

Grants will only be awarded where all of the following apply:

- A homeless application has been made to Charnwood Borough Council and the prevention duty is owed by Charnwood Borough Council.
- The homeless applicant is a private sector tenant or an owner-occupier.
- The landlord / mortgage provider has agreed to cease re-possession / eviction action in exchange for the grant payment (landlords must agree to grant a new tenancy).
- The Council is satisfied that, following the grant award, the accommodation is likely to be suitable and affordable for the household for a period of at least 6 months.
- The Council is satisfied that, following the grant award, the accommodation is likely to be available for the household for a period of at least 6 months.
- A grant has not been awarded to the household within the previous 12 months.

## **Comments from HR**

N/A.

## **Financial Implications**

Approximately £50,000 is required for the costs associated with this request:

Charnwood Borough Council received £37,147 Preventing Repossession and Evictions Grant from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in 2012/2013. £20,000 of this grant is available to put towards this fund.

Charnwood Borough Council received £193,200 COVID Contain Grant from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in 2021/2022. £30,000 of this grant is available to put towards this fund.