



## DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE	FINANCE AND DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE	17 FEBRUARY 2020	5
<b>FINAL FYLDE COUNCIL HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY 2020-2025</b>			

### PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

### SUMMARY

A report introducing Fylde Council's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025 was presented for adoption to the Environment, Health and Housing Committee on the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020. The Strategy includes an overview of homelessness legislation since 1977 to present day, a picture of homelessness in the borough and achievements under the 2013-18 Homeless Strategy.

Government have supported local authorities with funding to implement the service changes required under the Homeless Reduction Act 2018 (HRA) and funding programmes the service has accessed for this purpose are detailed in the report. These include:

The Flexible Homelessness Support Grant (FHSG) is a new source of funding announced by Government in 2017. Funding has been received for 2019/20 of £42,766 plus a top up for grant funding of £11,000 for 2018/19, totalling £53,766.

New Burdens Funding was announced by Government on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017. The funding is an additional national funding to support all housing authorities in England in acknowledgement of the transitional support required by local authorities in implementing and managing the new processes and systems required to meet data requirements of the Homelessness Reduction Act. Fylde Council have been allocated an additional £17,155.

An additional figure of £2,000 has been awarded for Personal Budgeting Support under the Rapid Rehousing project, an initiative announced by Government in 2019 to end rough sleeping. This is funding that will enable additional one to one support and can include access to training/education, furnishing costs and other miscellaneous items that encourages clients to engage with the service and support them to make lifestyle choice changes.

The total amount of government grant funding that is now to be directed towards the Council's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy for the period 2020-2025 is the sum of the above amounts, £70,921; with a further £2,000 to be directed towards the Rapid Rehousing project.

## RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. Approve fully-funded revenue budget increases in the total sum of £70,921 for the period 2020/21 to 2022/23 (£23,640 in each of the years 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23) be funded by the Flexible Homeless Grant in the sum of £53,766 and by the New Burdens Grant in the sum of £17,155; and
2. Approve a fully-funded revenue budget increase for 2020/21 in the sum of £2,000 for the Rapid Rehousing project, to be funded by the Personal Budgeting Support grant.

## SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

[Policies on the Procurement and Allocation of Temporary Accommodation 23/02/2016](#)

[Lancashire Single Homelessness Initiative evaluation 06/09/2016](#)

[Fylde Coast Homeless Prevention Trailblazer 14/03/17](#)

[Homeless Reduction Act 2018](#)

[Fylde Coast Homelessness Trailblazer Evaluation 05/06/18](#)

[Final update on Fylde Homelessness Strategy 2013-18 06/11/2018](#)

[Fylde Council Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2015 draft for consultation 03/09/2019](#)

[Fylde Council Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025 07/01/2020](#)

## CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Spending your money in the most efficient way to achieve excellent services (Value for Money)	✓
Delivering the services that customers expect of an excellent council (Clean and Green)	✓
Working with all partners (Vibrant Economy)	✓
To make sure Fylde continues to be one of the most desirable places to live (A Great Place to Live)	
Promoting Fylde as a great destination to visit (A Great Place to Visit)	

## REPORT

### INTRODUCTION

#### Fylde Housing Service 2018/19

1. Within Fylde homeless presentations has increased by 155% from 89 in 2017/18, to 227 in 2018/19. However, the number of households to whom a statutory main duty has increased only slightly from 27 in 2018 from 89 presentations, to 30 in 2019 with 227 presentations. This is higher than previous years, but an explanation would be the introduction of the Homeless Reduction Act and customers facing homelessness being encouraged to approach local authorities for advice and assistance under prevention and relief duties.
2. Overall the service has seen a 170% increase in requests for housing assistance from 326 in 2017/18 to 802 in 2018/19. This has resulted in an overall increase in homeless presentations to the authority to whom either a prevention, relief duty or main housing duty is owed. Numbers of households assisted to remain in their own home has remained fairly static since 2016/17, but we have seen an increase in households being assisted into alternative accommodation during both prevention and relief duty stages.
3. In November 2019 the annual rough sleeper estimate was conducted in Fylde. This included contacting all partner agencies to identify rough sleepers in Fylde from midnight 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019 to 7am on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019. In 2017/18 and 2018/19 the rough sleeper counts were 2 known rough sleepers. In 2019/20 we have recorded 7 known rough sleepers, 2 females and 3 males all over 35 and known to the service. 6 out rough sleepers engage with the service regularly and have been offered B&B accommodation, and 4 have attended the tenancy training course.

## **Funding provided by Government to implement the Homeless Reduction Act 2018**

4. The Flexible Homelessness Support Grant (FHSG) is a new source of funding announced by Government in 2017. Local authorities were initially awarded this grant for a two year period from 2017/18 and 2018/19 and a fully funded revenue budget increase was approved by this Committee on the 07/11/2017 and full Council on the 04/12/2017. Funding has been received for 2019/20 of £42,766 plus a top up for grant funding of £11,000 for 2018/19.
5. New Burdens Funding was announced by Government on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017. The funding is an additional national funding to support all housing authorities in England in acknowledgement of the transitional support required by local authorities in implementing and managing the new processes and systems required to meet data requirements of the HRA Act. Fylde Council have been allocated an additional £17,155.

## **Funding accessed to support service provision**

6. Fylde Housing service has faced a number of challenges following the introduction of the new prevention and relief duties under the HRA 2018. In order to undertake this work and manage the increase in requests for housing assistance the local authority has been fortunate to access funding from a number of initiatives implemented by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government ('MHCLG') by working in partnership with neighbouring authorities. This funding has enabled the service to improve and develop in order to meet the challenges placed.
7. The following is a brief summary of funding accessed and the changes brought about to the service.
  - a. MHCLG awarded a total sum of £504,000 across all Lancashire authorities in respect of the Lancashire Single Homeless Project. Local authorities were arranged in Clusters to take responsibility for delivery of the programme – East, Central and North. The North Cluster had a total initially of £102,517 to pilot approaches to support single households across Lancashire for a period of 12 months.
  - b. In December 2016 Fylde BC, working jointly with Blackpool Council and Wyre Council were awarded two year Homeless Trailblazer funding from MHCLG. The aim of the funding was to develop innovative approaches to preventing homelessness by carrying out prevention activity earlier and work with a wider group of people and reduce the number of people who face a homelessness crisis in the first place. Fylde were awarded £120,000 (£60,000 2017/18 and £60,000 2018/19).
  - c. In December 2018 Fylde BC, working jointly with Lancaster City and Wyre Councils, were awarded one year Rapid Re-housing funding from MHCLG. The funding was launched as part of MHCLG Rough Sleeping Strategy in August 2018 and the commitment under the Rough Sleeping Strategy August 2018, to halve rough sleeping in the UK by 2022 and to end it by 2027. The pathway brings together 4 policy elements – somewhere safe to stay, supported lettings, navigators and local lettings agencies. The authorities were successful in the supported lettings and navigator policy elements. Fylde Council were awarded £30,000.
  - d. An additional figure of £2,000 has been awarded for Personal Budgeting Support under the Rapid Rehousing project. This is funding that will enable additional one to one support and can include access to training/education, furnishing costs and other miscellaneous items that encourages clients to engage with the service and support them to make lifestyle choice changes.

## **Fylde Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-24**

8. Our vision is to work to prevent and relieve homelessness in Fylde and provide homelessness services with our partners that are accessible, professional and make a difference. We will work to ensure all our clients facing homelessness have:
  - a. Access to expertise needed to enable clients to engage with a range services that will support them to resolve their housing situation and improve their health and well-being.
  - b. The confidence to access and maintain a tenancy with the skills required to ensure their home is affordable, settled and if they are facing difficulties know who to approach for help.

9. The Strategy has three strategic aims for Fylde Housing Services in order to achieve this vision and Appendix 1 contains an action plan that comments on how we will deliver these aims. Then action plan has been developed in partnership with Fylde Homeless Partnership group.
- Priority One – Developing a service that is focussed on preventing homelessness
  - Priority two – Developing a service that is focussed on relieving homelessness
  - Priority three – Partnership working to achieve our vision and values

## CONCLUSION

10. Finance and Democracy Committee are requested to approve:
- Approve fully-funded revenue budget increases in the total sum of £70,921 for the period 2019/20 to 2022/23 (£23,640 in each of the years 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23) to be funded by the Flexible Homeless Grant in the sum of £53,766 and by the New Burdens Grant in the sum of £17,155; and
  - Approve a fully-funded revenue budget increase for 2020/21 in the sum of £2,000 for the Rapid Rehousing project, to be funded by the Personal Budgeting Support grant.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	This report requests approval for fully-funded budget increases in the total sum of £72,921 as detailed in the report to be used to deliver initiatives within the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy as part of the continued implementation of the Homeless Reduction Act 2018 and the Rapid Rehousing project.
Legal	Legal requirement for local authorities to have a five year homelessness and rough sleeping strategy in place.
Community Safety	None
Human Rights and Equalities	Equality Impact Assessment on the 8 main characteristics required
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Fylde Homeless Strategy 2013-18	2013	www.fylde.gov.uk
Fylde Rough Sleeping and Homelessness Strategy 2020-2025	2019	