

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	FINANCE AND DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE	22 NOVEMBER 2021	9

FULLY FUNDED REVENUE BUDGET INCREASE - ACCOMODATION PROJECT FOR EX-OFFENDERS AND ROUGH SLEEPERS

PUBLIC ITEM

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

SUMMARY

The report details a request from the Environment, Health and Housing Committee, held on 2 November 2021, for approval to combine funding awarded under the Accommodation for Ex-Offenders scheme announced by MHCLG in 2021 with the Rough Sleeper Initiative funding received in 2021, to tender an external agency to run Fylde Rough Sleeper and Ex-Offenders Accommodation Project.

The Committee sought the approval of the Finance and Democracy Committee for a fully funded revenue budget increase in the sum of £34,172 to be fully funded by MHCLG Ex-Offenders Accommodation grant within the current Rough Sleeper Initiative scheme. The Environment, Health and Housing Committee approved the drawdown of the additional funding.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is requested to approve a fully funded revenue budget increase in 2021/22 for the total sum of £34,172 to be fully funded by the MHCLG Ex-Offenders Accommodation grant within the current Rough Sleeper Initiative scheme.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

itee/19/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx" [Final Fylde Council Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025 07/01/2020](#)

[MHCLG Next Steps Funding to support homeless households 19/10/2020](#)

Default.aspx" [Update 05/01/2021 Fylde Council Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025](#)

[Rough Sleeper Initiative Funding 2020/21 15/06/2021](#)

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	√
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	√
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	

REPORT

1. In April 2021 MHCLG launched a new scheme to provide additional funding to local authorities to support ex-offenders into their own Private Rented Sector (PRS) Tenancies. The scheme aims to build a pathway from prison into the PRS and is supported by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). The funding is to enable the introduction of new schemes specifically focused at supporting ex-offenders, increasing their access and sustainment of PRS tenancies.
2. Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre have had 378 prison releases from April 2020 to March 2021. Of this cohort approximately 50 were released to the boroughs of Fylde and Wyre, with 60% aged under 35.
3. Fylde Council working with Wyre Council applied via the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) for funding released from MHCLG, to provide additional funding to local authorities to support 50 service users, ex-offenders into their own Private Rented Sector (PRS) tenancies, across both authorities.
4. Funding was approved at a lower level to support 20 service users across both authorities in 21/22 and 22/23 totalling £68,345, split between both authorities. Fylde Council are to receive £34,172.
5. In 20/21 MHCHG announced continuation of the Rough Sleeper Initiative Funding at £27,000. The initial funding in 2019/20 enabled a Rapid Rehousing Officer to be employed to undertake support for clients presenting with multiple complex support needs, at risk of homelessness, or sleeping rough. This post has now been funded from other sources till 2026.
6. This proposal is to combine the 2 funding streams to create a new project to deliver an, "Accommodation project for rough sleepers and ex-offenders".
7. Combining the two funding streams will create a new project to deliver support to those customers who have a history of rough sleeping and offending to a value of £61,172. It is anticipated at the outset that the project will run for a two-year period and will deliver an additional supportive role to complement the statutory role that Fylde Council's Housing Advice and Homelessness Service delivers.
8. Members of the Finance and Democracy Committee are requested to approve a fully-funded revenue budget increase in 2021/22 for the total sum of £34,172 to be fully funded by MHCLG Ex-Offenders Accommodation grant within the current Rough Sleeper Initiative scheme.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	To request the Finance and Democracy Committee approval of a fully-funded revenue budget increase in 2021/22 for the total sum of £34,172 to be fully funded by MHCLG Ex-Offenders Accommodation grant within the current Rough Sleeper Initiative scheme and to appoint an external agency to work with Fylde Council Homelessness and Housing Advice service to support rough sleepers and ex-offenders into accommodation.
Legal	None arising from this report.
Community Safety	None arising from this report.
Human Rights and Equalities	None arising from this report.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None arising from this report.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None arising from this report.

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Accommodation for ex-offenders	April 2021	Scheme giving ex-offenders a stable place to live up and running - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
MHCLG Rough Sleepers Initiative Funding	2021-2022	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rough-sleeping-initiative-2021-to-2022-funding-allocations
MHCLG Rough Sleepers Initiative Funding	2020-2021	Rough Sleeping Initiative: 2020 to 2021 funding allocations - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)