



## DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE	FINANCE AND DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE	25 JANUARY 2021	8
<b>UPDATE 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

At its meeting on 5 January 2021 Environmental Health and Housing Committee noted an update on Fylde Council's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025. The Committee also considered proposals for re-allocation of funding from the Flexible Homelessness Support Grant (FHSG) and Homeless Reduction Act; new burdens funding (HRA) to meet service priorities.

**The Flexible Homelessness Support Grant (FHSG)** is a new source of funding announced by Government in 2017. The grant is paid direct to local authorities and is designed to transform the way councils fund homelessness services to give them greater flexibility to prioritise the prevention of homelessness.

**Homelessness Reduction Act: new burdens funding (HRA)** was announced by Government on the October 2017 and is paid direct to local authorities. The funding is an additional national funding to support all housing authorities in implementing and managing the new processes and systems required to meet data requirements of the Homelessness Reduction Act.

In December 2018 Fylde Council, working jointly with Lancaster and Wyre councils applied for and was awarded **Rapid Re-housing** funding to support the MHCLG Rough Sleeping Strategy 2018 to 2027. This funding has enabled a Rapid Rehousing Officer to be employed to undertake support for clients presenting with multiple complex support needs who are at risk of and rough sleeping. This post is funded till March 2022.

In October 2020 Fylde Council, working jointly with Wyre council applied for and was awarded **Next Steps** grant funding to help vulnerable accommodated as part of the Covid 19 emergency response. This funding secures financial assistance for additional temporary accommodation provision, financial support to secure and establish move on accommodation for clients and funds a Customer Services Housing Specialist role to deal with lower level housing enquiries immediately and expand on information provided by clients, to support Housing Officers. This post is currently funded to March 2021.

The Environment, Health and Housing Committee having considered the proposals recommended that Finance and Democracy Committee approve the FHSG and HRA funding for 2019/20 be re-allocated and funding for 2020/21 be allocated to; continue the funding of the Rapid Rehousing Officer post from 2022 to 2026 in line with MHCLG Rough Sleeping Strategy to 2027; be used to fund the Customer Services Housing Specialist Role for 12 months from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021; with the remainder to be used to continue to support clients facing homelessness.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Committee are requested to:

1. Approve fully funded revenue budget increases in the sums of £26,274 in 2022/23, £27,524 in 2023/24, £28,058 in 2024/25 and £28,604 in 2025/26 to continue the Rapid Rehousing Officer project to be met from a revision to the FHSG and HRA funding received in 2019/20, (approved by this Committee in February 2020 totalling £70,921) and in addition to this, funding received for 2020/21 of £69,421 under the FHSG and HRA. Totalling £140,343;
2. Approve a fully funded revenue budget increase in the sum of £13,201 in 2021/22 to continue the Customer Services Housing Specialist role within Customer Services for a further 12 months from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 to be met from the remaining FHSG and HRA funding for 2020/21; and
3. Approve a fully funded budget increase for 2021/22 for the housing services team such that the remainder of the funding in the sum of £16,682 from the FHSG and HRA funding may be used to support the work of the housing service to provide continued support for clients facing homelessness in 2021/22.

## SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

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

[EHH Recommendation to F&D for reallocation of funding 05/01/2021](#)

## 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

### Revision of MHCLG funding arrangements within the housing service

1. Grants to support homelessness and housing advice service provision by local authorities are received direct from Government and new grants are announced to tackle national pressures.
2. **The Flexible Homelessness Support Grant (FHSG)** is a new source of funding announced by Government in 2017. The grant is paid direct to local authorities and is designed to transform the way councils fund homelessness services to give them greater flexibility to prioritise the prevention of homelessness. **Homelessness Reduction Act: new burdens funding (HRA)** 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 implementing and managing the new processes and systems required to meet data requirements of the Homelessness Reduction Act.
3. This report recommends a revision to the FHSG and HRA funding received in 2019/20, (approved by this Committee in February 2020 totalling £70,921) and in addition to this, funding received for 2020/21 of £69,421 under the FHSG and HRA. Totalling £140,343.
4. It is requested the funding be used to continue the Rapid Rehousing Officer post for from 2022 to 2026, in line with MHCLG Rough Sleeping Strategy to 2027 and be used to fund the Customer Services Housing Specialist Role for 12 months from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021. The remaining funds to be used to support the work of the housing service to provide continued support for clients facing homelessness in 2021/22.
5. In December 2018 Fylde Council, working jointly with Lancaster City and Wyre councils bid for and was awarded **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

half 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.

6. This funding has enabled a Rapid Rehousing Officer to be employed to undertake support for clients presenting with multiple complex support needs. The role supports rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping, for example clients with a history of failed tenancies and leaving institutional care, throughout the process of locating and obtaining accommodation, supports them in the transition from being susceptible to rough sleeping into managing and/or maintaining a tenancy. This post is funded till March 2022.
7. In October 2020 Fylde Council, working jointly with Wyre Council, bid for and was awarded **Next Steps** grant funding to help vulnerable accommodated as part of the Covid 19 emergency response. This funding secures financial assistance for additional temporary accommodation provision, financial support to secure and establish move on accommodation for clients and funds a Customer Services Housing Specialist role to deal with lower level housing enquiries immediately and expand on information provided by clients, to support the Homeless Service. This post is currently funded to March 2021.

### Conclusion

8. Committee are requested to recommend the proposals for re-allocated of funding to projects from the Flexible Homelessness Support Grant (FHSG) and Homeless Reduction Act; new burdens funding (HRA).
9. Approve fully funded revenue budget increases in the sums of £26,274 in 2022/23, £27,524 in 2023/24, £28,058 in 2024/25 and £28,604 in 2025/26 to continue the Rapid Rehousing Officer project to be met from a revision to the FHSG and HRA funding received in 2019/20, (approved by this Committee in February 2020 totalling £70,921) and in addition to this, funding received for 2020/21 of £69,421 under the FHSG and HRA. Totalling £140,343;
10. Approve a fully funded revenue budget increase in the sum of £13,201 in 2021/22 to continue the Customer Services Housing Specialist role within Customer Services for a further 12 months from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 to be met from the remaining FHSG and HRA funding for 2020/21; and
11. Approve a fully funded budget increase for 2021/22 for the housing services team such that the remainder of the funding in the sum of £16,682 from the FHSG and HRA funding may be used to support the work of the housing service to provide continued support for clients facing homelessness in 2021/22.
12. Table 1 below provides the proposed breakdown of the funding for posts and support from 2021/22 to 2025/26.

**Table 1: Breakdown of funding for posts**

	<u>2021 / 22</u>	<u>2022 / 23</u>	<u>2023 / 24</u>	<u>2024 / 25</u>	<u>2025 / 26</u>	<u>2026 / 27</u>	
Rapid Re-housing (scale 5 - 30 Hrs)	0	24,274	25,524	26,058	26,604	0	
Rapid Re-housing Support Budget		2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	0	
Housing Options (Scale 4 - 50%)	13,201	0	0	0	0	0	
Balance to support housing services	16,682						
	29,883	26,274	27,524	28,058	28,604	0	
							140,342
Funding :							
Committee Approval Feb 2020	70,921						
20.21 FHSG & HRA	69,421						
	140,342						

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	This report requests a number of fully-funded revenue budget increases in the total sum of £140,343 as detailed within the report, to support the work of the housing service, all funded budget increases to be met from the FHSG and HRA funding received in 2019/20, (approved by this Committee in February 2020 totalling £70,921) and the funding in the sum of £69,421 also received from the FHSG and HRA.
Legal	None
Community Safety	None
Human Rights and Equalities	None
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 Council Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2015	January 2020	<a href="#">Fylde Council Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2015</a>
Fylde Council Tenancy Support Policy	January 2020	<a href="#">Fylde Council Tenancy Support Policy</a>
MHCLG Rough Sleeping Strategy	August 2018	<a href="#">MHCLG The Rough Sleeping Strategy</a>