

DIRECTOR OF HOUSING SERVICES REPORT

1. SUMMARY

1.1 This report provides Board members with an update on strategic and key issues in relation to Housing Services.

1.2 The report responds to issues raised in the Derby News article of 16 April 2023.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 To note the Rough Sleeping Initiative Targeted Top-up Bid submission 2023-25.

2.2 To note progress in the development of a Single Homeless Accommodation Programme, (SHAP), bid.

2.3 To note the response to issues raised in the Derby News Article of 16 April 2023

3. REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION

3.1 To ensure that the Board have sufficient oversight on progress to achieve targets within the Delivery Plan 2022/23.

3.2 To ensure that Board members have sufficient oversight of matters which can affect the reputation of Derby Homes.

4. ROUGH SLEEPING INITIATIVE TARGETED TOP-UP BID SUBMISSION

4.1 On 10 March 2023, the Government invited applications for Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) Targeted Top-up Funding. The Department of Levelling Up Housing And Communities, (DLUHC), encouraged Derby to submit a bid.

4.2 This targeted top-up bid would, if successful, be in addition to Derby's existing Rough Sleeping Initiative 5 grant award of £2,785,600 covering the period 1 July 2022 to 31 March 2025.

4.3 RSI Targeted Funding is a 2-year funding opportunity to provide additional support. The closing date for applications is 14 April 2023. This bid opportunity is available to cover the delivery period 1 July 2023 to 31 March 2025, to run alongside the existing RSI 5 award 2022-25.

- 4.4 On 12 April 2023, Council Cabinet approval was sought and obtained, to submit a targeted RSI funding grant bid, up to a maximum of £450,000.
- 4.5 The bid submission was made on 13 April 2023. Key components of the bid were as follows:

Request for Targeted Funding	2023/24 9-month value	2024/25
Multiple complexities accommodation (25 additional units).	£91,050	£121,400
2.5 FTE to create Homeless Prevention Team for Private Sector.	£68,358	£99,348
2023/24 training costs for all RS facing frontline staff.	£15,000	£0
Reflective practice for frontline staff every month.	£3,600	£4,800
Clinical MDT continuation for 1 year.	£15,000	£0
Rough Sleeper Voice Project	£30,000	
TOTAL requested	£223,009	£225,548
2-year value	£448,557	

- 4.6 The bid, if successful, will ensure we are able to continue to support some of our most vulnerable citizens. The bid enables the Council to continue to offer accommodation and support, appropriate to the needs of rough sleepers, those at risk of rough sleeping, and those recovering from rough sleeping.
- 4.7 The bid, if successful, will ensure that we are able to continue to capitalise on the gains made so far in ending rough sleeping in Derby.

5. SINGLE HOMELESSNESS ACCOMODATION PROGRAMME (SHAP)

- 5.1 On 3 September 2022, the Government published their Rough Sleeping Strategy, within it, they announced an ambition to create an additional 2,400 long term supported homes for those with the most complex needs.
- 5.2 On 4 January 2023, the Single Homeless Accommodation Programme bid opportunity opened.
- 5.3 The objective of SHAP, is to increase the supply of high-quality accommodation with accompanying support, to address gaps in homelessness pathway provision. SHAP will be targeted and two groups; those with the longest histories of rough sleeping, or the most complex needs, to help them recover from rough sleeping, and its associated traumas; and vulnerable young people, (aged 18-25 years), at risk of or experiencing homelessness or rough sleeping. The focus will be on longer-term accommodation.
- 5.4 Capital funding has been made available until 2024/25, with three years of accompanying revenue funding or support services. Access to this funding is

through competitive bid and must include a strategic gap analysis, alongside capital and revenue funding bids.

5.5 Bidding for SHAP opened in January 2023 and remains open for up to 12 months, subject to available funds.

5.6 We are working with the Council and partners to develop bids for each target group, as follows:

- Those with the longest histories of rough sleeping or the most complex needs, to help them recover from rough sleeping and its associated traumas.

We have an identified gap in our housing pathways for those suffering severe and multiple disadvantaged, (SMD), including long histories of rough sleeping, complex health, and/or, social care needs; often substance misuse problems, and with presenting behaviours that result in high levels of accommodation pathway failures, repeat cycles, or rough sleeping, and where existing pathway provision cannot be sustained for any length of time. We estimate a cohort of between 12-18 at any one time, circling the homeless and rough sleeping system.

We are developing a bid for capital and revenue funding to support a housing pathway for this cohort. Entry criteria is likely to be care act need and suffering SMD. We have identified a potential building, which the Council are negotiating the purchase of, and have obtained commitment from social care to fund specialist care providers. The focus of this pathway would be reablement, but there is acceptance some will stay longer and require end of life care. The average life expectancy for a homeless person living on the streets is 47 years. Therapeutic recovery teams would be brought on-site to work with residents on issues such as controlling substances, life skills and peer support. We anticipate a seamless link with substance misuse services, where residents would not need to leave the site to access these services.

- Young people at risk of, or experiencing homelessness, or rough sleeping.

We have an identified gap in our housing pathways, in relation to those entering the care system at an older age, often as a result of criminality and subsequent relationship breakdown with family. For these young people, presentations of homelessness can occur sooner than they are ready for independent living and can be accompanied by presenting behaviours that can lead to loss of existing pathway placements and repeat cycles, or rough sleeping. Numbers are small, but we believe a suitable longer-term accommodation and support pathway offering of up to six young people, at any one time, is needed. We are working with partners to further develop the scope of this pathway and are actively considering the availability of suitable properties.

5.7 We hope to be able to submit bids by the end of July 2023.

6. DERBY NEWS ARTICLE – 16 APRIL 2023

6.1 On becoming aware of the above article, a full investigation was undertaken to address the allegations made by the author. A copy of the article and the report produced in response has been circulated to the Board and Council Officers.

7. IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The Council

The submission of the targeted RSI top-up grant bid was approved by The Cabinet on 23 April 2023.

7.2 FINANCIAL AND RISK

The intention is to passport any targeted RSI top-up grant award over to Derby Homes, who will be responsible to deliver the scheme in-line with the grant conditions. Therefore, it is Derby Homes who are bearing the financial risk of incurring costs in excess of the grant award, repayments of any grant not spent, or repayment of any grant not spent, in-line with grant conditions.

The areas listed below have no implications directly arising from this report:

Legal
Delivery Plan
Personnel
Environmental
Health and Safety
Policy Review
Consultation
Equality Act

For more information please contact:

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Background information: NA

List of appendices NA

This report has been approved by the following

Managing Director	Maria Murphy	09.05.2023
Finance Director/Derby Homes Accountant	Michael Kirk	05.05.2023
Governance Services	Chloe Gaskell	09.05.2023