



Report to Policy Committee

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Report of: Janet Sharpe

Report to: Finance Sub Committee

Date of Decision: 27/07/2022

Subject: Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme-
July/Great Places Acceptance

Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given? <i>(Drafted but no number assigned yet)</i>				
Has appropriate consultation taken place?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has a Climate Impact Assessment (CIA) been undertaken?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If YES, give details as to whether the exemption applies to the full report / part of the report and/or appendices and complete below:-				
<p><i>“The (report/appendix) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (insert relevant paragraph number) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).”</i></p>				

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of the report is to accept funding from the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme to be transferred to Great Places Registered Provider who will be delivering 8 units for move on accommodation for rough sleepers.

A total of £482,219 has been awarded for the proposal. This includes £399,000 grant funding for Great Places to deliver the units and £83,219 grant revenue funding to employ a Tenancy Support Worker to work full time with the tenants of the units.

Recommendations:

1. To accept grant funding of £83,219 by entering into a grant agreement with DLUHC, as detailed and set out within this report.

Background Papers:

(Insert details of any background papers used in the compilation of the report.)

Lead Officer to complete:-	
1	I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed, where required.
	Finance: (Mark Wassell)
	Legal: (Henry Watmough-Cownie)
	Equalities & Consultation: (Louise Nunn)
	Climate: <i>(na)</i>
	<i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i>
2	EMT member who approved submission: <i>(Ajman Ali, Executive Director of Operational Services)</i>
3	Committee Chair consulted: <i>Councillor Zahira Naz</i>
4	I confirm that all necessary approval has been obtained in respect of the implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist and that the report has been approved for submission to the Committee by the EMT member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1.
	Lead Officer Name: <i>(Suzanne Allen)</i>
	Job Title: <i>(Head of Citywide Housing Services)</i>
	Date: <i>(19/07/2022)</i>

1. PROPOSAL

1.1 The proposal is to accept 3 year grant funding (£83,219) from DLUHC's Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme and transfer this to Great Places for them to employ a tenancy support worker to support 8 units for rough sleeper move on accommodation

1.2 Background

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and Homes England have made funds available for bids to provide Move on Accommodation for rough sleepers or those at risk of rough sleeping. Revenue funding is also available for associated support services including tenancy support workers.

The majority of the funding is available for schemes which are completed and ready for use by April 2022. Revenue grant funding (£83,219) for associated support services is available for the financial years 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24.

As part of the process the Council considered all options for delivering move on accommodation. We felt that our properties and future acquisitions would be better used for the wider cohort.

We also contacted several Registered Providers to consider whether they could deliver any units. Great Places were the only RP who felt they could deliver properties within the timeframe.

Sheffield City Council have therefore placed a bid on behalf of Great Places Registered Provider which has been successful. The proposal is broken down into two sections, a grant (£399,000) paid from DLUHC to Great Places for the delivery of the properties and also a revenue grant (£83,219) paid by DLUHC to SCC, who will then pay over to Great Places and for support services, discussed further below:

DLUHC Grant for Delivery to Great Places (£399,000):

- 6 purchase and repair units. These will be acquired on the open market and brought up to a lettable standard. They will be 1 bed units. These will be available for move on accommodation for 30 years as per the requirement of the bid.
- 2 properties to be repurposed from Great Places existing stock.

A total of £399,000 grant funding has been awarded for the above. This will be transferred directly from DLUHC to Great Places. SCC will have no involvement with this specific grant and no responsibility for the delivery.

- DLUHC Grant to SCC then paid to Great Places (£83,219)

1 x Full Time Tenancy Support Worker (21/22 to 2023/24)

The tenancy support worker will support individuals to feel happier and safer in their homes, reduce feelings of social isolation and develop community connections and personal goals. They will offer personalised support to help individuals achieve the following key outcomes; an improvement in levels of tenancy sustainment; an improvement in individual's feelings regarding their social wellbeing and general levels of health; increased levels of confidence individuals have in achieving their own personal aspirations; and move on into settled accommodation within 2 years and prevent return to the streets.

The DLUHC grant of £83,219 has been awarded for the above post over a three-year period which will be paid by annual payment profile as below:

2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
£16,251	£33,152	£33,816

The Council will upon receipt of this grant annually transfer it to Great Places to spend on a tenancy support worker. It is requested that approval is granted to:

Immediately transfer the 2021/22 funding of £16,251 to Great Places for them to employ a Tenancy Support Worker and approve the transfers of £33,152 in 2022/23 and £33,816 once these grant monies are received

There will be a grant agreement between the Council and DLUHC. This is a formal document which sets out the terms and conditions upon which the funding is provided. The responsibility for delivering the project will still remain with Great Places.

The properties will be used for rough sleepers to bridge the gap between temporary accommodation and a longer-term tenancy. Tenancies for these properties will be up to a maximum of 2 years and the support will be much higher than in a general needs placement of social housing.

When working with RP's on this the Council have initially outlined our preference for 1 bed properties across the city. We have also outlined the following criteria for properties to meet the needs of the cohort:

- Dispersed and not part of another scheme for vulnerable people
- Outside of the city centre and not within ½ a mile of the ring road
- No shared facilities
- Own separate entrance
- RP's to provide their own infrastructure including support workers.

These units will provide accommodation and floating support to rough sleepers who are ready for move-on accommodation. This will form a key part of the rough sleeper pathway and help users to prepare to live independently. We envisage that each Rough Sleeper will have been either in emergency accommodation or supported housing and be ready to move. Each tenancy will be for up to 2 years. The acquired properties will need to be available to rough sleepers for 30 years.

1.3 Related bids

The outcomes of the September round of funding has recently been announced. Within this round SCC have successfully bid for a private sector leasing scheme. This will be for 15 units and will have 2 tenancy support workers.

SCC will be responsible for the delivery of the scheme. We will go out to tender for private landlord to provide the units on a lease.

Fixed 2 year tenancies will be issued with individuals supported to further develop independent living skills. They will be supported to move from this accommodation to another tenancy of their choice that most meets their needs releasing the accommodation for another individual.

Support services will be provided in house by the Council enabling continuity of support where individuals have already established relationships with our rough sleeper services. This will form a key part of the rough sleeper pathway and enable users to prepare to live independently over a longer period than time limited floating support or very intensive support services.

We have also submitted a bid for the April round of funding, this is awaiting a decision.

2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE ?

- 2.1 The proposal will meet the aim in the one-year plan to 'Support people with routes out of homelessness and rough sleeping with emergency and temporary accommodation in Sheffield.' It will provide 8 units which will be used for move on accommodation for rough sleepers.

Rough sleepers will be supported with their tenancy as part of the revenue aspect of the bid.

3. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?

- 3.1 Rough sleepers have previously been consulted and have indicated a preference for dispersed properties. We have incorporated these views into our bid submission.

4. RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

4.1 Equality Implications

- 4.1.1 A draft EIA has been completed with the information we have. However currently there are no direct negative impacts on any of the Protected Characteristic groups.
Regular updates will be carried out and if necessary the draft EIA will be updated and once this is agreed the EIA will be added to the Sharepoint site and a reference number will be generated.

4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

- 4.2.1 Key features (not exclusive) of the draft grant terms are summarised below and a finalised version is awaited. The Grant Manager will need to read, understand and comply with all of the terms and conditions and ensure that there are no ongoing unfunded costs once the project has ended.

-The grant (£83,219) is ring-fenced to support delivery of the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP) from 21/22 to 23/23 and will be paid to Great Places by SCC each year of the project.

-Grant to be spent as per funding principles in the Programme guidance (see link):

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907977/NSAP_Guidance.pdf

-Each RSAP Rent Dwelling must use the most appropriate form of tenancy as per the terms of the Tenancy Standard and the efficient use of public funds, and must be in compliancy with the eligible tenancies guidance. See link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/next-steps-accommodation-programme-guidance-and-proposal-templates/letting-accommodation-funded-through-the-rough-sleeping-accommodation-programme-guidance-for-local-authorities-and-private-registered-providers>

- Grant recipient must meet agreed milestones, monitoring requirements and achieve the objectives set out in in the application, delivery plan/monitoring reports.

-Grant recipients to report progress v revenue schemes on a monthly basis for the duration of the programme, including progress v delivery milestones agreed.

-Comply with any additional DLUHC monitoring / reporting requirements

- Any changes to the grant, budget, delivery plan or delivery timings must be agreed by DLUHC in advance.

-Chief Internal Auditor is required to sign and return to DLUHC an audit declaration by 14/04/2021 (see details)

- Grant is subject to clawback if grant terms and conditions are not complied with.

Commercial Implications

All public sector procurement is governed by and must be compliant with the Grant Agreement and UK National Law. In addition, all procurement in SCC must comply with its own Procurement Policy, and internal regulations known as 'Contracts Standing Orders' (CSOs).

- CSO requirements will apply in full to the procurement of services, goods or works utilising grants. All grant monies must be treated in the same way as any other Council monies and any requirement to purchase / acquire services, goods or works must go via a competitive process

4.3 Legal Implications

4.3.1 Funding is to be provided under s31 of the Local Government Act 2003, paid to a local authority towards expenditure incurred by it, in this case for the purpose of Rough Sleeping Accommodation.

Utilising the grant money for the purposes set out in this report will assist the Council meeting its statutory obligations under the Housing Act 1996 and Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.

The Council is permitted to carry out such activities by the General Power of Competence contained in the Localism Act 2011, subject to any specific statutory restrictions, none of which apply in this particular matter.

Legal Services have had sight of the Agreement and do not need to comment further than what has been set out above.

4.4 Climate Implications

4.4.1 N/A

4.5 Other Implications

N/A

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 Not Accept and Transfer the funding

Without accepting and transferring the funding the support element of the programme would not be deliverable. This option was therefore

discounted.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1

- There is a high need for move on accommodation for rough sleepers in the city. Great Places will provide the units for the accommodation and employ the Tenancy Support workers. The responsibility for delivery will be on Great Places rather than the Council which reduces the risk.
- The Council has a large amount of pressure for 1 bed properties which comes from a wider group than just the need from rough sleeper. This will allow the Council to use our 1 bed stock for the wider group and not tie them up for 30 years for move on.
- By partnering with RPs and them providing the move on accommodation for rough sleepers with lower levels of need (medium), we can diversify the offer in Sheffield whilst focusing our own efforts on to our other forms of Temporary Accommodation. This will provide a better mix of accommodation across the city and give customers more of a choice