

South Lakeland District Council
Delegated Executive Decision
Date of Proposed Decision: 10 September 2020
Rapid Rehousing Pathway

Portfolio:	Housing and Innovation - Cllr Jonathan Brook
Decision Maker:	Simon Rowley – Director of Customer and Commercial Services
Report Author:	Vicky McDonald – Operational Lead Customer Services, Julie Jackson Principal Specialist (People)
Wards:	All wards
Forward Plan:	Key – for Forward Plan to be published 11 August 2020

1.0 Expected Outcome

This report is to note the receipt of grant funding for year 1 of the Rapid Rehousing Pathway Local Lettings Scheme (which has already been received and committed) and to seek approval for funding of year 2 of the same Scheme that is grant funded through MHCLG (following a successful bid by Carlisle City Council as accountable body on behalf of a county-wide collaboration of districts) until March 2021. This work has opened up access to the private rented market for those people within our communities facing homelessness. The monies for year 1 have already been paid by Carlisle City Council to SLDC and committed for the Scheme and the monies for the second round of the scheme have been released by MHCLG and sit with Carlisle City Council awaiting signature of the appropriate agreement between the SLDC and Carlisle. This report seeks authority for the terms and conditions of the appropriate agreements to be completed and signed on behalf of SLDC. As a result of the successful second round of funding, the total overall receipt for the Scheme (across years one and two) is £106,994. It is expected that receipt of these further monies will assist in homeless households accessing accommodation in the private rented sector.

2.0 Proposed Decision

2.1 It is proposed:-

- (1) To note receipt by the Council of grant funding for year 1 and approve year 2 funding in respect of the Rapid Rehousing Pathway project, following successful bids by Carlisle City Council to MHCLG on behalf of the Districts; ;**
- (2) that the Director of Customer and Commercial Services in conjunction with the Lead Specialist Legal Governance and Democracy enter into the appropriate agreements on behalf of the Council to receive and administer the grant funding for years one and two of the Rapid Rehousing Pathway project;**

3.0 Background and Proposals

- 3.1 MHCLG opened up a round of funding named the Rapid Rehousing Pathway which was for all councils across England to apply to in order to reduce rough sleeping and homelessness across their areas. Carlisle City Council submitted a bid on behalf of the Cumbria Districts (Allerdale Borough Council, Carlisle City Council, Copeland Borough Council, Eden District Council and SLDC), which was successful and MHCLG agreed to award funds to Carlisle as the accountable body. SLDC's allocated funding (which was paid and committed) was for £38,220 to work with Eden council to have a local lettings scheme which would increase access into the private rented sector for those individuals either rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping.
- 3.2 Later, a further bid for funding was submitted by Carlisle on behalf of some of the Cumbria Districts for additional funding for the project. That further bid was successful, in which SLDC was awarded £68,774. The present position is that the first year of the Rapid Rehousing Pathway project has already been delivered and we are part way through in the delivery of year two.
- 3.3 The scheme has worked extremely well with targets being met within the initial 6 months. South Lakeland District Council's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019 to 2024 sets out a key action to 'develop the work of Government funded initiatives that support rough sleepers across Cumbria. This work is consistent with meeting the Strategy's priorities which are:
- Homelessness prevention;
 - Increasing the supply of settled accommodation;
 - Ensuring the right support is available to those that need it;
 - Tackling complex needs.
- 3.4 This funding will continue to support the Council in its role in tackling homelessness and rough sleeping.

4.0 Consultation

The bid was proposed on the homelessness data for South Lakeland District Council and an identified gap in the accessibility of private rented accommodation in consultation with the other District Councils in Cumbria.

5.0 Alternative Options

- 5.1. The Council could decide not to accept the monies available for year 2 but this is not recommended as it would not support the work of the Private Rented Accommodation Officer, Support Officer and Rough Sleeping Co-Ordinator currently in post to reduce homelessness and rough sleeping in South Lakeland. At the time there were no other options available to the council.

6.0 Links to Council Priorities

Within the Homeless and Rough Sleeping Strategy for South Lakeland District council there are 4 key priorities which are:

- Homeless prevention
- Increase the supply of settled accommodation
- Ensuring the right support is available to those that need it
- Tackling complex needs

The proposal for year 2 will help in the delivery of these priorities. The proposal will also help in the delivery of the Council Plan's aim to provide 'homes to meet need'. The Homeless and Rough Sleeping Strategy can be found at the link below.

<https://democracy.southlakeland.gov.uk/documents/s25966/Draft%20South%20Lakeland%20District%20Council%20Homelessness%20Strategy%202019%20-%202024%20-%20Appendix%201.pdf>

7.0 Implications

Financial, Resources and Procurement

- 7.1 SLDC, as part of a county wide Rapid Rehousing Pathway funding bid, received a total of £68,744 to be spent in 2020/2021 from MHCLG, made up of £62,744 for 1.5 FTE supported lettings officers, and £6,000 personalised budget/crisis fund (to support 20 people at £300 each). This funding has been allocated to employ a part time position hosted by Impact Housing Association, a temporary Accommodation Support Officer based at Town View Fields. In addition to this, the homelessness budget has been increased by a further £150,000, to support additional COVID-19 related expenditure. This was approved by Cabinet on 20/05/2020.

Human Resources

- 7.2 SLDC have currently employed a shared full time post and 0.8 FTE support worker, hosted by Impact Housing Association. A recruitment process is underway for a further full-time support worker.

Legal

- 7.3 When the receipt of project funding by SLDC for year 1 was agreed and implemented (it has now been spent), this matter was not considered to be a Key Decision because of the level of funding involved for year 1. Since then (and before the funding agreement with Carlisle for the project has been finalised) the bid for year 2 funding has been successful. Taken separately, the year 2 funding is also beneath the Key Decision threshold. For consistency it is proposed that one grant agreement may be entered into to address both funding awards across both years of the project.
- 7.4 Legal Services will ensure that the appropriate legal agreements are entered into and will also advise on any further agreements to be put in place in relation to the Repaid Rehousing Project.

Health, Social, Economic and Environmental

- 7.4 Have you completed a Health, Social, Economic and Environmental Impact Assessment? No
- 7.5 If you have not completed an Impact Assessment, please explain your reasons: We are already in the second year of the pilot
- 7.6 Summary of health, social, economic and environmental impacts: It is expected that the proposal will have a positive effect on health impacts through the provision of support to homeless individuals.

Equality and Diversity

- 7.7 Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis? No
- 7.8 If you have not completed an Impact Assessment, please explain your reasons: The pilot is already underway.
- 7.9 Summary of equality and diversity impacts: It is expected that the proposal will have a positive effect on equality and diversity through the support of individuals with protected characteristics such as disability.

Risk

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
Posts arising from funding received are not turned around quickly.	Funding could be lost in 2020 to 2021 and individuals would not receive support in their situation.	Engagement underway with Human Resources and Legal Services
Accommodation is not found.	Homeless households may not have move on accommodation or temporary accommodation.	Early engagement with Registered Providers, private landlords and empty home owners.
Lack of engagement from other agencies such as Health and Social Care.	Essential wraparound support is not available for homeless households along with the support provided through the RRP.	Continue meeting with the Health and Homeless multi-agency group.
Covid-19 issues result in delays to the appointment process and scheme.	Funding could be lost in 2020 and 2021 and individuals would not receive the support that they need.	Proceed with the recruitment process and continue engagement with Human Resources and Legal Services.

Contact Officers

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Tracking Information

Signed off by	Date sent	Date Signed off
Legal Services	5.8.20	11/08/20
Section 151 Officer	5.8.20	25/08/20
Monitoring Officer	5.8.20	11/08/20
CMT	13.8.20	13.8.20

Circulated to	Date sent
Lead Specialist	N/A
Human Resources Lead Specialist	5.8.20
Communications Team	5.8.20
Leader	N/A
Committee Chairman	N/A
Portfolio Holder	5.8.20
Ward Councillor(s)	N/A
Committee	N/A
Executive (Cabinet)	N/A
Council	N/A

Note – Report authors must consult the relevant Portfolio Holder, members of the Corporate Management Team, the Monitoring Officer, and any other interested parties before a decision can be taken. If any objections are received, they must be reported at the meeting before the decision is taken.

Signed by:-	Title:-