

Decision Pathway Report



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 03 July 2018

TITLE	Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) Targeted funding 2018-19 bid		
Ward(s)	Citywide		
Author: Hywel Caddy	Job title: Senior Commissioning Officer		
Cabinet lead: Paul Smith	Executive Director lead: Patsy Mellor		
Proposal origin: Other			
Decision maker: Cabinet Member			
Decision forum: Cabinet			
<p>Purpose of Report: Approval to spend grant funding from the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). A bid was submitted on 18th May 2018 that was approved by the Executive Director for Communities applying for a total of £624,712 for additional resources to reduce rough sleeping in the City in the winter of 2018-19. MHCLG have confirmed an award of £583,202 on 11th June.</p>			
<p>Evidence Base:</p> <p>Bristol has seen a massive increase in homelessness and rough sleeping since 2012 as a result of housing supply issues and rents outstripping wages and benefits. In November 2017 the annual rough sleeping count (on a given night) returned to the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) was 86.</p> <p>A multi-agency partnership was formed in the city in December 2015 to put in place an action plan to reduce rough sleeping. The action plan has been effective in stemming the increase in rough sleepers but additional resources are needed to make a tangible reduction in the levels of rough sleeping in the city.</p> <p>The effective partnership response and services has been recognised by MHCLG who have invited Bristol City Council to support MHCLG and the Rough Sleeping and Homelessness Reduction Taskforce (RSHRT) to develop a National Strategy to reduce rough sleeping in July 2018.</p> <p>MHCLG has noted that there have been significant recent increases in rough sleeping and have made available £30 million to local authorities (LA's) that have rough sleeping counts above 19, totalling 80 English LAs. The process for applying for grants to assist in making a significant reduction in rough sleeping during the 2018-19 winter was a very short timeframe (just over two weeks). Given the bid timescales, it was not possible to fully comply with the internal protocol for applying for grant funding from Europe or Government and delegated authority to approve the bid was delegated to the Executive Director for Communities.</p> <p>Funding proposals to the Commissioning and Procurement Group where necessary. The projects need to be started in September in order to have an impact in reducing rough sleeping in the coming winter and will be ending in March 2019.</p> <p>Two members of staff from the Homelessness Advice and Support Team (HAST) from MHCLG met with BCC Officers and Preventing Homelessness Service providers to discuss what gaps in services there are in Bristol and what additional resources are needed to make a significant reduction in rough sleeping in the coming winter. The following areas were agreed and submitted in the bid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A move on navigator team to provide assertive support to help people move on from supported housing, 			

including a move on incentives pot for tenants and landlords to facilitate move-on and resettlement.

- Targeted specialist psychological support for high risk clients with high level complex needs relating to Personality Disorder/Complex Mental Health issues, who are 'stuck' in level 1 Pathway services and not engaging in the move on process.
- Extending the Golden Key Housing First programme with housing support for an additional 10 units.
- A post focussing on working with people sleeping rough in known 'hotspots' in the city alongside an outreach drug and alcohol worker.
- An additional winter night shelter with a multi- agency space for in-reach support (St Annes House).
- Intervention at prison release stage to reduce people being released onto the streets and strategic coordination of prison release.
- Project Co-ordination.

MHCLG have confirmed that they will fund all of the above services except the post focussing on working with people sleeping rough in known 'hotspots' in the city alongside an outreach drug and alcohol worker. We aim to seek funding for this from other sources.

Additional funding will also be available in 2019/20. MHCLG will make an announcement on this in due course, following further discussions with local authorities. However, the application also required an understanding of what we would like to do in 2019/20 in order to build on progress of any funded schemes in 2018-19, so an indication was given in our submission to extend the majority of interventions for 12 months to maintain their impact (costed at £745,993).

Recommendations:

That cabinet

1. Notes the successful application for the grant funding from Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).
2. Delegates authority to the Executive Director for Communities to spend the grant in the areas identified in the report in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing.

Corporate Strategy alignment: Key commitment to reduce the overall level of homelessness and rough sleeping, with no-one needing to spend a 'second night out'.

City Benefits: The EQIA for the Housing Strategy and the Preventing Homelessness Strategy provides a useful overview. In brief the proposal will assist many rough sleepers to access accommodation and support improving their health and reducing the physical and mental health impact of living on the streets.

Consultation Details: Provider consultation, member consultation, and consultation with the Rough Sleeping Partnership.

Revenue Cost	£n.a.	Source of Revenue Funding	n.a.
Capital Cost	£n.a.	Source of Capital Funding	n.a.
One off cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/>	Income generation proposal <input type="checkbox"/>

Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:

1. Finance Advice: The government announced new funding in March 2018 of £30m to support those Local Authorities where Rough Sleeper numbers exceeded 19 to reduce Rough Sleeper numbers. The government's ambition is to halve rough sleeper numbers by 2020 and end it by 2027. Guidance suggests that successful bids will receive funds to cover costs in 2018/19 with further funding available for 2019/20. It is critical in these programme that funding is recurring for future years, as funding at this stage has only been announced for 2018/19 with the funding available for 2019/20 yet to confirmed. On that basis there is a risk that any services developed to support

the reduction in Rough Sleepers has an exit plan to mitigate costs should funding stop. The multi-agency approach to Rough Sleeper reduction will mean that a range of public sector agencies will support the reduction programme alongside the local authority where the local authority receives the funding. It is not clear at this stage whether the wider public agency support will be provided as a benefit in kind or will be chargeable. None of these issues are reasons not to make the bid but at every stage the short and long term financial implications need to be carefully understood.

Finance Business Partner: Neil Sinclair (11.5.18)

2. Legal Advice: No particular legal issues arise in connection with the bid submission. However if successful, consideration will need to be given to any procurement and/or state issues which might operate in connection with spending the grant. Regard will also need to be had to any conditions attached to the grant.

Legal Team Leader: Eric Andrews, Team Leader, Legal Services (15.5.18)

3. Implications on ICT: The full IT implications in this initiative are uncertain at this stage, with references to personnel and accommodation suggesting that there may be IT provision requirements. These can and should be considered further once detailed implementation of a successful bid commences

ICT Team Leader: Ian Gale (11.5.18)

4. HR Advice: As we may not have suitably experienced employees already in BCC, I would recommend an external recruitment process alongside an internal one for the Support Officer post. We would first need to have job paperwork drawn up and have it evaluated. The position would be offered as a fixed term contract if externally resourced. We should be able to resource the project co-ordination role through internal secondment from ABS.

HR Partner: Chris Hather (11.5.18)

EDM Sign-off	Alison Comley	16.5.18
Cabinet Member sign-off	Paul Smith	14.5.18
CLB Sign-off	Alison Comley	29.5.18
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off	Mayor's Office	04.6.18

Appendix A – Summary of Interventions proposed	YES
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	NO
Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny	NO
Appendix D – Risk assessment	YES
Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal	YES
Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal 'The environmental impacts of this proposal are not significant and a full Eco IA is not needed.'	NO
Appendix G – Financial Advice	NO
Appendix H – Legal Advice	NO
Appendix I – Combined Background papers	NO
Appendix J – Exempt Information	NO
Appendix K – HR advice	NO
Appendix L – ICT	NO