



**BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL
DECISION**

DECISION OF: HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

WITH ADVICE FROM: DEPUTY S151 OFFICER

DIRECTORATE: HOUSING AND LANDLORD SERVICES

DECISION NO:

2020/21 COVID-19 Emergency

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Emergency – Provision of emergency hotel Accommodation in compliance with the 'Everybody In' Policy established by the MHCLG on 25th March 2020 to take all street homeless off the streets within 48 hours. Decision to extend payments to ensure an effective move-on and avoid a return to the streets.

KEY DECISION: YES

REASON:

The increase is considered urgent in response to the COVID-19 crisis. The 'Everybody In' policy has helped limit the risk of community transmission associated with some of the more complex street homeless in the city and is now considered an opportunity to achieve the objective of eradicating street homeless both locally and nationally ahead of previous targets through a programme of planned move-on from the hotels into suitable alternative accommodation. The timescale associated with the successful planned move-on means we must extend the time people are spending in the hotels.

BACKGROUND:

In March 2020 central government ordered a full lockdown in response to the rapid community transmission spread of the coronavirus. The government also ordered that all homeless hostels be closed and all street homeless and occupants of homeless hostels be placed temporarily in hotel accommodation (within 48 hours). The Housing Options Service with partners procured three hundred units of self-contained temporary accommodation at agreed rates in The Travelodge Hotel (Mitchell Street), The Holiday Inn (Bristol City Centre) and the Arnos Manor Hotel (Bath Rd).

DECISION:

To implement additional payments to cover the cost of extending the contracts with the hotels in conjunction with the development of a robust move-on programme that will limit the numbers of people returning to the streets and recognise the opportunity the 'Everybody In' programme provides to eradicating rough sleeping in the city.

- Holiday inn City Centre (up to 96 rooms) 31st July to 30th September - £192,832
- Travelodge (100 Rooms) 31st July to 28th September - £236,000

- Arnos Manor (40 rooms) 11th July to 1st October - £139,000

REASONS:

This proposal reflects continued guidance provided by the MHCLG and the need to develop a robust move-on for clients whilst homeless hostels and night shelters remain closed. It also offers the real opportunity to limit the number of people from returning to the streets as set out in the city's 2019-24 homelessness and rough sleeping strategy.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

- Close contracts return previous street homeless back to the streets during a period of increased transmissions.
- Extend contracts whilst reducing the number and cost of rooms procured and at the same time move occupants on to secure and sustainable alternative accommodation

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The table below summarises the payments made to date and the projected cost for the period up to the end of October.

The projected cost of £2.06m reflects the the key role this policy has played in the success of the lockdown measures in Bristol and the South-west in reducing community transmission and limiting demand on health services in the city. [Evidence](#) from other global cities has shown far greater rates of transmission and death within homeless communities occurred where action was not taken to give shelter to street homeless.

It may well be necessary to access future funding as the present situation is likely to prevail for months and years ahead.

Hotel - dates	25-03 to 31-05	01-06 to 31-07	31-07 to 30-09	Total
Holiday Inn	£386,480	£380,640	£192,832	£959,952
Travelodge	23-03 to 16-06	16-06 to 31-07	01-08 to 30-09	
	£333,317	179,995	£236,000	£749,312
Arnos Manor	14-04 to 10-07	11-07 to 31-08	01-09 to 01-10	
	£178,360	£109,760	£29,400	£317,520
Total	£898,157	£670,395	£501,400	£2,026,784

The payments will be funded through the COVID-19 government response grant paid to the council at the beginning of April. However, it is worth noting that additional costs and loss of income for the period of the emergency are likely to exceed this initial allocation from government.

LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS

The council has statutory a duty to provide homelessness prevention services to street homeless and hostel dwellers

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None

CONSULTATION

Discussions have taken place with partners and providers of homelessness prevention services

RISK MANAGEMENT

The main risk, as described above, relates to affordability, given the value of the initial grant made available to the Council. There also remains a risk that if the transition is not managed properly then this could impact on Public Health in the city if there is a rise in community transmissions during the autumn months of 2020.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

Have you undertaken an equalities impact assessment An equalities impact assessment
~~Yes~~/No

An equalities impact assessment will be completed on this work

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

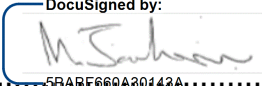
None, other than those already highlighted.

This decision is being taken under the urgency/emergency powers provided in the officer scheme of delegations in the Constitution.

To take emergency action on behalf of the Council on any matter in cases of urgency or emergency with, wherever possible, prior consultation with the Head of Paid Service and Director of Finance in consultation with the Mayor and Executive Member for Finance and the Chairman of the appropriate Policy and Scrutiny Panel or Committee and Subject to a report as soon as possible afterwards to the appropriate body.

SIGNATORIES:

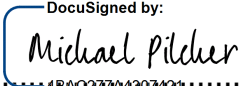
DECISION MAKER:

Signed: 
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Title: Chief Executive

Date: 06 August 2020

Consultees:

Signed: 
4BAC277A4307421.....

Title: Deputy s151 Officer

Date: 06 August 2020