

# Decision Pathway – Report

**PURPOSE:** Key decision

**MEETING:** Cabinet

**DATE:** 08 February 2022

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Protect and Vaccinate</b> Department for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities (DLUHC) Grant																						
<b>Ward(s)</b>	City wide																						
<b>Author:</b> Paul Sylvester	<b>Job title:</b> Head of Housing Options																						
<b>Cabinet lead:</b> Cllr Tom Renhard, Cabinet Member Housing Delivery and Homes	<b>Executive Director lead:</b> Stephen Peacock, Executive Director Growth and Regeneration																						
<b>Proposal origin:</b> BCC Staff																							
<b>Decision maker:</b> Cabinet Member <b>Decision forum:</b> Cabinet																							
<b>Purpose of Report:</b>																							
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To approve the spend of Department for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities (DLUHC's) Protect and Vaccinate grant to provide accommodation until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 and increase COVID vaccination take up for the identified cohort who are rough sleeping</li> </ol>																							
<b>Evidence Base:</b>																							
<p><b>1. Background to homelessness in Bristol</b></p> <p>The number of people sleeping rough in Bristol has increased markedly since 2013, coinciding with government reductions to local authority funding and freezing of Local Housing Allowance rates. The number of people rough sleeping peaked in July 2019 with 130 people identified on a single monthly count.</p> <p>1,600 people were accommodated between March 2020 and May 2021 as part of the Everyone In initiative which supported homeless people to access self-contained accommodation during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. This led to a reduction in rough sleeping, with 50 individuals identified as sleeping rough in the annual count in November 2020. However, homelessness has increased since the end of Everyone In, with 68 individuals identified as sleeping rough in the November 2021 annual snapshot count including a number of long-term rough sleepers.</p>																							
 <p>The bar chart displays the quarterly rough sleeping counts from 2019 to 2022. The y-axis represents the number of people, ranging from 0 to 120. The x-axis shows quarters from Q1 2019-20 to Q3 2021-22. The counts are: Q1 2019-20: 105; Q2 2019-20: 115; Q3 2019-20: 95; Q4 2019-20: 90; Q1 2020-21: 35; Q2 2020-21: 65; Q3 2020-21: 50; Q4 2020-21: 45; Q1 2021-22: 60; Q2 2021-22: 65; Q3 2021-22: 70.</p> <table border="1"> <caption>BCC Quarterly Rough Sleeping Count 2019-2022</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Q1</th> <th>Q2</th> <th>Q3</th> <th>Q4</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2019-20</td> <td>105</td> <td>115</td> <td>95</td> <td>90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020-21</td> <td>35</td> <td>65</td> <td>50</td> <td>45</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021-22</td> <td>60</td> <td>65</td> <td>70</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2019-20	105	115	95	90	2020-21	35	65	50	45	2021-22	60	65	70	-
Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4																			
2019-20	105	115	95	90																			
2020-21	35	65	50	45																			
2021-22	60	65	70	-																			
<b>2. Winter Pressures Funding 2021-22</b>																							

In October 2021, the Department for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities (DLUHC) [announced the Winter Pressures funding](#) to support rough sleepers off the streets at a time of year when they face falling temperatures. Bristol applied for and was allocated an interim grant of £389,709 for use by 31 March 2022 to facilitate a sustainable route off the streets for individuals rough sleeping. The funding covers accommodation, floating support and employment advice and opportunities. Where applicable, the funding also provides legal advice to help individuals to regularise their immigration status in the UK to access long-term accommodation options. It is hoped that the funding will assist 55 people to move off the streets in Bristol during the winter period.

### **3. Protect and Vaccinate Funding 2021-22**

On 20 December 2021, in response to the spread of the Omicron variant, the DLUHC additionally [announced the Protect and Vaccinate scheme](#) aimed at:

- Accommodating people sleeping rough; and
- Increasing vaccination uptake amongst the single homeless cohort, including through the use of appropriate incentives such as travel costs, vouchers and/or funding for staff to take people to vaccination appointments.

The grant has been allocated based on the levels of rough sleeping in each area. BCC has been allocated a total of £914,198 Protect and Vaccinate funding, made up of:

- £809,479 for accommodating people sleeping rough; and
- £104,719 for increasing vaccination uptake among people sleeping rough and other homeless households. This element of the funding is being managed by Public Health

Funding is in place up to the end of March 2022 and is aimed primarily at the most vulnerable people sleeping rough as well as those with a history of rough sleeping who, due to comparatively low vaccination rates against the general population, are at severe risk from Omicron. Providing self-contained accommodation is one of the most immediate ways to prevent transmission of Covid-19, as well as providing a stable base from which to support and encourage individuals to get vaccinated. Whilst the accommodation support is intended to help increase vaccination uptake, stays will not be conditional on people having the vaccine.

BCC has entered into a contract with a Bristol hotel to block book 50 rooms for people sleeping rough from 04 January 2022. The hotel was previously used to successfully accommodate individuals during Everyone In, allowing for a rapid mobilisation using pre-existing processes, agreements and experience. The reasons for working with the hotel are as follows:

- cost effective rates, compared with other hotels, for exclusive use of the hotel;
- provision of a hot meal each day for clients;
- on-site security (lower cost than BCC security);
- space for meetings and carrying out vaccinations;
- the location of the hotel is preferred over more central options for supporting clients who want to exit street cultures;
- office space enabling workers from Golden Key to be based on site to provide support to clients.

While individuals will not be required to have a vaccination to access accommodation, increasing uptake is a clear objective of the programme. Work is currently being carried out with colleagues in Public Health to plan this work and further detail around this will follow.

BCC has also entered into a grant agreement with Riverside to accommodate up to 4 people at the Compass Centre who are deemed too high a risk to be placed in other accommodation or at the hotel. 4 pods have been constructed and approved by Public Health. This will ensure rough sleepers currently with no other housing option can be accommodated whilst they are supported to have their risk assessments updated and viable housing options identified moving forward.

#### **3.1. Protect and vaccinate expenditure**

Initial expenditure to start the project has already been approved on the basis that we couldn't wait for the cabinet decision to begin the spend if we were to deliver the project effectively. An officer executive decision was approved and published on 31.12.21. Please see [ModernGov - bristol.gov.uk](#)

**Summary of expected expenditure for increasing vaccination uptake is below:**

Item	Cost
Food Costs	£23,450
Arnos Manor Vaccination Incentives	£5,000
On-site client Incentives	£50,000
Contingency Costs	£15,000
Projected Surplus	£11,269
<b>Total</b>	<b>£104,719</b>

Now people housed in emergency accommodation are not in scope; locations are too dispersed and outreach clinics are not proposed at this stage. This will be kept under review to see if a solution can be found

**Summary of expected expenditure for accommodation and support is below:**

Item	Cost	%
50 rooms 4/1/22 – 31/3/22	£279,618	
End of placement fees	£20,000	
Additional dilapidations	£161,534	
Compass Centre Pods	£32,580	
Option for additional rooms	£116,490	
<b>Total Accommodation Cost</b>	<b>£610,222</b>	<b>75%</b>
PPE cost	£15,000	
Additional Housing Options resource	£15,000	
Support workers	£46,662	
Contingency	£122,595	
<b>Support and Other</b>	<b>£199,257</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£809,479</b>	

**Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:**

That Cabinet:

1. Authorises the Executive Director of Growth and Regeneration in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing Delivery and Homes to spend the DLUHC funding of up to £914,198 including procuring and awarding any contract(s) necessary for the continued implementation of the Protect and Vaccinate programme, in-line with the procurement routes and maximum budget envelopes outlined in this report, noting the associated Legal commentary.
2. Authorises Executive Director of Growth and Regeneration to invoke any subsequent extensions/variations specifically defined in the contract(s) being awarded, up to the maximum budget envelope outlined in this report.
3. Note the partial use of the funding to award a contract to Arnos Manor Hotel to a value of £129,000 on 4 January 2022 following an Officer Executive Decision by the Chief Executive on 30 December 2021 in order to urgently commence delivery of this project.
4. Authorises the Executive Director of the People Directorate, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Communities to accept the Vaccinate funding of £104,719 and ensure that funding received is spent in accordance with the funding agreement and within the Council's scheme of delegation.

**Corporate Strategy alignment:** This proposal aligns directly with the Corporate Strategy priority to reduce and prevent homelessness and rough sleeping

**City Benefits:** Stable housing is intrinsically tied to how well people can focus on other needs or difficulties in their lives and participate within their communities. This proposal will have a positive impact on both the households who are supported and the communities they live in.

**Consultation Details:**

N/A

**Background Documents:**

- DLUHC Winter Pressures announcement, 29 Oct 2021: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-support-for-rough-sleepers-over-winter>
- DLUHC Protect and Vaccinate announcement, 20 Dec 2021: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/push-to-protect-and-vaccinate-rough-sleepers-with-28-million-government-funding-boost>
- Letter from Minister Eddie Hughes to local authorities on plans to protect and vaccinate rough sleepers, 21 Dec 21: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-letter-from-minister-eddie-hughes-to-local-authorities-on-plans-to-protect-and-vaccinate-rough-sleepers>

<b>Revenue Cost</b>	<b>£914,198</b>	<b>Source of Revenue Funding</b>	DLUHC – External grant
<b>Capital Cost</b>	N/A	<b>Source of Capital Funding</b>	N/A
<b>One off cost</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Ongoing cost</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Saving Proposal</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Income generation proposal</b> <input type="checkbox"/>

**Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:****1.Finance Advice:****Homelessness**

The use of Protect and Vaccinate grant allocation is set in the body of the report (see section 3), 78% of which is being proposed to fund short term accommodation to facilitate Covid vaccinations.

The Protect and Vaccinate grant allocation £809,479 is available until the end of March 2022 with any underspend on the allocation to be returned to the DLUHC. Accommodation secured through this fund should be demonstrably good value for money.

The grant is not expected to impact on the current budget pressure as stated in the P9 budget monitoring report. The client group that is being targeted is long term rough sleepers, where no housing solution has been secured to date. This includes clients with no recourse to public funds.

The report is based on estimated costs and any changes will be reported through monthly budget monitoring process.

**Public Health**

The Director of Public Health already has vaccination strategy in place within Bristol and its community and should continue to ensure and encourage the uptake of vaccination amongst people sleeping rough and others at risk in the single homeless cohort in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Vaccinate grant.

**Finance Business Partner:** Aisha Babu 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**Finance Business Partner for People:** Christie Fasanloye 19th January 2022

**2.Legal Advice:** The contract for the delivery of the Protect and Vaccinate contract is with Arnos Manor hotel for the provision of accommodation, security and food. The securing of the accommodation is exempt from the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR) as this is the rental of a building and is therefore excluded in accordance with Regulation 10(1)(a). Whilst the provision of security and food elements are not objectively separable from the main contract, they are both below the thresholds at which Part 2 of the PCR would be applicable and therefore no procurement process is legally required.

The council's procurement rules do not apply to contracts for an interest in land (para 1.13(i)).

**Legal Team Leader:** Husinara Jones, Team Leader, 10 January 2022

**3. Implications on IT:** I can see no implications on IT in regards to this activity.

**IT Team Leader:** Gavin Arbuckle – Head of Service Improvement and Performance 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**4. HR Advice:** The report highlights the requirement for additional staffing resource of 2 BG 9 FTE, for a period of 3 months, to be recruited internally or via the Council's agency provider, Guidant. There are no other HR implications evident

<b>HR Partner:</b> Celia Williams, HR Business Partner 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2022		
<b>EDM Sign-off</b>	Stephen Peacock, Executive Director of Growth and Regeneration	18 January 2022
<b>Cabinet Member sign-off</b>	Cllr Renhard, Cabinet Member Housing Delivery and Homes	23 December 2021
<b>For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off</b>	Mayor's Office	10 January 2022

<b>Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix D – Risk assessment</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Appendix G – Financial Advice</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix H – Legal Advice</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix I – Exempt Information</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Appendix J – HR advice</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix K – ICT</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Appendix L – Procurement</b>	<b>NO</b>