

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 05 September 2023

TITLE	Targeted Funding Application to reduce rough sleeping		
Ward(s)	City-wide		
Author: Paul Sylvester	Job title: Head of Housing Options		
Cabinet lead: Councillor Tom Renhard, Cabinet Member for Housing Delivery and Homes	Executive Director lead: John Smith, Interim Executive Director Growth and Regeneration		
Proposal origin: BCC Staff			
Decision maker: Cabinet Member Decision forum: Cabinet			
Purpose of Report:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To seek approval to accept and spend the Targeted Funding award from Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) for 2023-25. 			
Evidence Base:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Bristol City Council (BCC) successfully applied for Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) funding from July 2022 to March 2025 and was awarded £9,877,081 for this period working in line with government aims to end rough sleeping by 2024. In February 2023 BCC were invited to bid for further Targeted Funding for 2023-25 having been identified as part of a small group of local authorities eligible to apply for targeted funding through the RSI to enable the city to address rough sleeping challenges as they have developed since the allocation of RSI 22-25 funding in May 2022. The funding period is for 2023-25 and part of the process includes seeking approval from Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to remodel some of the funding that has already been allocated against a project that is now costing us less than we originally bid for and refreshing our Ending Rough Sleeping Plan, linked to the governments Ending Rough Sleeping for Good Strategy. The levels of people rough sleeping in Bristol increased by 34% in 2022-23 – in line with national rises - with 900 individual people identified by St Mungo’s Outreach Team as sleeping rough in 2022-23 exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis, the lack of affordable housing in the city with rent rises in the private rental sector outstripping wages and welfare benefit increases. Despite this, the annual snapshot count of people rough sleeping in Bristol reduced from 68 in November 2022 to 58 in November 2023 reflecting the positive impact of the Rough Sleeping Initiative funded services. However, the increasing levels of people coming onto the streets will limit our ability to achieve government targets as set out in the strategy. The bid was submitted on 21 April 2023 for £886,182 covering the period 2023-25 (£386,182 for 2023-24 and £500,000 for 2024-25). Due to time constraints, it was not possible to gain Cabinet approval for the bid. Exceptional approval was sought to submit the bid and has been confirmed from Executive Director, The S151 Officer and The Deputy Mayor - Cabinet Member for Finance, following approval from the Cabinet Member for Housing Delivery and Homes and the Director of Homes and Landlord Services. An Officer Executive Decision (OED) was agreed and has been published. Notification of the bid award was received on 7 June 2023. Bristol City Council has been awarded £886,180 (£356,181 in 2023-24 and £529,999 in 2024-25). Details of what has been approved by DLUHC to be funded in the bid is set out in Appendix A. 			
Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:			
That Cabinet:			

1. Approves the use of £886,180 Targeted Funding award from DLUHC as set out in this report and Appendix A.
2. Authorises the Executive Director Growth and Regeneration in consultation with the Cabinet Member Housing Delivery and Homes to take all steps required to accept and spend the funding including procuring and awarding contracts which may be above the key decision threshold, as outlined in this report.

Corporate Strategy alignment:

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

City Benefits:

1. 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: There was extensive consultation carried out for the Reducing Rough Sleeping Commissioning Plan published in January 2021. Due to time constraints limited consultation on the content of the bid was sought from the Steering Group for the Bristol Reducing Rough Sleeping Partnership.

Background Documents:

Ending rough sleeping for good: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ending-rough-sleeping-for-good>
 Delivery Plan: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rough-sleeping-strategy-delivery-plan>
 Bristol's Reducing Rough Sleeping Commissioning plan: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/council-and-mayor/policies-plans-and-strategies/housing/commissioning-homelessness-prevention-services>
 OED: <https://democracy.bristol.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=1672>

Revenue Cost	£886,180	Source of Revenue Funding	DLUHC, Cost code 15325
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: This report seeks Cabinet approval to spend the £886K Targeted Funding awarded by DLUHC as part of the Council's Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) programme. Appendix 1 sets out the spending plan, indicating the expenditure for 2023-24 will be £356,181K, whilst the remainder of the funding (£530K) will be utilised in 2024-25. The award was confirmed by DLUHC on 7 June 2023.

The report also seeks Cabinet approval to authorise the Executive Director Growth and Regeneration, in consultation with the Cabinet Member Housing Delivery and Homes to take the steps necessary to execute the spending plan.

The funding does not require match commitment from the Council and there is no claw back arrangement as part of the funding.

As most of the expenditure covered by this award will be for employing staff, there is a risk that the cost of attracting the people with the right skills might be higher than expected. Service managers will be alert to this and will adapt plans to cope with this eventuality. All spending will be managed within the funding envelope.

Finance Business Partner: Sarah Chodkiewicz, Head of Financial Management, Deputy S151 Officer, 22 August 2023

2. Legal Advice: The submission of the bid for grant funding raises no particular legal issues. If successful, the procurement process must be conducted in line with the 2015 Procurement Regulations and the Council's own procurement rules. Legal services will advise and assist officers with regard to the conduct of the procurement process and the resulting contractual arrangements.

Legal Team Leader: Husinara Jones, Team Manager/Solicitor 22 August 2023

3. Implications on IT: There are no implications on IT in regard to this activity.

IT Team Leader: Gavin Arbuckle, Head of Service Improvement and Performance 3 May 2023		
4. HR Advice: The bid for the DLUHC Targeted Funding 2023-25 set out the staffing resource requirements, and these can be found at appendix A Recruitment to these posts should follow BCC HR procedure.		
HR Partner: Celia Williams, HR Business Partner, 22 May 2023		
EDM Sign-off	John Smith, Interim Executive Director Growth and Regeneration	21 June 2023
Cabinet Member sign-off	Councillor Tom Renhard, Cabinet Member for Housing Delivery and Homes	11 July 2023
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off	Mayor's Office	7 August 2023

Appendix A – Bid award	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	YES
Appendix G – Financial Advice	NO
Appendix H – Legal Advice	NO
Appendix I – Exempt Information	NO
Appendix J – HR advice	NO
Appendix K – ICT	NO
Appendix L – Procurement	NO