

Birmingham City Council

Report to: CABINET

Date 29th June 2021



Subject: ROUGH SLEEPING INITIATIVE (RSI) YEAR 4 2021/22
FUNDING BID APPROVAL AND GRANT AWARDS

Report of: Julie Griffin - Managing Director, City Housing

Relevant Cabinet Member: Councillor Sharon Thompson, Homes and Neighbourhoods

Relevant O&S Chair(s): Cllr Penny Holbrook, Housing and Neighbourhoods O&S Committee
Cllr Mohammed Aikhlaq, Resources O&S Committee

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Are specific wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – All wards affected
If yes, name(s) of ward(s):		
Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, add Forward Plan Reference: 008702/2021		
Is the decision eligible for call-in?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential: Individual financial elements due to organisations have been removed		

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This public report seeks retrospective approval for the submission of a bid under the Rough Sleepers Initiative (RSI) Year 4 (2021-22). This is a grant programme provided by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to local authorities where rough sleeping has been prevalent since it

was first launched in 2018. Birmingham's submission is set out in Appendix A with a total value of £1,288,157 which is made up of on-going, modified and new interventions consisting of both a mix of accommodation and support services. The bid covers the period 1st July 2021 – 31st March 2022, other than one post, as specified which is for 12 months from 1st July 2021.

- 1.2 The report sets out how the bid will be based on extending existing year 3 arrangements, the development of additional interventions in line with the Rough Sleeping Addendum to the Birmingham Homelessness Prevention Strategy approved by Full Council in January 2021 and following through with progress achieved over the course of the last 12 months through COVID related rough sleeping funding opportunities provided by the 'Everyone-In' and 'Protect' initiatives.
- 1.3 Where otherwise stated, the delivery period for the £1.28m overall funding package runs from 1st July 2021 for 9 months to 31st March 2022, with the bidding component covering the period of 3 quarters of year 4 (1st July 2021 to March 2022). MHCLG will be automatically allocating resources for quarter one based on a continuation of RSI 3 funding into Q1 at £197,000, and a 'transition payment' uplift of £200,000 for Q1 for additional costs. Neither of these components are covered in the bid.
- 1.4 The proposed RSI Year 4 funding will enable continued delivery and development of a suite of interventions for the prevention and relief of rough sleeping across in the city.

2 Recommendations

That Cabinet :

- 2.1 Approves the submission of a bid from the Council for RSI 4 Programme Grant funding for £1,288,157
- 2.2 Notes that delivery will be via Conditions of Grant Aid (COGAs) to the value of £419,601 to partners commissioned by Adults Social Care Directorate and approved by Neighbourhoods Directorate, as well as equivalent additional amounts for Q1 through the sums rolled over from RSI 3 and the transition payment, but outside of the bid. Other elements fund services provided directly by Birmingham City Council or services covered by existing contracts.

3 Background

- 3.1 The Rough Sleepers Initiative is an existing, rolling annual, grant funding programme of the MHCLG which was first introduced midway through 2018/19 financial year. The objective behind the fund is to reduce, relieve and prevent street homelessness, with an overall objective to end rough sleeping by 2024. For RSI 3 (2020-21) BCC received an allocation of £788,000. The amount of grant allocated was £684,666 which factored in an underspend of £103,334 from the previous year financial year (2019-20)

- 3.2 In December 2020 following significant progress towards meeting overall objectives in Birmingham, MHCLG have confirmed that there will be no reduction in the LA's overall RSI 2021/22 budget from 2020/21. Quarter 1 funding of £197,000 was confirmed to maintain all existing interventions for the period April to end June 2021 (Quarter 1), based on the £788,000 previous year's overall budget total, not included in bid. This would be automatically allocated in April 2021 with MHCLG also committing to providing a one-off automatic uplift payment of £200,000 in quarter 1 of RSI 2021-22, to contribute towards additional emergency accommodation and support move-on costs, also not included in bid. The uplift was issued to maintain resources paid to individual local authorities responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of additional costs associated with putting in place appropriate accommodation and funding support and move-on costs.
- 3.3 During 2020-21 these additional resources came from a range of different initiatives namely, the Everyone-In initiative, Protect Programme and Next Steps Accommodation Programmes. In Q1 the £200,000 single transition payment will be used to fund for Q1 the continuation of outreach to young people, tenancy rescue services, befriending, voluntary sector engagement, dedicated social worker capacity, a Housing Options Centre lead on homeless people from abroad for city council, and additional emergency accommodation.
- 3.4 For RSI 2021-22 Birmingham is invited to participate in an EXTENDED route for bidding. This essentially enables the city to bring forward additional funding proposals, with resources for quarter 1 of 2021-22 enabling key existing service interventions to remain operating. The EXTENDED route assures Birmingham will receive funding at baseline which will not fall below previous years whilst the allocation from 1st July 2021 to 31st March 2022 is subject to process of dialogue and bidding with MHCLG.
- 3.5 MHCLG have viewed interventions of 2020-21 largely as being effective and are supportive of the year 4 programme which has been outlined as part of an iterative process. Progress is reflected a rough sleeper official snapshot count figure of 17 in 2020, showing continued reductions from 52 in 2019 and 91 in 2018. For Year 4, existing interventions of RSI 3 are sought to be continued with current providers. Additional interventions funded by short-term programmes (Next Steps Accommodation Programme and Protect Programme), have been reviewed and items that are of particular value have been added to the RSI 4 bid.

4 Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

- 4.1 Not to bid for the funding. This would have a substantial and negative impact upon service provision and relationships with partners, strategic and local. MHCLG have confirmed the rolling forward of RSI 3 allocation and indicate a commitment to strengthen provision into RSI 4.
- 4.2 It is recommended that retrospective support is given to the bid for RSI 4, alongside permission to mobilise as set out.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 External consultation with partners and providers took place on 18th February 2021 at Rough Sleeper Action Group, and Homelessness Partnership Board, 24th February 2021. In addition, regular consultation took place with key partners through the Rough Sleepers Partnership Meetings and Protect reviews. This included invitations to be included in the bid and engagement with Birmingham's Homelessness Forum.
- 5.2 MHCLG require the bid to be developed through co-production. This has been done throughout in consultation with designated specialist advisor.
- 5.3 The following Cabinet Members have been consulted and support the proposal: Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, Community Safety and Equalities, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources.

6 Risk Management

- 6.1 At this stage the risks are related to compliance, these risks are managed within the governance arrangements and compliance issues in Section 7.

7 Compliance Issues:

7.1 How are the recommended decisions consistent with the City Council's priorities, plans and strategies?

- 7.1.1 The bid supports the Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2017+ and in-particular the Rough Sleeping Addendum which supplements it and was formally adopted by Full Council on 12 January 2021.
- 7.1.2 The service delivery element of the bid complements the Vulnerable Adults Housing and Wellbeing Pathway investment as set out in the Cabinet Report 16 April 2019.
- 7.1.3 Elements of the bid will support young people who are homeless and therefore supports the Council's Corporate Parenting responsibilities.

8 Birmingham Business Charter for Social Responsibility (BBC4SR)

There are no BBC4SR implications.

9 Legal Implications

- 9.1 Section 179 Housing Act 1996 provides that a local housing authority must provide or secure the provision of a service, available free of charge to any person in the authority's district, providing information and advice on, preventing homelessness, securing accommodation when homeless, the rights of persons who are homeless or threatened with homelessness, and the duties of the authority.
- 9.2 The Council may also exercise powers under the Care Act 2014 together with associated regulations and statutory guidance relating to the provision of services

to meet the need for care and support as well as prevention and services to promote wellbeing.

9.3 Section 93 of the Local Government Act 2000 gives the Secretary of State power to award grants to local authorities for expenditure incurred by them in the provision of welfare services determined by the Secretary of State.

9.3.1 The Council's obligations for this service under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will be met by commissioned arrangements.

10 Financial Implications

10.1.1 The value of this bid can be summarised as follows:

	2021/22 £
Existing Programme RSI 3 – 1 st April to 30 th June 21	197,000
Underspend c/f from 2020/21 to 21/22	(77,500)
Modified programme – 1 st July 21 to 31 st March 22	748,577
	868,077
New Interventions	603,330
2021/22 Forecast Spend/Grant Income	1,471,407
Existing approval – 1 st April to 30 th June	(197,000)
2021/22 funding approval now sought #	1,274,407

The total funding approval sought for 2021/22 is £1,274,407. The grant submission asks that any new costs are also identified where posts included within the bid for the period 1st July 21 to 31st March 22 can only be recruited to on a 12month contract, leaving residual costs in 2022/23. These costs total £13,750 taking the full value of the bid to £1,288,157.

10.1.2 The funding will be a Section 31 grant from MHCLG accompanied by a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

10.1.3 There are no specific revenue implications arising from the submission of the bid or contract awards. Funding allocations will be passed on to providers in line with submissions they made to the council for inclusion the bid. The revenue implications in relation to the receipt of the proposed bid and contract awards will be contained within the bid with no additional cost to the Council.

11 Procurement Implications

11.1.1 There are no procurement implications.

12 Human Resources Implications (if required)

- 12.1.1 The commissioning will be undertaken by staff in within Adult Social Care Directorate.

13 Public Sector Equality Duty

- 13.1.1 An Initial Impact Assessment has been carried out and no adverse impacts have been identified and a Full Impact Assessment is not recommended at this stage.

14 Background Documents

- 14.1 Cabinet Report Putting Prevention First: Commissioning and Procurement Strategies for Vulnerable Adults Housing and Wellbeing Support; 16 April 2019.
- 14.2 List of Appendices accompanying this Report (if any):

Appendices

Appendix A – proposed bid (Excel Workbook) submission with costs associated with individual providers redacted.

