

RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION TAKEN BY AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER

This form **MUST** be used to record any decision taken by the Elected Mayor or an individual Executive Member (Portfolio Holder).

The form must be completed and passed to the Head of Members' Services no later than NOON on the second working day after the day on which the decision is taken. No action may be taken to implement the decision(s) recorded on this form until 7 days have passed and the Head of Members' Services has confirmed the decision has not been called in.

1. Description of decision

Bedford Borough Council accepts the award of £623k from the DCLG for the delivery of the Rough Sleeper Outreach service across the STP area and as the lead for the STP area secures the services of suitable organisations across the STP area to deliver the bid submitted to the DCLG.

2. Date of decision

7th March 2017

3. Reasons for decision

Bedford Borough Council acting as the lead authority for the STP area submitted a bid to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in November 2016 requesting £623k over 2 years to deliver a Rough Sleeper Outreach Service. The DCLG confirmed the award of £623k on the 17th of January 2017 and will make the first payment shortly. There is a requirement for the project to be up and running by the 1st of April 2017. There are existing organisations in each of the local authority areas already working with Rough Sleepers who can deliver the service and therefore we should award the funding in the form of a grant directly to them as outlined in section 5. This will help to reduce the historic high levels of Rough Sleeping seen across the STP area therefore the funding should be accepted.

4. Alternatives considered and rejected

If the grant funding is not accepted, the Rough Sleeper Outreach service across the STP area will have to source alternative funding. This is unlikely to be found therefore it is unlikely that the service would be delivered.

5. How decision is to be funded

The grant funding from the DCLG of £623k over two years will fund the service.

6. Conflicts of interest

Name of all Executive members who were consulted AND declared a conflict of interest.	Nature of interest	Did Standards Committee give a dispensation for that conflict of interest? (If yes, give details and date of dispensation)	Did the Chief Executive give a dispensation for that conflict of interest? (If yes, give details and the date of the dispensation).

The Mayor has been consulted on this decision

Signed Da Hodgson Date 7/3/2017 Name of Decision Taker MAYOR DAVE HODGSON

This is a public document. A copy of it must be given to the Head of Members' Services as soon as it is completed.

Date decision published: 8th March 2017

Date decision can be implemented if not called in: 17th March 2017

(Decision to be made exempt from call in.....~~YES~~ or NO.....)

Bedford Borough Council – Report to the Mayor

Date of Report: 02nd February 2017

Report by: Service Manager - Housing

Subject: ACCEPTANCE OF £623,000 FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOR THE DELIVERY OF THE ROUGH SLEEPER OUTREACH SERVICE ACROSS THE SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION PLAN AREA OF BEDFORD, CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE, LUTON AND MILTON KEYNES

1. Executive Summary

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has awarded £623k over two years to the Sustainable Transformation Plan (STP) area of Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes towards a Rough Sleeper Outreach Service. This is deliver the bid to the DCLG led by Bedford Borough Council for a Rough Sleeper Outreach service which incorporates specialist Mental Health provision.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Bedford Borough Council accepts the award of £623k from the DCLG for the delivery of the Rough Sleeper Outreach service across the STP area and as the lead for the STP area secures the services of suitable organisations across the STP area to deliver the bid submitted to the DCLG.

3. Reasons For Recommendations

- 3.1 Bedford Borough Council acting as the lead authority for the STP area submitted a bid to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in November 2016 requesting £623k over 2 years to deliver a Rough Sleeper Outreach Service. The DCLG confirmed the award of £623k on the 17th of January 2017 and will make the first payment shortly. There is a requirement for the project to be up and running by the 1st of April 2017. There are existing organisations in each of the local authority areas already working with Rough Sleepers who can deliver the service and therefore we should award the funding in the form of a grant directly to them as outlined in section 5. This will help to reduce the historic high levels of Rough Sleeping seen across the STP area therefore the funding should be accepted.

4. Key Implications

4.1 Legal Issues

- 4.2 The Council will act as the lead for the STP area in administering the grant from the DCLG. This will be paid to the Council as a ring-fenced grant to be used solely for the purpose of providing the Rough Sleeper outreach service as bid for to the DCLG.

Policy Issues

- 4.3 Bedford Borough Council, along with Councils across the STP area has seen significant rises in the number of Rough Sleepers. The DCLG have made funds available and approved a bid, a copy of which is at Appendix A, for a Rough Sleeper Outreach Service to be set up across the STP area to try and prevent and reduce Rough Sleeping. This fits in with the objectives of the Councils published Homelessness Strategy 2016-21.

Resource Implications

- 4.4 The bid to the DCLG on behalf of the STP area has been carefully costed and fully outlines the resources required to deliver the Rough Sleeper Outreach Service. The total cost of £623k over two years will be resourced by the grant from the DCLG. The Mental Health specialist workers will be provided by the Mental Health Trusts and co-located with the Rough Sleeper Outreach service. The cost of employing these workers will be met from the DCLG grant as outlined in the bid.

Risk Implications

- 4.5 Without the funding of £623k from the DCLG, the Councils across the STP area will have insufficient resources to meet the needs of the Rough Sleepers in their area. This will likely lead to an increase in the number of Rough Sleepers in the STP area.
- 4.6 The funding is limited for 2 years. An evaluation will need to take place in year 2 to see what elements of the Outreach service can be retained and how these might be funded. This will involve all partners and stakeholders with an interest in Rough Sleeping.

Environmental Implications

- 4.8 Any provider of services to Rough Sleepers will be expected to comply with the Councils Environmental Policies.

Equalities Impact

- 4.9 In preparing this report, due consideration has been given to the Borough Council's statutory Equality Duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations, as set out in Section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010.
- 4.10 An Equality Analysis relevance test has been undertaken and concluded that this activity has no relevance to Bedford Borough Council's duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations.

5. Details

- 5.1 The Council acting as lead for the STP area submitted a bid to the DCLG in November 2017 for funding for a Rough Sleeper Outreach service over the STP area. On the 17th of January 2017 the DCLG formally notified the Council that it was successful and awarded £623k over two towards the delivery of the service as outlined in the bid. This is the largest award out of all the bids nationally.
- 5.2 The Council will engage with suitable existing organisations across the STP area and award grants to these organisations from the £623k to deliver the bid. Regular updates will be given to the DCLG on the progress of the service. It is expected that around 700 individuals will benefit from this service over the two years across the STP area.
- 5.3 As the funding is limited to 2 years, an evaluation will take place after 18 months to consider which elements of the service may need to be retained on a longer term basis and how this might be funded in the longer term.

6. Summary Of Consultations And Outcome

- 6.1 The following Council units or Officers and/or other organisations have been consulted in preparing this report:

Relevant Managers

Management Group

Organisation(s)

- 6.2 No adverse comments have been received

Report Contact Officer: *Andrew Kyle, Service Manager - Housing – 01234 276192*

File Reference:

Previous Relevant Minutes:

Background Papers:

Appendices: