

**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 £371,847.89 in 2017/18 and £421,059.17 in 2018/19 as Flexible Homelessness Support Grant to the Council and uses it in accordance with the grant conditions towards Homeless service provision.

**2. Date of decision**

7<sup>th</sup> June 2017

**3. Reasons for decision**

Bedford Borough Council has a statutory duty to provide Homeless services to eligible households. The cost of provision has been met in part by funding through Housing Benefit called the Temporary Accommodation Management Fund. This arrangement has come to end and is being replaced by the Flexible Homelessness Support Grant. This grant includes additional money to help fund preventions and meet the burdens of homelessness on the Council.

**4. Alternatives considered and rejected**

If the grant funding is not accepted the Council will incur a significant revenue pressure which would have to be filled from general funds therefore this was discounted

**5. How decision is to be funded**

The grant funding from the DCLG of £371,847.89 in 2017/18 and £421,059.17 in 2018/19 over two years will fund the provision of homeless accommodation

**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).

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The Mayor has been consulted on this decision

N/A

Signed *Dave Hodgson*

Date *7/6/2017*

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: *7/6/17*

Date decision can be implemented if not called in: *19/6/17*

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

**Bedford Borough Council – Report to the Mayor**

**Date of Report: 30 May 2017**

**Report by: Service Manager - Housing**

**Subject: ACCEPTANCE OF FLEXIBLE HOMELESSNESS SUPPORT GRANT £371,847.89 IN 2017/18 AND £421,059.17 IN 2018/19 FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**1. Executive Summary**

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has awarded £371,847.89 in 2017/18 and £421,059.17 in 2018/19 as Flexible Homelessness Support Grant to the Council. This report outlines acceptance of this grant and the conditions under which it must be used.

**2. Recommendations**

2.1 Bedford Borough Council accepts the award of £371,847.89 in 2017/18 and £421,059.17 in 2018/19 as Flexible Homelessness Support Grant to the Council and uses it in accordance with the grant conditions towards Homeless service provision.

**3. Reasons For Recommendations**

3.1 Bedford Borough Council has a statutory duty to provide Homeless services to eligible households. The cost of provision has been met in part by funding through Housing Benefit called the Temporary Accommodation Management Fund. This arrangement has come to end and is being replaced by the Flexible Homelessness Support Grant. This grant includes additional money to help fund preventions and meet the burdens of homelessness on the Council.

#### 4. Key Implications

##### 4.1 Legal Issues

- 4.2 The Council has a statutory duty to provide assistance to households who are homeless, eligible and in priority need as set out in the Housing Act 1996 Part VII as amended.

##### Policy Issues

- 4.3 The Council has been able to recover some of the cost of the provision of temporary accommodation to homeless households through the Temporary Accommodation Management Fund administered through Housing Benefit. This has provided for 90% of the relevant Local Housing Allowance plus a management fee of £60 per week towards the cost of temporary accommodation. This arrangement comes to an end on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2017 with the management fee no longer being paid and the accommodation only attracting the local housing allowance figures. The management fees have been replaced with a lump sum in the form of Flexible Homelessness Support Grant.

##### Resource Implications

- 4.4 The Council recovered approximately £190,832 in 2016/17 in management fees of £60 per week for the 61 units of accommodation used as temporary accommodation. Within the Flexible Homelessness Support Grant formula the DCLG has awarded the Council £219,000 towards the replacement of these management fees in 2017/18. The additional £152,000 has been awarded on the basis of a formula that provides additional funding to areas with higher than average homeless preventions and acceptances. As such the Council has been awarded new funding to cope with these pressures.

##### Risk Implications

- 4.5 The Flexible Homelessness Support Grant is a ring fenced grant for 2 years. Further announcements will be made in the 2017/18 financial year as to the long term funding settlement around the Flexible Homelessness Support Grant

##### Environmental Implications

- 4.8 None.

## 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 has been awarded £371,847.89 in 2017/18 and £421,059.17 in 2018/19 as Flexible Homelessness Support Grant. It is intended that this grant will go towards assisting the Council in the provision of temporary accommodation as well as providing revenue to assist in preventing homelessness.
- 5.2 The grant conditions for this funding will ring-fence it for 2017/18 and 2018/19 for use in relation to homelessness duties. Council Officers are identifying ways that this new grant will be able to offset the costs incurred by the Council in discharging its homeless duties and will look at ways in which it can be used efficiently to meet the needs of the community.

## **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 Team

Organisation(s)

- 6.2 No adverse comments have been received

Report Contact Officer: *Andrew Kyle, Service Manager - Housing – 01234 276192 (andrew.kyle@bedford.gov.uk)*

File Reference: *grantreport/March2017*

Previous Relevant Minutes: None

Background Papers: None

Appendices: None