

<b>Subject:</b>	Acceptance of grants in relation to the prevention of Homelessness	<b>Status:</b>	For Publication
<b>Report to:</b>	Council	<b>Date:</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
<b>Report of:</b>	Housing Options Team Leader	<b>Lead Member:</b>	Housing
<b>Key Decision:</b>	X      Forward Plan    X	<b>General Exception</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Special Urgency</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Equality Impact Assessment:</b>	Required:	No	Attached:    n/a
<b>Biodiversity Impact Assessment:</b>	Required:	No	Attached:    n/a
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## 1. RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 That the Council approves acceptance of the following grants:

- Homeless Prevention Grant - £387,639
- Rough Sleeper Prevention and Recovery Grant - £149,000
- Local Authority Housing Fund - £356,000

1.2 To Delegate Authority to the Head of Legal, Director of resources and Director of Economic Development with the lead member for Housing to enter into any agreements to accept and deliver the relevant grant funded schemes.

1.3 To note Rosendale Borough Council's continued role as the accountable body for the Rough Sleeping Initiative in joint delivery with Burnley and Pendle.

## 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Rosendale Borough Council has received Homeless Prevention Grant monies over the last few years.
- For 2025/26 MHCLG has awarded Rosendale Borough Council £367,639. Authority is requested to accept the grant value which is significantly more than previous years.
- This report requests authority to accept the Rough Sleeper Prevention and Recovery Grant 2025/26 of £149,000 and continue the delivery of this scheme with Burnley and Pendle with Rosendale Borough Council as the accountable body.
- This report also requests authority to accept £356,000 in Local Authority Housing Fund to support the purchase and refurbishment of 4 properties.

## 3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Rosendale Borough Council has recently been awarded three grants to support homelessness across the borough. These are the Homeless Prevention Grant, the Rough Sleeper Prevention and Recovery Grant and the Local Authority Housing Fund.

3.2 This is the latest allocation of these grants to address homelessness. The Homeless Prevention Grant and the Rough Sleeper Prevention and Recovery grant are Government allocations but the Local Authority Housing Fund is the result of a successful funding bid.

## 4. DETAIL

### Homeless Prevention Grant

- 4.1 In 2025/26 the allocation from MHCLG for the Homeless prevention Grant is £387,639. This is significantly more than previous years. In 2024/25 the Homeless Prevention Grant was £218,616, which includes a top up issued part way through the year.
- 4.2 Rossendale Council has a Statutory Duty under the Housing Act 1996 part VII to offer advice and assistance in an attempt to prevent or relieve homelessness to those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. The Homelessness Prevention Grant 2025/26 is allocated to support local authorities to prevent and respond to homelessness.
- 4.3 This grant is used for various activities, including:
- **Prevention and Relief:** Services aimed at preventing individuals and families from becoming homeless, such as providing financial assistance, mediation, and support services.
  - **Staffing:** Funding for staff who work on homelessness prevention and relief activities.
  - **Temporary Accommodation:** Although a portion of the grant is ring-fenced to ensure that 49% of the funding is spent on prevention, relief, and staffing activities, and not on temporary accommodation

### The Rough Sleeper Prevention and Recovery Grant

- 4.4 The initial 3 year programme has been extended by 1 year with the intention of developing a longer term, 3/5 year deal, over the next 12 months.
- 4.5 The Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery Grant in 2025/26 is £149,000. This allocation includes funding for Rossendale Borough Council, Burnley Borough Council and Pendle Borough Council.
- 4.6 This allocation is paid on the condition that current arrangements to spend funding across the joint-award area from the Rough Sleeping Initiative 2022-25 programme continue.
- 4.7 The purpose of the Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery Grant is to enable local authorities to continue vital rough sleeping services, to support individuals sleeping rough, at risk of sleeping rough, or at risk of returning to rough sleeping.
- 4.8 Where funding is allocated across multiple authorities, it is expected joint delivery and collaboration to continue. Services provided through this grant include:
- Accommodation and outreach staff
  - Specialist services such as physical and mental health support, immigration advice, and training to widen employment opportunities.
- 4.9 It is proposed to continue the Rough Sleeping Initiative in the current arrangement as follows:

	25/26	Staff number	24/25	Staff number
MCHLG ROUGH SLEEPER PREVENTION AND RECOVERY GRANT	149,000		149,000	
TOTAL				

ACCOMMODATION SUPPORT OFFICER (BURNLEY)	38,000	1.0	38,000	1.0
ACCOMMODATION SUPPORT OFFICER ROSSENDALE	35,000	1.0	35,000	1.0
CASE NAVIGATOR	70,000	2.0	70,000	2.0
PERSONAL BUDGETS	6,000	0	6,000	0

## **The Local Authority Housing Fund**

4.10 In 2023, Rossendale Borough Council received £429,000 and £278,000 in Local Authority Housing Funding. This capital funding has supported the purchase and acquisition of properties in Rossendale to support various households.

4.11 The total grant allocation for the Council is £356,000 between 2024/25-2025/26. This is to provide 4 homes: three properties for general homelessness relief and one property for resettlement of Afghan refugee households. The Council must enter into an MOU and deliver the properties by the end of March 2026.

## **5. RISK**

5.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- HPG grant is ring-fenced in 2025/26 to ensure that at least 49% of the funding is spent on prevention, relief, and staffing activities, and not on temporary accommodation. There is a continued risk of the temporary accommodation costs historically exceeding 51% of HPG which would then need to be met by council reserves. However RBC Housing Options Team is committed to continue delivering its B&B elimination plan to reduce costs of temporary accommodation with the support of MCHLG.
- RBC is the accountable body managing the Rough Sleeping and Prevention and Recovery Grant and we will complete due diligence to mitigate any risk.

## **6. FINANCE**

6.1 The Director of Resources will be required to submit a Statement of Grant usage to MHCLG for the Homeless Prevention Grant and the Local Authority Housing Fund.

## **7. LEGAL**

7.1 Due to the value of the funding, Full Council is required to approve acceptance with delegations to officers to sign all relevant funding agreements in line with the Council's Constitution.

7.2 There are no other legal implications arising directly from this report but further reports will be presented as and when required to seek the necessary authorisations.

## **8. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

Any policy implications are included in the body of the report. There are no equality implications.

## **9. REASON FOR DECISION**

To accept the grants to prevent and relieve homelessness in the Rossendale Borough in line with the Local Authorities Visions and Priorities, specifically having access to a good quality.

home to either rent or buy plays a fundamental part in our residents' quality of life, as we want people to live long healthy lives and take pride in their communities.

No background papers