

Report for: Cabinet Member Signing for Housing Services, Private Renters and Planning Cllr Williams

Item number: 6

Title: Request for approval of receipt of Grant from the GLA Single Homeless Accommodation Programme and to award grants to the partnering agency.

Report authorised by: Denise Gandy, Assistant Director Housing Demand

Lead Officer: Maddie Watkins, Lead Housing Related Support

Ward(s) affected: NA

Report for Key Decision

1. Describe the issue under consideration.

- 1.1. The report seeks approval from the Cabinet Member for Housing Services, Private Renters and Planning for the receipt of grant funding of **£847,281** from the GLA Single Homeless Accommodation Programme (SHAP)
- 1.2. And award of a grant-funded contract to the Provider in accordance with the Council's successful funding bid.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Cabinet Member for Housing Services, Private Renters and Planning approve the receipt of grant funding from the GLA Single Homeless Accommodation Programme, in the sum of £847,281 over 3 years as permitted under Contract Standing Order (CSO)s 16.02 and 17.1.
- 2.2 Pursuant to CSO 9.07.1 d) the Cabinet Member for Housing Services, Private Renters and Planning approves the award of a grant funded contract to De Paul UK for a period of 3 years from 18th March 2024 to 18 March 2027 date as set out in the bid and the outlined in the table below, based on the financial year.

Year 1 (2023/24)	Year 2 (2024/25)	Year 3 (2025/26)	Year 4 (2026/27)	Total
---------------------	---------------------	---------------------	---------------------	-------

£			£220,305	
73,247.50	£270,480.25	£283,248.25		£847,281

3. Reasons for Decision

- 3.1 The Council's Housing Related Support service have been working closely with De Paul UK on the planning for this bid, after having identified them as our preferred partner due to the excellent level of service delivery they have demonstrated since taking over another contract in the borough in 2022. This collaboration has led to the service specification for a complex needs' adults service, combining both LBOH and DePaul's expertise and values.
- 3.2 Partner agency De Paul UK was an integral part of designing the bid, which focused on the strength of the organisation, its proven track record of working in partnership to reduce rough sleeping in the borough and the ability to mobilise initiatives at pace.
- 3.3 The successful bid and award of funding from the GLA is ringfenced for the purpose of reducing and ending rough sleeping, as set out in the bidding process and was awarded on the basis of a specific initiative and delivery partner.
- 3.4 The new funding will enable the Council to increase provision in the homelessness Pathway for adults aged 24 and above with a history of repeated homelessness and rough sleeping who have complex support needs, a group identified through a strategic gap analysis as being underserved. We would define this as two or more of any of the following: substance and/or alcohol misuse, mental health, physical health, learning difficulties, chaotic lifestyles, experience of imprisonment and/or involvement in criminal justice system, victims and survivors of VAWG, affected by or at risk of sex working.

4. Alternative options considered.

- 4.1 The Council could decide not to accept the grant. However, our successful bid was based on strong evidence of continued demand for services to tackle rough sleeping in the London Borough of Haringey, for which there is no other identified funding stream. Therefore, it is in the Council's interest to accept the grant in order to deliver against the commitments set out in the Corporate Delivery Plan (2023-2024).
- 4.2 A tender process was not considered as it would not have been possible to award the grant monies to an alternative provider as the award was predicated on the

delivery of this specific programme with the delivery partner who helped formulate the bid and outlined the delivery process.

5. Background information

- 5.1.** Successfully ending rough sleeping is a systemic and long-term project and not something that can be tackled solely on an individual, local or even regional level to truly sustainable effect. Haringey Council and partners work collaboratively to reduce rough sleeping in the borough, and to provide suitable and sustainable settled accommodation for those who have experienced rough sleeping.
- 5.2.** In 2020/21 Haringey was awarded £953,000 from the Rough Sleeping Initiative. In 2021/22 a determination of £1,626,960 of funding was made, for both rough sleeping services and for the provision of accommodation under Everyone In and Protect and Vaccinate. Many boroughs provided feedback to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on the need for longer term funding which allows for more effective strategic intervention and for longer term planning. The award of a 3 year funding settlement for the period 2024 to 2027 is welcomed.
- 5.3.** Since its inception in 2017, RSI funding has resourced a significant expansion of the borough's rough sleeping programme. This has enabled us to respond innovatively and quickly to local demand and population changes which has resulted in national best practice and a strong track record for delivering positive outcomes for vulnerable residents. There have been major improvements in the response to people affected by rough sleeping from health services, both at the operational level in terms of practice development and multi-disciplinary working, and at regional level in terms of health commissioning and needs assessment.
- 5.4.** Rough Sleeping and the street-based behaviour often associated with it, such as begging, street drinking and other forms of antisocial behaviour, are damaging to communities and individuals. People who are rough sleeping are vulnerable to abuse, exploitation, and trafficking, as well as to hate crime and other forms of victimisation. Some groups are particularly vulnerable to this; women, young people, learning disabled adults, LGBTQ+ people and people from migrant communities. The provision of bespoke and trauma-informed accommodation and support services is a key mechanism through which the Council and its partners can prevent and respond to such experiences and inequalities.

6. Contribution to strategic outcomes

- 6.1.** This decision supports the delivery of the High-Level Outcome for Adults in the Corporate Delivery Plan (2023-2024) *'All adults are able to live healthy and fulfilling lives, with dignity, staying active, safe, independent and connected in their communities'*, in particular to;
- Improved mental wellbeing and a decrease in the stigma around mental health.
 - Improved access by ensuring residents receive holistic support in their local area.
- 6.2** The receipt of this grant and consequent services will contribute to the strategic objectives of Adult Social Care and their partners to offer preventative interventions at individual and community levels, preventing escalation of need.
- 6.3** The receipt of this grant and subsequent services will contribute to the delivery of the Council's Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023 – 2027.
- 6.4** The service also contributes to the Council's statutory responsibilities under a range of legislation including the Homelessness Reduction Act (2018), the Care Act (2014) and the Equality Act (2010), by providing housing-related support to vulnerable people in order to ensure they are able to live independent, fulfilling and active lives in the community for as long as possible.

7. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)

7.1 Finance

The only risk will be managing the service to ensure the criteria of the grants are met, and only the expenditure that fall under the conditions set forth, are matched against the funds provided. The GLA has the authority to withdraw the grant in the instance where the funding has been misused. In this case the general fund will have to burden the cost of the service which may lead to a significant financial pressure.

7.2 Procurement

- 7.2.1** A contract at this value would usually require a tender process in line with the Schedule 3 of the Public Contracts Regulation 2015. However, under reg 32 a direct award can be made where competition is absent for technical reasons, in this case, the award of grant and attendant service was made with the specific delivery partner outlined at 3 above and therefore could not be tendered.
- 7.2.2** The receipt of the Grant funding is permitted under Contract Standing Orders 17.1.(approval for receipt of grant) and 16.02 which enables urgent decisions or decisions required in between Cabinet meetings to be made, in this case due to the timing of the notification of the grant allowance award.
- 7.2.3** The proposed award is in line with CSO 9.07.1 d) and will assist commissioning to buttress the good work already underway in this area. The increased funding will enable commissioners to widen support for this particular vulnerable cohort of homeless people with complex needs as outlined at 3 above.
- 7.2.4** Commissioning will monitor provision to ensure that the grant conditions are met, and outcomes delivered.

7.3 Legal

The Head of Legal and Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

The process for approval of receipt of grants is set out in CSO 17.01 of the Council's Contract Standing Orders (CSOs) and this aligns with the process for award of contracts. For contracts of £500,000 or more, a Cabinet decision is required. However in-between meetings of the Cabinet, the Leader may take any such decision or may allocate to the Cabinet Member with the relevant portfolio (CSO 16.02).

The contract to be awarded using the GLA grant funding is above the threshold (currently £663,540 including VAT) where the Light Touch regime set out in Schedule 3 (Social and other Services) of the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (the Regulations) applies. Therefore the Council is required to follow a procurement process for the award of the contract unless it can avail itself of one of the exceptions set out in the Regulations.

Reg 32 1 (b) provides that the negotiated procedure without prior publication of a notice may be used where the services can only be supplied by a particular operator because competition is absent for technical reasons.

The award of the contract would usually be made by Cabinet as the value is over £500,000 (CSO 9.07.1 d). In-between meetings of the Cabinet, the Leader may take this decision or allocate to the Cabinet Member with the relevant portfolio (CSO 16.02).

The award of the contract will be a Key Decision and, as such, the Council needs to comply with its governance requirements in respect of Key Decisions including publication in the Forward Plan.

The Head of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) confirms that there are no legal reasons preventing the Cabinet Member for Housing Service, Private Renters and Planning approving the recommendations in this report.

Equality

7.3.1 The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.
- The three parts of the duty applies to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status apply to the first part of the duty.

7.3.2 Although it is not enforced in legislation as protected characteristics, Haringey council treats socioeconomic status as a local protected characteristic.

7.3.3 This decision will help the Council to meet its equalities duties and address known inequalities affecting individuals with protected characteristics, in particular relating to age, sex, sexuality, gender identity, race, and disability. Accordingly, the decision represents progress to eliminate discrimination and advance equality of opportunity. As an organisation carrying out a public function on behalf of a public body, the service provider will be obliged to have due regard for the need to achieve the three aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty as stated above.

7.3.4 The contract award is likely to have a positive impact on individuals who are vulnerable to homelessness. Data held by the Council suggests that women, BAME communities, those who identify as LGBTQ+ and individuals with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to homelessness, as detailed in the Equalities Impact Assessment of the Council's Draft Homelessness Strategy. As such, it is reasonable to anticipate a positive impact on residents with these protected characteristics. The service specification also stipulates that the service provider have policies with relation to equal opportunities and equality and diversity as well as compliance with the Equality Act 2010.

7.3.5 The co-design of this service by including those with lived experience of homelessness, formed part of the background to the draft Rough Sleeping Strategy. This strategy is a collaboration between Haringey Council, Arts & Homelessness International and the people we work to support. The co-creation of this strategy celebrates and builds on our Council's ongoing commitment to improve homelessness services through embedding co-production into our service design.

7.3.6 Protected characteristics are tracked on the CHAIN (Combined Homelessness and Information Network) database case management and monitoring application on a monthly basis.

8. Use of Appendices

N/A

9. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985