

Report for: Cabinet Member signing

Item number: 6

Title: Request approval for receipt of grant from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local government (MHCLG) for Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Grant funding programmes 2025/26, Winter Pressures 2024 to 2026, and the Greater London Authority (GLA) for Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP) 2025/26.

Report authorised by: Maddie Watkins - Assistant Director of Housing Demand

Lead Officer: Zahra Maye, Head of Housing Related Support
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Ward(s) affected: All

**Report for Key/
Non Key Decision:** Key decision

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1. The report seeks Cabinet member approval for receipt of grant from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local government (MHCLG) for Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Grant funding programmes 2025/26, Winter Pressures 2024/25, and the Greater London Authority (GLA) for Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP) 2025/26.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. For the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning to approve, as permitted under Contract Standing Order (CSO) 16.2 and 17.1, the receipt of grant from the MHCLG from the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Grant Funding Programme 2025/26, Winter Pressures 2024 to 2026, and from the Greater London Authority (GLA) for Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme 2025/26. The total grant funding amount will be £16,366,908, detail breakdown of funding allocated stipulated **Appendix A** of this report.

3. Reasons for Decision

- 3.1. Haringey Council have been awarded grants totalling £16,366,908 by MHCLG and the GLA for 2025/26 (except Winter Pressures is 2024 to 2026) financial year. The funding is ringfenced for the purpose of preventing, reducing and ending homelessness and rough sleeping. Cabinet member approval is required to agree the receipt of grant funding as stipulated by CSO 17.1.
- 3.2. The grants allow the Council to carry out its statutory responsibilities under a range of legislation including the Homelessness Reduction Act (2019), the Care Act (2014) and the Equality Act (2010), by providing housing-related support to vulnerable people to ensure they are able to live independent, fulfilling and active lives in the community for as long as possible.

- 3.3. Additionally, the grants will enable the Council to achieve the strategic aims set out in the Corporate Delivery Plan 2024-26, People Priority in the Plan, strategic objectives of Adult Social Care and Rough Sleeping (2023-27) Strategy.

4. Alternative options considered

- 4.1. The Council has a legal and statutory obligation as defined by the Homelessness Reduction Act to prevent and relieve homelessness - acceptance of this grant will meet our legal obligations of homelessness prevention and relief.

5. Background information

- 5.1. As of February 2025, Haringey Council continues to address the challenges of homelessness and rough sleeping within the borough. The number of families in temporary accommodation has reached almost 3,000, reflecting a significant demand for housing support.
- 5.2. In the broader London context, rough sleeping has seen a concerning rise. Between July and September 2024, 4,780 individuals were recorded sleeping rough in the capital, marking an 18% increase compared to the same period in 2023.
- 5.3. The number of people sleeping rough in London has significantly increased in the last decade. Some 8,329 people were recorded sleeping rough in the capital in 2021/22, this works out at an average of 2,082 per quarter. People seen sleeping rough in Haringey in 2021/22 totalled to 268, this is 34% less people compared to 2020/21. 30% of those who have slept rough in the last year had been in prison. We also know there are particular challenges for some prisoners accessing private rented sector tenancies and essential to the continued success of the Housing Related Support Pathway, is identifying realistic accommodation options for people leaving prison, and at risk of rough sleeping.
- 5.4. Haringey has the third highest rate of emergency placements in London and the highest in the North Central London sub-region. The Council is also working in the context of a chronic shortage of social housing in the borough, with over 9,000 households on the Council's housing register and 3,000 households in temporary accommodation.
- 5.5. Successfully ending rough sleeping and homelessness 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.
- 5.6. Despite these challenges, Haringey has achieved a notable 71% reduction in rough sleeping since July 2018. This success is attributed to significant investments in addressing rough sleeping, the development of innovative approaches for individuals facing multiple disadvantages, the opening of new

supported housing accommodation provisions, and the creation of rent-free accommodations for those affected by immigration issues.

- 5.7. Since its inception in 2017, Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) funding has resourced a significant expansion of the boroughs rough sleeping programme. This has enabled Council 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. Partly triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic, there have been major improvements in the response to people affected by homelessness and 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.
- 5.8. 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 experiencing homelessness and 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.
- 5.9. The purpose of the **Homelessness Prevention Grant** is to give local authorities control and flexibility in managing homelessness pressures and supporting those who are at risk of homelessness.
- 5.10. 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.
- 5.11. Haringey has been selected as a pilot area for an **Emergency Accommodation Reduction Pilot programme** and will work together with MCHLG to identify and test changes to reduce Bed and Breakfast usage and explore solutions that will be most impactful to improve the overall quality and value-for-money of temporary accommodation.
- 5.12. The purpose of the **Winter Pressures funding** is to respond to the need for surge accommodation during extreme weather events and provide support and intervention for those without priority need. It is part of sub-region funding for North Central London funding awarded and distributed by lead local authority Islington.
- 5.13. The GLAs **Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme** support funding is to provide support services to former rough sleepers living in homes at the Olive Morris Court and Carroll Court projects. Combined, these locations offer 37 units in total. The units provide step-down accommodation for people residing in Haringey's supported accommodation pathway and support will be provided

through a mixture of staff visiting the sites, meeting clients in the community or office-based support at Olive Morris Court.

6. Contribution to strategic outcomes

- 6.1. Contribution to the Corporate Delivery Plan (CDP) 2024-26 High level strategic outcomes. These grant supports the delivery of the Housing priority in the CDP (2024-26)
- Provide better support for single homeless households with complex needs. Identify suitable support for vulnerable adults placed in TA.
 - Preventing and reducing homelessness and rough sleeping
 - decreasing the number of homeless households and those presenting as homeless, including those who sleep rough.
- 6.2. The grants also support the delivery of the People Priority in the Plan, '*Strong families, strong networks and strong communities nurture all residents to live well and achieve their potential*', in particular to;
- People will be supported to live independently at home for longer.
 - Adults will feel physically and mentally healthy and well.
 - Adults with multiple and complex needs will be supported to achieve improved outcomes through a coordinated partnership approach.
- 6.3. The grants will contribute to the strategic objectives of Adult Social Care and their partners to offer preventative interventions at individual and community levels, decreasing demand on supported housing, preventing escalation of need, and offering viable options to residential care.
- 6.4. The grants will contribute to the delivery of the Council's Rough Sleeping (2023-27) Strategy by helping to prevent and relieve homelessness, reduce the use of temporary accommodation, and provide rapid exit from street homelessness for those in need.

7. Carbon and Climate Change

- 7.1. Haringey Climate Change Action Plan March 2021 outlines the council's route for net zero carbon in Haringey. All HRS services and provision contribute to the Community Actions Objective Com1 – To increase education and awareness raising across the borough to residents and businesses.
- 7.2. Raising awareness of the impacts of climate change, and steps to mitigate, can encourage residents and businesses to engage with the issue and to enable behavioural change.
- 7.3. Housing Related Support team commission a wide variety of services which support vulnerable Haringey residents who have experience homelessness or are at risk of homelessness.
- 7.4. As a team we are committed to embedding educational awareness into the fabric of commissioning from the tender process to contract monitoring. We

seek to deliver carbon literacy awareness training to our providers and stakeholder relating to carbon footprint within their own organisations i.e.:

- 7.5. Ensuring providers have a carbon change policy.
- 7.6. Including drafting a provider's self-assessment.
- 7.7. We also seek to consult with our stakeholders in relation to benchmarking best practice. This in-turn will be fed into our annual audit procedure where HRS Commissioning would be able to monitor and evaluate year on year whether organisations are actually reducing their carbon footprint.
- 7.8. HRS would also seek to co-produce our own carbon plan with service users by consulting with them on how climate change is affecting them i.e. Summer SWEP, Climate anxiety etc.
- 7.9. Finally, we seek to embed climate change into our service specification ensuring that providers we have, commit to addressing climate change on a wider strategic level with the Commissioning Team.

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

8.1. Finance

- 8.1.1. This report seeks the approval for the receipt of Grant from the MHCLG from the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Grant Funding Programme 2025/26, Winter Pressures 2024/25, and from the Greater London Authority (GLA) for Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme 2025/26 totalling £16,366,908.
- 8.1.2. The only financial implication that may occur is that the Grant Awarding Bodies (GAB) may withdraw the funds, which would result in the Council's General Fund (GF) absorbing the costs. However, this risk is unlikely and poses no real threat to the Council.

8.2. Strategic Procurement

- 8.2.1. Strategic Procurement notes the contents of this report and have been consulted in the preparation of this report.
- 8.2.2. The request to accept the grant funding is in accordance with the Contract Standing Orders 17.1. Accepting the grant fundings will facilitate the Council in delivering essential services to residents and will enable the Council to fulfill its obligations as outline in paragraph 6 above.
- 8.2.3. Housing Related Support to ensure system and processes are in place to enable the Council to fulfil its obligations set out in grant agreements and mitigate risk of having to be repay grant funding, either in full or in pro-rata.
- 8.2.4. The Council's primary objective is to deliver services directly through in-house resources. However, when these resources are unable to meet specific

requirements, Strategic Procurement will provide specialised resource and collaborate with the Housing Related Support team to source externally supplied solutions to fulfill these need.

- 8.2.5. Strategic Procurement notes the contents of this report and confirms there are no procurement related matters that would prevent the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning agreeing the recommendations stated in 3.1 above.

8.3. **Legal**

- 8.3.1. The Assistance Director for Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) has been consulted in the preparation of this report.
- 8.3.2. Pursuant to the Council's Contract Standing Order (CSO) 17.1 Cabinet has authority to approve the receipt of a grant where the value of the grant is £500,000 or more.
- 8.3.3. Pursuant to the provisions of the Council's CSO 16.02, the Leader may allocate a decision reserved for Cabinet to the Cabinet Member having the relevant portfolio responsibilities and as such the recommendation in paragraph 3 of the report to seek approval from Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning to approve the receipt of grant from the MHCLG from the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Grant Funding Programme 2025/26, Winter Pressures 2024 to 2026, and from the Greater London Authority (GLA) for Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme 2025/26 is in line with the provisions of the Council's CSO provided that such a decision has been allocated to the Cabinet member by the Leader.
- 8.3.4. The Assistant Director for Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) sees no legal reasons preventing the approval of the recommendation in the report

8.4. **Equality**

- 8.4.1. 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.
- 8.4.2. 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.
- 8.4.3. 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.

- 8.4.4. The decision outlined in this report is to accept grant funding from multiple sources for housing-related support. This will help to fund the provision of housing-related support in Haringey for residents who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. This will have a positive impact on groups who are disproportionately likely to be at risk of homelessness as well as those with additional housing needs which result from their protected characteristic. Therefore, it is anticipated that the decision will positively impact women, disabled people (particularly those with mental health needs), older people who need extra support, young people (particularly those considered to be at risk or leaving care), survivors and victims of domestic abuse (who are disproportionately female), LGBTQ+ people and people from ethnic minority backgrounds.

9. Use of Appendices

- 9.1. Appendix A - Breakdown of funding allocation

10. Background Papers

- 10.1. Not applicable

Appendix A – Breakdown of funding allocation

The table below shows breakdown of funding allocations

Funder	Revenue Funding Programme	Grant Value £
MHCLG	Homelessness Prevention Grant 2025/26	13,743,808
MHCLG	Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery Grant 2025/26	1,348,484
MHCLG	Emergency Accommodation Reduction Pilots 2025/26	210,000
MHCLG	Additional Emergency Accommodation Reduction Pilots 2024/25	150,000
MHCLG	Winter Pressures 2024/25 - NCL Sub Region	75,000
MHCLG	Rough Sleeping Winter Pressures Fund 24/25	514,503
GLA	Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (Ermine Road and Carroll Court) 25/26	325,113
	Total	16,366,908