

Report for: Cabinet - 10 March 2026

Item number: 17

Title: Request approval for receipt of grant from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local government (MHCLG) for Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery Grant (RSPARG) for the funding period 2025-26

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

Lead Officer: Zahra Maye, Head of Housing Related Support

Ward(s) affected: All

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

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1. The report seeks Cabinet approval for receipt of grant from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) for the Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery Grant (RSPARG). Although the grant is awarded for the 2025/26 financial year, the MHCLG has confirmed that the funding may be committed and spent through to 31 March 2028.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

- 2.1 The driving mission of this Council is to build a fairer and greener borough. The housing crisis in London is leaving more and more local residents unable to afford their rent, let alone ever afford to buy. We desperately need more affordable housing – genuinely affordable housing. We’re building thousands of new council homes that we’re letting at council rents. 1,000 are complete and another 2,000 are under construction – on track to complete by 2031.
- 2.2 We’re one of the largest council housebuilders in the country – and we’re expanding into building affordable homes for key workers and other residents on lower incomes. The housing crisis is deep though and our residents are still falling into homelessness as rents go up or landlords sell up – or of course for many other reasons.
- 2.3 The pre-2010 government very nearly abolished rough sleeping in Britain. But since 2010, rough sleeping and homelessness have risen dramatically. The number of homeless households in England placed by councils into temporary accommodation has more than doubled since 2010, increasing by 129%. The number of people sleeping rough across England increased even more sharply and is now 164% higher than in 2010. In London, nearly four times as

many people are sleeping on the streets than in 2010. Austerity ripped away Supporting People and other national measures that were so effective.

- 2.4 Amid this, Haringey has built a first-rate street homelessness service. Rough sleeping is down 46% in the borough since 2022. That bucks the wider trend both nationally and across London. We've made this a core priority in Haringey and we're seeing the results.
- 2.5 We set an ambitious target to end the use of hotels for temporary accommodation – and we've met it. Bar absolute emergencies, we no longer house anyone in B&Bs or hotels.
- 2.6 Haringey continues to face significant pressures around homelessness and rough sleeping, with rising demand for temporary accommodation and increasingly complex needs among residents. Despite this, we have made strong progress in reducing rough sleeping and strengthening our prevention work through close partnership working and targeted investment.
- 2.7 This report seeks approval to accept £2.1m in grant funding from MHCLG and the North London Housing Partnership for 2025–26. This funding is essential to sustaining and enhancing our prevention pathways, outreach services, specialist support offers, and work with vulnerable groups who are disproportionately affected by homelessness.
- 2.8 The grants both support our statutory duties under the Homelessness Reduction Act, Care Act and Equality Act, and enable delivery of key priorities in the Corporate Delivery Plan, Adult Social Care objectives, and the Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023–27. Accepting this funding will allow us to continue our progress, protect vital services, and ensure residents at risk of homelessness receive the support they need.
- 2.9 This funding shows the government's confidence in us to deliver – improving quality of life for some of our most vulnerable residents.

3. Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 3.1. In accordance with Contract Standing Orders (CSOs) 21.01 and CSO 2.01(c) approves the acceptance of the grant from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local government (MHCLG) for Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery Grant (RSPARG) for the funding period 2025-26.
- 3.2. The total grant funding amount will be **£2,137,751**, detail breakdown of funding allocated stipulated **Appendix A** of this report.

4. Reasons for Decision

- 4.1. Haringey Council have been awarded grants totalling **£2,137,751** by MHCLG for 2025/26 financial year. The funding is ringfenced for the purpose of preventing, reducing and ending homelessness and rough sleeping.
- 4.2. 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.
- 4.3. 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.

5. Alternative options considered

- 5.1. 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.

6. Background information

- 6.1. As of December 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.
- 6.2. In the broader London context, rough sleeping has seen a concerning rise. Between July and September 2025, 4,711 individuals were recorded sleeping rough in the capital, a slight decrease compared to the same period in 2024.
- 6.3. 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 almost 3,000 households in temporary accommodation.
- 6.4. 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.
- 6.5. 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.

- 6.6. Since its inception in 2017, Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) funding has resourced a significant expansion of the borough's rough sleeping programme. This has enabled the 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.
- 6.7. 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.
- 6.8. The purpose of the **Homelessness Prevention Grant (Supporting Children Experiencing Homelessness uplift)** is to tackle and prevent child homelessness and support children living in temporary accommodation. This top up is for the sole purpose of delivering activities linked to prevention, relief and staffing activities, and other costs incurred to help improve access to services for households in temporary accommodation.
- 6.9. 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.
- 6.10. The purpose of the **North London Housing Partnership 2025-26 Rough Sleeping Prevention & Recovery Uplift Programme** is awarded to respond to the localised North London subregional need. This award consists of various preventative service initiatives:
 - 6.10.1. **Bolster Housing Options capacity** by supporting upstream prevention and use of Ending Rough Sleeping Assessment Tool (ERSAT), transitioning from placing residents in asylum hotels and providing enhanced move on pathways
 - 6.10.2. Enhancement and specifically focussed rough sleeping outreach team shift at **Transport Hubs** and tented encampments.

- 6.10.3. A new joint **Street Sex Worker project** (led by Enfield/Haringey) to support and prevent long term homelessness and associated harms in populations involved in or at risk of sex working.
- 6.10.4. Alleviation of **winter pressures** on outreach services, such as additional shifts and an increase in accommodation provision due to extreme weather conditions.
- 6.10.5. **Osborne Grove Prevention Hub provision** for tri borough referrals directly from Haringey/Barnet/Enfield housing options.

7. Contribution to strategic outcomes

- 7.1. 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.
- 7.2. 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.
- 7.3. 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.
- 7.4. 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.

8. Carbon and Climate Change

- 8.1. 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.

- 8.2. 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.
- 8.3. 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.
- 8.4. 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.:
- 8.5. Ensuring providers have a carbon change policy.
- 8.6. Including drafting a provider's self-assessment.
- 8.7. We also seek to engage 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.
- 8.8. 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.
- 8.9. 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.

9. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Director of Legal & Governance, Equalities)

9.1. Finance

- 9.1.1. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local government (MHCLG) has awarded Haringey Council £2,137,751 in relation to the Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery Grant (RSPARG) for the funding period 2025-26. There is no financial implications in accepting the funding as expenditure planned is within the grant conditions set by MHCLG.

9.2. Strategic Procurement

- 9.2.1. Strategic Procurement has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

9.2.2. As required by Contract Standing Order 21.01 the receipt of grant monies from an external body must be approved by Cabinet in accordance with CSO 2.01.c for values of grant at 500k or more.

9.3. **Legal**

9.3.1. The Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) was consulted in the preparation of the report.

9.3.2. Pursuant to the provisions of the Council's Contract Standing Order (CSO) 21.01 and CSO 2.01(c), Cabinet has the power to approve receipt of grants where the value of the grant is £500,000 or more and such the recommendation in paragraph 3.1 of the report is line with the Council's CSO.

9.3.3. The Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) see no legal reasons preventing Cabinet Member from approving the recommendations in the report.

9.4. **Equality**

9.4.1. 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.

9.4.2. 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.

9.4.3. 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.

9.4.4. 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.

- 9.4.5. Around 4,000 children are currently living in temporary accommodation (January 2026), with women and members from ethnic minority backgrounds (especially members of the Black community) being disproportionately represented. Similar disparities exist for families threatened with or currently experiencing homelessness; for example, 39% of main applicants that were owed a relief duty in 2025 identify as Black despite only comprising 16% of Haringey's population. It is anticipated that this decision will positively impact children and their families from minoritised groups threatened with or experiencing homelessness.

10. Use of Appendices

- 10.1. Appendix A - Breakdown of funding allocation

11. Background Papers

- 11.1. Not applicable

Appendix A – Breakdown of funding allocation

Funder	Funding Programme	Amounts [£]
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MHCLG	Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery Grant (RSPARG) Top-up Payment 2025/26	267,359
MHCLG	Homelessness Prevention Grant (Supporting Children Experiencing Homelessness uplift) 2025/26	276,214
NLHP (MHCLG) subregion	Bolster Housing Options capacity by supporting upstream prevention/use of ERSAT tool/transitioning from asylum hotels/ enhanced move on pathways	480,191
NLHP (MHCLG) subregion	Transport Hubs Engagement - to be widened to include tented encampments	80,000
NLHP (MHCLG) subregion	New joint street sex worker project (led by Enfield/Haringey)	400,000
NLHP (MHCLG) subregion	Winter Pressures/Additional Surge Accommodation 2025/26	225,000
NLHP (MHCLG) subregion	Osborne Grove Prevention Hub	408,987
	Total	£2,137,751