

OFFICER DECISION RECORD 1 FORM

This form should be used to record Officer Decisions in Excess of £100k (but below the key decision threshold), or where required by Financial, Contract or other Procedure Rules or following formal delegation from Cabinet or a Cabinet Member or a Council Committee.

Decision Reference No: 2021/13/PH/AccExOff

BOX 1

DIRECTORATE: Public Health, Strategic Commissioning **DATE:** 5 July 2021

Contact Name: Mark Wakefield **Tel. No.:** 01302 737014

Subject Matter: Acceptance of Accommodation for Ex-offenders funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

BOX 2**DECISION TAKEN**

Approval to accept £168,000 of funding (£142,500 in 2021/22 and £25,500 in 2022/23) from MHCLG to provide accommodation for ex-offenders who are homeless or at risk of homelessness/rough sleeping.

BOX 3**REASON FOR THE DECISION**

The Council has been successful in a recent bid submission to the MHCLG for £168,000 funding to increase access to new private rented sector tenancies for ex-offenders who are, or are risk of becoming homeless with the aim of reducing rough sleeping and reoffending.

The funding will enable the recruitment of a Private Rented Sector Liaison officer to pro-actively seek accommodation with the private rented sector for this often excluded client group. In addition, two Tenancy Sustainment Officers will be recruited to provide intensive support to enable individuals to stabilise and settle within accommodation. The funding will also allow for a tenancy support financial package to be made available in order to offer personalised interventions for individuals such as rent in advance, furniture packs etc.

BOX 4**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

To not accept the funding (rejected) - there would be a reputational risk of rejecting funding for which the Council was successful in bidding for. Without the funding it would not be possible to recruit the additional resource or make personalised interventions possible in order to open up access to the private rented sector for this often excluded client group and, as such, a negative impact on homelessness and rough sleeping numbers.

BOX 5**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 gives the local authority the power to do anything that individuals may generally do.

S111 Local Government Act 1972 states that a local authority shall have power to do anything (whether or not involving the expenditure, borrowing or lending of money or the acquisition or disposal of any property or rights) which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of their functions.

The MHCLG offer the grant pursuant to the grant determination pursuant to section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. The activities fit with the Council's duties pursuant to try to prevent homelessness. It is important that the Council comply with the project description in the MHCLG memorandum and to note the data sharing obligations in that document.

Name: Nichola Varty Signature: _by email _ Date: 12th July 2021_____

Signature of Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services (or representative)

BOX 6**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

This ODR seeks Approval to accept £168k of funding (£142.5k in 2021/22 and £25.5k in 2022/23) from MHCLG to provide accommodation for ex-offenders who are homeless or at risk of homelessness/rough sleeping. The funding is below the £250k key decision threshold so this ODR is sufficient to accept the funding. Financial procedure rule E.10 Any external funding received by the Council after the budget for the year has been approved, outside of rule E.9, will be classed as a corporate resource unless otherwise determined by the CFO. The funding has been awarded upon acceptance that a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) be signed and returned to formally receive the funding, this MOU will be completed as part of this ODR process. There are no published grant terms and conditions at this stage. Total funding of £168k will be paid directly to Doncaster Council by MHCLG, via a Section 31 Grant Determination, The funding is to cover a 12 month period and covers financial years 2021/22 & 2022/23. The plan to spend the grant award is detailed in the body of the report.

Name: Nick Cameron Signature: __ Date: _6th July 2021

Signature of Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Director of Finance (or representative)

BOX 7**OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS**

None identified

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Assistant Director (or representative)

ANY IMPLICATIONS SENT TO DEPARTMENTS SHOULD GENERALLY BE SUBMITTED AT LEAST 5 WORKING DAYS IN ADVANCE TO ENSURE THESE CAN BE GIVEN THE RELEVANT CONSIDERATION.

BOX 8

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS: (To be completed by the author).

The funding is associated with targeting a specific cohort of the population in recognition of this group often being excluded from a range of accommodation options. The fund is targeted at adults (18+) of all genders with a history of offending (custodial sentence within the last twelve months) who are homeless or at risk of homelessness/rough sleeping. The Council will ensure this criteria is adhered to when implementing proposals locally.

BOX 9

RISK IMPLICATIONS: (To be completed by the author)

There are no risks associated with accepting the funding.

BOX 10

CONSULTATION

Consulted with a range of stakeholders (including SLHD, Probation, CRC, MHCLG) as per the stipulations of the funding prospectus.

BOX 11

INFORMATION NOT FOR PUBLICATION

None identified

Name: Claire Hewitt Signature _____ Date: **13/07/2021**

Signature of FOI Lead Officer for service area where ODR originates

BOX 12

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Please confirm if any Background Papers are included with this ODR **YES/NO**

(If YES please list and submit these with this form)

**BOX 13
AUTHORISATION**

Name: Phil Holmes Signature: _____ Date: 14/07/2021

Chief Executive/Director/Assistant Director of _____

Does this decision require authorisation by the Chief Financial Officer or other Officer

YES/NO

If yes please authorise below:

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Chief Executive/Director/Assistant Director of _____

Consultation with Relevant Member(s)

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Designation _____

(e.g. Mayor, Cabinet Member or Committee Chair/Vice-Chair)

Declaration of Interest YES/NO

If YES please give details below:

PLEASE NOTE THIS FORM WILL BE PUBLISHED ON THE COUNCIL'S WEBSITE IN FULL UNLESS IT CONTAINS EXEMPT OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.

Once completed a PDF copy of this form and any relevant background papers should be forwarded to Governance Services at Democratic.Services@doncaster.gov.uk who will arrange publication.

It is the responsibility of the decision taker to clearly identify any information that is confidential or exempt and should be redacted before publication.