

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 12

meeting date: THURSDAY, 6 JUNE 2019
title: GRANT AWARD FOR RAPID REHOUSING PATHWAY
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING
principal author: RACHAEL STOTT, HOUSING STRATEGY OFFICER

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform Committee that a joint bid was submitted to the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) for the Rough Sleeping Rapid Rehousing Pathway Funding 2019/2020.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Community Objectives – To address housing needs of all households in the borough.
- Corporate Priorities - To make people's lives safer and healthier.
- Other Considerations – None.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 MHCLG invited applications to enhance the process of rehousing rough sleepers. The bidding prospectus asked for local authorities to look at pioneering new approaches and innovative ways of ending rough sleeping.

2.2 Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council took the lead on the East Lancs submission of the bid. The proposal was to employ navigators across the region to work with rough sleepers. The navigator would identify issues, provide support and coordinate a supported move into secure accommodation.

2.3 The proposal would be:

- Burnley, Pendle, Rossendale – 2 navigators
- Blackburn, Ribble Valley – 2 navigators
- Hyndburn – 1 navigator

3 ISSUES

3.1 Ribble Valley figures of rough sleeping are usually nil, however we do access crisis beds and therefore are preventing rough sleeping. These service users will be able to access the new service and be given additional support.

3.2 Blackburn would take the lead on the shared Ribble Valley and Blackburn with Darwen navigators and would be the host for both of the posts. The total value of the approved bid is £139,000. The email attached at Appendix 1 confirms the bid approval. The link below provides access to the details of the grant prospectus. As explained within the email further detail has yet to be confirmed with regard to the

details of the bid, however the report is to notify Members that the bid was successful and that a shared navigator will be post in the forthcoming months.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources – There will be no liability for the access. The grant will be awarded to Blackburn with Darwen and they will be the employer of the navigators.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – The contract will bet between MHCLG and Blackburn with Darwen.
- Political – The grant will allow the housing service to access the navigator role to work to prevent rough sleeping.
- Reputation – Rough sleeping is not a problem in the borough. However we do currently support service users that could be at risk of rough sleeping by providing crisis beds. It is these households that would be offered additional support.
- Equality & Diversity – Important we can offer support to all households in housing need.

5 CONCLUSION

5.1 Acknowledge the grant award and accept this service will improve the housing offer made to people at risk of rough sleeping.

RACHAEL STOTT
HOUSING STRATEGY OFFICER
PLANNING

NICOLA HOPKINS
DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND

For further information please ask for Rachael Stott, extension 3225.

Dear Steve,

Congratulations once more on your successful bid to the Rapid Rehousing Pathway.

Blackburn with Darwen have been awarded partial funding for the navigators element, totalling Â£139,091.00. I will be in touch to explain this decision, which reflects a slight reduction in the number of posts being funded.

You will find attached the MoU for your successful Rapid Rehousing Pathway 2019/2020 application and the delivery plan which you provided. We ask you to review the MoU and include the Word version of the delivery plan at the end of the MoU document, updated to reflect the funding awarded.

We will follow up with a call to agree both documents this week, following which both parties will sign the MoU. We are asking for returns to be made by **Friday, 24th May**. If you foresee any issues with this deadline please flag this to us as soon as possible.

In order to deliver the projects set out in your bid, we understand that staff need to be hired on 12 month contracts. The Department will provide the full amount of funding for the project in 19/20 – giving you the funding certainty you need in order to do this. We understand that a small proportion of this funding will be spent in 20/21 and expect that LAs can manage this within your wider budgets.

Kind regards,

The Rapid Rehousing Pathway Team

Ben Wright

Policy Advisor | Homelessness Directorate