

Housing Operations
222 Upper Street, N1 1XR

Report of: Director of Housing Operations and Deputy Corporate Director

Meeting of: HMT (Housing Management Team)

Date: 26 March 2024

Ward(s): ALL

Subject: Additional Revenue funding for Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme for 2024 - 2025

1. Synopsis

- 1.1. The Greater London Authority (GLA) are seeking to extend the Revenue funding for the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP) for 12 months, until 31 March 2025. This will fund the existing Independent Housing Intensive Support Team (IHIS), who offer intensive floating support to individuals with a history of rough sleeping to live independently.
- 1.2. The original RSAP Capital and Revenue funding for 2021 – 2024, was agreed by the Executive on 14 October 2021. This facilitated the purchase of 60x 1 bedroom ex right to buy flats in Islington for rough sleepers, as well providing intensive tenancy sustainment and psychological support. The additional funding will require a variation to the existing funding agreement. This report seeks approval to vary the agreement, in order to accept the additional funding of £637,090.
- 1.3. The original Revenue Funding for this project was £1,871,940 for 3 years (2021 - 2024), however further funding of £637,090 is available to continue funding the support team currently in place from 1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025. An officer key decision is required to receive the additional £637,090 from the GLA, to fund this continuation.
- 1.4. This scheme offers people with a history of rough sleeping independent, council accommodation, with intensive floating support, for Two years, after which they move on into permanent Council accommodation. Since this scheme started in 2021, 81 individuals have been supported, with 19 moving on in a planned way.

- 1.5. The proposal was considered and approved by Housing Management Team on 26 March 2024.
- 1.6. These 60x properties have been purchased and are fully occupied and the support team are in place, employed by LBI on Fixed Term contracts. This includes: 1x Team Leader, 6x Navigators, 1x Contract Monitoring Officer and Psychology input provided by Camden & Islington NHS Trust, by the Psychologically Informed Consultation & Training (PICT) Service. There is also a personal budget attached to the scheme of £60,000, as outlined below:

Role	Yr 4 24-25
1 x project manager – PO4	64,102
6 x officers – PO1	329,289
1 x monitoring/contract officer - PO2	57,017
1 x psychologist	97,850
Personal Budget for residents	60,000
Total	£608,258

- 1.7. This Scheme has had a significant demonstrable impact on reducing the number of people rough sleeping in Islington, by creating an additional housing option for people met rough sleeping. Out of the 60 properties, 30 people accepted onto the scheme were referred from direct access rough sleeping services such as the hotels/emergency Temporary Accommodation. To date 93% of clients accepted onto the scheme have maintained their tenancies and all of those currently in the scheme are on track to complete 2 years in service.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To agree to receipt of additional Revenue funding for 2024/25 of £637,090, awarded to Islington Council by the Greater London Authority (GLA) in order to continue support interventions.
- 2.2. To agree a variation of the existing Grant Agreement to enable this funding to be received and used to continue funding the Independent Housing Intensive Support Team, to provide ongoing intensive floating support for 60 former rough sleepers living in ex-right to buy properties, also purchased by GLA Capital Grant received in 2021.

3. Date the decision is to be taken

3.1. 8 April 2024

4. Background

- 4.1. In October 2021, the Executive approved the outcome of a Capital and Revenue funding bid made to the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (2021 – 2024) managed by the GLA/MHCLG funding programme. This approved the borrowing of £15 million within the Housing Revenue Account to supplement the funding provided by the GLA/MHCLG to enable the council to purchase 60 one-bedroom properties. The capital funding totalling £4.2 million was allocated to Islington Council by the MHCLG/GLA and to commence the purchase 60 one-bedroom former ex Right to Buy properties in Islington to accommodate former rough sleepers with a connection to Islington. The revenue funding totalling £1,871,940 was allocated to this provision to offer support to the tenants of these 60 x one beds, to maximise tenancy sustainment and prevent a return to the streets.
- 4.2. This Initial report can be referenced here: [The GLAMHCLG Rough Sleeping Accommodation Allocation of Funding Programme 2021-2024.pdf](#)
- 4.3. The objectives of the scheme remain the same and the key deliverables will remain the same:
- To continue to ensure a response to those who remain or arrive on the streets
 - To ensure longer-term accommodation and support solutions for those already in a rough sleeping pathway – enabling move on to independent living
 - Free up spaces in hostels so that supported accommodation is available for those that need it
 - Access to affordable accommodation
 - Improved mental and physical health, well-being and resilience
 - Support the creation of a fairer borough where people can recover and exit homelessness and poverty by having a stable home as a base
 - Greater financial inclusion
 - Engagement with treatment, for those with substance misuse needs
 - Engagement with employment, education, training, volunteering or meaningful activity

5. Implications

5.1 Equalities Impact Assessment

- 5.1.1. The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.
- 5.1.2. A Resident Impact Assessment was carried out in May 2021 with no negative impacts assessed. An additional EQIA screening tool assessment was completed for this report on 7th March 2024. The assessment outcome was that this additional funding is deemed to have neutral/ positive impact on several protected characteristics. No negative impacts were assessed. This programme will contribute positively to the council equality of opportunity principles, the Human Rights of individuals and the elimination of rough sleeping in Islington.

6.1 Legal Implications

- 6.1.1. The decision recommended in paragraph 2.1 of this Report is a Key Decision of the council's Executive to be made in accordance with the council's Constitution, Part 2, Article 13.03.
- 6.1.2. The Council has legal duties under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 to help secure housing accommodation for people who are homeless or under threat of homelessness.
- 6.1.3. Under sections 9 and 17 of the Housing Act 1985 the Council has the necessary power to acquire land and buildings for housing purposes to provide housing accommodation as proposed in this report.
- 6.1.4. Legal Officers will assist in varying the necessary Grant Agreement.

6.2 Financial Implications

- 6.2.1. This proposal seeks to accept £637,090 revenue funding from the Greater London Authority for the provision of the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme for the FY 24/25. This will entirely fund the existing Independent Housing Intensive Support Team (IHIS) currently existing in the Council.
- 6.2.2. Funding will be claimed in lieu based on actual costs up to the value of £637,090. Current estimates for costs are anticipated to be:

Role	Yr 4 24-25
1 x project manager – PO4	64,102
6 x officers – PO1	329,289
1 x monitoring/contract officer - PO2	57,017
1 x psychologist	97,850
Personal Budget for residents	60,000
Total	£608,258

Note: This assumes a 3% pay award in 24/25.

Personal budgets will reduce if total costs rise above the budget envelope.

- 6.2.3. Properties supported by this funding may need to change use if this money is not accepted. As such this may require alternative accommodation to be found for these individuals, which would place higher demand on the housing needs service. Although not quantifiable, these costs are likely to be high, as individuals in the properties typically have high support needs.

7. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 7.1. It is recommended that the Council approves the acceptance of additional Revenue funding from Greater London Authority amounting to £637,090 for the continuation of the support available for 60 tenants who have a history of rough sleeping.
- 7.2 It is recommended that the Grant Agreement is varied to accept this funding.

8. Record of the decision

I have today decided to take the decision set out in section 2 of this report for the reasons set out above.

Authorised by: Acting Corporate Director Homes and Neighbourhoods

Date:

Appendices

- Equalities Impact Assessment – attached.
- Original Key Decision Report for initial funding award: [The GLAMHCLG Rough Sleeping Accommodation Allocation of Funding Programme 2021-2024.pdf](#)

Background papers: N/A

Final report clearance:

Authorised by: Ian Swift, Director of Housing Operations and Deputy Corporate Director

Date: 21st March 2024

Report Author: Sarah Turley

Email: Sarah.Turley@islington.gov.uk

Financial Implications Author: Thomas Cooksey

Email: Thomas.Cooksey@islington.gov.uk

Legal Implications Author: Gwen Goring

Email: Gwen.Goring@islington.gov.uk