

# Report to Executive

Agenda  
Item:

**A.7**

Meeting Date: 29th May 2019  
Portfolio: Economy, Enterprise and Housing  
Key Decision: No  
Within Policy and Budget Framework  
Public / Private Public

Title: ROUGH SLEEPING INITIATIVE & RAPID REHOUSING  
PATHWAY PROGRAMMES  
Report of: Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services  
Report Number: GD.27/19

## Purpose / Summary:

Carlisle City Council, as the lead authority (representing all Cumbrian districts) has accepted £391,640 grant funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government; and £36,000 top up homelessness funding from all district authorities in Cumbria to fund activities to meet the requirements of the Rough Sleeping Initiative and Rapid Rehousing Programmes.

## Recommendations:

Members of the Executive are recommended:

1. To approve utilising £116,000 of the funding awarded to employ 3 full time equivalent staff (on a 12-month fixed term basis) who will work across all district local authorities on the Rough Sleeping Initiative Programme.
2. In accordance with Section 2a of the Council's Constitution, subject to formal agreements being in place between the authorities, to approve the placing of two of these staff at the disposal of partner authorities: one to Allerdale Borough Council/Copeland Borough Council and one to South Lakeland District Council/Barrow Borough Council.

## Tracking

Executive:	
Scrutiny:	
Council:	

## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1** Carlisle City Council as the lead authority, submitted two successful bids on behalf of all the Cumbrian district local authorities to support rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping:
- £311,640 (countywide) has been awarded from the Rapid Rehousing Pathway fund from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, to fund supported lettings and local lettings agencies;
  - **£80,000** has been awarded from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to fund rough sleeping coordinator roles; and forms part of the commitment to tackle and end rough sleeping as outlined within the governments Rough Sleeping Strategy  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-rough-sleeping-strategy>.
- 1.2** In addition, a total of **£36,000** has been committed from the district LAs homelessness teams, using external flexible homeless grant funding to support the Rough Sleeping Initiative programme.
- 1.3** The total combined funding of **£116,000** will be utilised to cover all associated staffing costs linked to the Rough Sleeping Coordinator posts.

## 2. PROPOSALS

### Rough Sleeping Initiative Programme

- 2.1** The MHCLG and all district LA partners agreed that in terms of consistency, value and increased performance, the rough sleeping coordinators will be employed by the same authority.
- 2.2** It is proposed that Carlisle City Council, as the lead authority, utilise the funding to employ 3 FTE rough sleeping coordinators (on a 12-month fixed term basis) to work across the district areas as follows:
- Carlisle and Eden
  - Allerdale and Copeland
  - South Lakeland and Barrow
- 2.3** All districts councils will provide office space for the relevant rough sleeping coordinators to utilise when required on a hot desking basis; note that these roles

are predominantly outreach with clients and in-reach to other key organisations / services.

**2.4** The 3 FTE rough sleeping coordinators will be required to:

- develop and coordinate Cumbria's response to rough sleeping
- establish local key partnerships relating to rough sleeping linked to local district homeless prevention and national rough sleeping strategic priorities
- identify the needs of rough sleepers, manage cases, and coordinate services
- monitor, provide analysis, report on data and design initiatives to inform service developments to end rough sleeping
- assist in developing a county wide rough sleeping strategy to inform future funding allocations / commissioning

**2.5** The rough sleeping coordinator post job descriptions have been drafted and evaluated at a grade F.

### **3. RISKS**

**3.1** There is a potential risk that there could be increased costs associated with the project delivery: the district LAs have agreed that any additional costs will be split on an equal basis, and this has been incorporated in to the legal agreements with each local authority partner. Carlisle City Council has flexible homeless support grant funding that could be used for this purpose if required.

**3.2** There is a risk that there are difficulties in recruiting: the advert will be shared across the county both to internal teams and external key partners to encourage secondment opportunities; and across social media platforms to gain as wider reach as possible.

**3.3** There is a risk that the project does not deliver the outcomes within the timescale (31<sup>st</sup> March 2019) due to potential delays in recruitment / appointment: the MHCLG and districts have confirmed the full amount of funding will be provided for the projects in 2019/20; giving the funding certainty to advertise posts on a 12 month basis from appointment; and acknowledging that a proportion of the funding will be committed and spent in 2020/21.

**3.4** There is a risk that there are barriers in terms of information sharing / GDPR that impact on successful outcomes: appropriate information sharing agreements, privacy statements, risk management, and consent forms will be implemented as part of the legal partnership agreements.

#### **4. CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1** This is a great opportunity for Cumbria to utilise the project findings to understand the scale and the needs of those who are / and at risk of rough sleeping to develop and publish a Rough Sleeping Strategy in 2019/20 to meet statutory requirements and inform future funding allocations / commissioning.

#### **5. CONTRIBUTION TO THE CARLISLE PLAN PRIORITIES**

- 5.1** Addressing Carlisle's current and future housing needs

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#### **Appendices**

**attached to report:** None

**Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government Act 1972 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:**

- None

#### **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS:**

**LEGAL** – The funds must be spent in accordance with the terms of the grant. A formal agreement will be needed between the Council and the other local authority partners in this project. The Constitution (Section 2a) requires that the Executive must consent to the secondment of staff to other Councils.

**FINANCE** – The Council is the accountable body for a grant award for the district Council's in Cumbria and will employ the three FTE posts required for this initiative. The posts will work across the 6 Cumbrian districts. There are risks that the costs could outweigh the available funding however, the agreements with the other Council's will ensure these costs are recovered and Carlisle has already identified where any additional costs would be funded from.

HR have been fully involved in discussions regarding the framework of the roles. It is critical for the success of the project that posts are appropriately appointed too with the right skills and experience identified. Due to the short-term nature of the project, alternative recruitment options will be considered, to ensure maximum options for recruitment (for example, secondment opportunities).

Additionally, HR have advised on risks, such as redundancy entitlements.

**EQUALITY – None**

**INFORMATION GOVERNANCE –** As acknowledged at section 3.4, an appropriate legal partnership agreement will be required which must explicitly set out the GDPR requirements to ensure compliance. Due to the proposal of the City Council employing the staff to work on behalf of the other districts, it is recommended that the Council's Information Governance Manager be consulted throughout the development of key GDPR related documentation.