

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	Additional emergency accommodation for use as winter accommodation provision for people Rough Sleeping along with cleaning functions for the period 22 nd December 2023 to 30 th April 2024.
Date of decision:	18/12/23.
Decision maker:	Corporate Director Community Wellbeing
Authority for delegated decision:	CW-07 Housing and homelessness support and solutions. This decision also supports The Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2020-2025.
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	Consultation has taken place through Herefordshire Homeless Forum with a wide range of statutory agencies and Community Voluntary Faith Sector groups.
Decision made:	To use grant funding received from the Department of Levelling up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase an additional 2 emergency accommodation “pods” • to provide cleaning and associated waste management functions to 6 pods. <p>The provision of additional pods with associated waste management and cleaning function will provide an immediate safe solution for those people at immediate risk of or currently experiencing rough seeping in the county.</p>
Reasons for decision:	Herefordshire Council has secured funding from DLUHC and published an intention to utilise £40,000 of this for rental costs of up to 8 pods. Subsequent to this this decision being taken: <p>Decision - Emergency accommodation and premises for use as winter accommodation provision for people Rough Sleeping for the period 1st December 2023 to 30th April 2024. - Herefordshire Council</p> <p>it has come to light the ground would require extensive work to make ready prior to pods being sited, this is not a cost effective option as the site cannot be used post 30th April 2024.</p> <p>Alternative options have been scoped and Herefordshire Council will now use the £40,000 from DLUHC to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • purchase two additional pods up to the value of £25,000 • Enter into a contract to provide a waste management and cleaning service for the period 22nd December 2023 to 30th April 2024 at a cost of up to £12,000. <p>It is Herefordshire Councils ambition that all people have access to safe, appropriate accommodation, which meets their immediate needs and provides a safe space. The provision of pods will form part of the council’s</p>

	<p>approach to preventing and relieving homelessness.</p> <p>The purchased pods will provide a longer-term asset in the county for continued for those people experiencing rough sleeping to access a safe space.</p> <p>There is an established demand for the provision of winter accommodation, as of October 2023 there are 18 people rough sleeping in the county. Demand data demonstrates up to 22 individuals will typically require this service.</p> <p>This proposal ensures we have sufficient accommodation to safely and appropriately accommodate males and females safely and meet the forecasted local demand.</p>
<p>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</p>	<p>The financial risk is low as funding has been obtained from DLUHC to provide this model of accommodating and supporting people.</p> <p>The legal risk is low:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation has taken place with legal and commercial services colleagues and all procurement activity will be undertaken within the councils contract procedure rules. • Planning consent will be required for a change of use of premises. Advice of Herefordshire Council Planning Department has been taken and a planning application will be submitted, whilst this decision is determined, the premises can be used as set out. <p>Equality considerations. The premises are level access and a level access toilet. Separate accommodation can be provided on site for males and females. It will be staffed during opening times to ensure compliance with the conditions of admittance and acceptable behaviour.</p>
<p>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</p>	<p>Alternative options considered:</p> <p>Do nothing this was rejected for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding has been provided to the council to enable this provision to be in place. Should it not be used for its intended purpose it would need to be returned to DLUHC, this would be a lost opportunity for the council to provide winter provision for a very vulnerable cohort of people and could lead to reputational damage to the council. • The council has a duty provide emergency accommodation under the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) to protect people experiencing rough sleeping in the event of extreme weather, should there be no offer of a winter shelter this is likely to exceed the cost of this proposal leading to additional costs for the council. <p>Utilise funding to deliver on street winter survival packs. This option was rejected as this could lead to negative outcomes for people experiencing rough sleeping including serious injury or death.</p>
<p>Details of any declarations of interest made:</p>	<p>No Declarations of Interest made.</p>

Signed..... Date:

Please ensure that signatures are redacted before publishing.