

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	Procurement of general management and staffing of emergency accommodation for people experiencing rough sleeping for the period 2nd December 2024 up to a maximum of 31st May 2025.
Date of decision:	25 th September 2024
	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. In addition conversations have been held with Herefordshire Councils Planning Department.
Decision made:	To use grant funding received from the Department of Levelling up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to procure a provider to deliver general management and staffing of emergency accommodation for people experiencing rough sleeping for the period 2nd December 2024 up to a maximum of 31st May 2025. The provision of emergency accommodation will provide an immediate solution for those people at immediate risk of or currently experiencing rough sleeping in the county.
Reasons for decision:	Funding has been secured from DLUHC to provide this service which is not expected to exceed £90,000. 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 winter emergency accommodation forms part of the council's approach to preventing and relieving homelessness. The premises identified ensure there is an immediate and safe off the streets offer for people experiencing rough sleeping. There is an established demand for the provision of winter accommodation, as of August 2024 there were 12 people rough sleeping in the county. Demand data demonstrates up to 19 individuals will typically require this service. This proposal ensures we have sufficient accommodation to safely and appropriately accommodate males and females safely and meet the forecasted local demand.
Equality Considerations	The premises are level access and there is 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>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 council's contract procedure rules. • Planning consent has been obtained for a change of use of premises. • The council owned premises will be made available to the successful supplier utilising a management agreement which sets out the expectations and obligations of both the supplier and Herefordshire Council.
<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 to provide emergency accommodation under the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEPE) 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. • 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>Details of any declarations of interest made:</p>	<p>None</p>

Signed..... Date:

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