



<p>HOUSING RELATED SUPPORT IN RELATION TO SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION FOR HOMELESS HOUSEHOLDS – AWARD OF GRANT FUNDING 2023/2024</p>
<p>COUNCILLOR ANDY COLES, CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE IN CONSULTATION WITH COUNCILLOR MARCO CERESTE, CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE, PLANNING, HOUSING AND TRANSPORT</p>
<p>May 2023</p>
<p>Deadline date: 22 May 2023</p>

<p>Cabinet portfolio holder:</p>	<p>Councillor Andy Coles, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Governance, in consultation with Councillor Marco Cereste, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Planning, Housing and Transport</p>
<p>Responsible Director:</p>	<p>Adrian Chapman – Executive Director – Place & Economy</p>
<p>Is this a Key Decision?</p>	<p>YES If yes, has it been included on the Forward Plan: YES Unique Key decision Reference from Forward Plan: KEY/24MAY21/02</p>
<p>Is this decision eligible for call-in?</p>	<p>YES</p>
<p>Does this Public report have any annex that contains exempt information?</p>	<p>NO</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p>The Cabinet Member is recommended to:</p> <p>1. Award grant funding for Housing Related Support in relation to supported accommodation for homeless households, which will be funded through the Housing Related Support Programme (formerly Supporting People Programme), to the following grant recipients for the period from the signing of the CMDN to the 31 December 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longhurst Group (formerly Axiom Housing Association) – Hostel accommodation and drop-in services - £425,722.53; • Cross Keys Homes – hostel accommodation - £67,610.91 • Cambridgeshire & Peterborough YMCA – hostel accommodation - £200,860.28; • Futures Housing Group – hostel accommodation - £46,641.96; • Home Group – hostel accommodation - £58,938.63
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1. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

- 1.1 This report seeks the Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture, and Recreation approval to award grant funding to providers of Housing Related Support in relation to supported accommodation for homeless households, for the period for the period from the signing of the CMDN to the 31 December 2023
- 1.2 This report is for Cabinet Member to consider exercising delegated authority under paragraph 3.4.6 of Part 3 of the constitution in accordance with the terms of their portfolio at paragraph (g).

2. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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3. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The focus of the Housing Related Support programme is now on the prevention of homelessness and includes the provision of homeless hostels, floating outreach support and drop-in services to vulnerable groups such as young people at risk, offenders or people at risk of offending, young parents, victims of domestic abuse, single homeless and homeless families, people with mental health illness, those who are chronically excluded and people with learning disabilities. The grant funding contributes towards the cost of support staff providing Housing Related Support at supported accommodation for homeless households.
- 3.2 Subject to the recommendations of this decision notice being followed, the grant recipients that will receive Housing Related Support grants are:
- Longhurst Group (formerly Axiom Housing Association) – Peterborough Foyer, New Haven and Fair View Court hostels housing 97 people and providing drop-in services for young people, young people at risk, young parents, individuals who are under licence with the probation service and refugees;
 - Cross Keys Homes – four homeless hostels – 62 rooms in total for homeless individuals and families;
 - Futures Housing Group – Mayors Walk Hostel and move-on flats supporting 26 people with medium support needs;
 - Home Group – Eastlands Hostel for 14 people with mental health problems;
 - Cambridgeshire & Peterborough YMCA – The Cresset Hostel for 82 single homeless people with medium/low support needs and Time Stop for 22 young single homeless people with high support needs.
- 3.3 A review of Housing Related Support across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire was completed in 2018. The removal of ring-fenced funding and ongoing financial pressures resulted in a reduction of funding allocated to the programme. With the recent challenges brought about by the cost-of-living challenges and increases in homelessness, especially from single applicants, there was a need to review this provision once again. It was the council's intention to undertake a competitive procurement exercise during 2022/23 to commission and award long term contracts which would facilitate more stability for planning and re-modelling purposes and to introduce robust performance monitoring on the delivery of Housing Related Support in relation to supported accommodation for homeless households. Following the council undertaking financial resilience work and contracts review, the procurement process planned for 2022/23 has been deferred to 2023/24. In order to maintain funding for a further period the council seeks to award grant funding and grant agreements for the period for the period from the signing of the CMDN to the 31

December 2023 to support the delivery of Housing Related Support in relation to supported accommodation for homeless households.

- 3.4 It is the council's intention to undertake a competitive procurement during 2023/24 with new longer-term arrangements in place with effect from 1 January 2024. Preliminary market consultations by way of soft market testing completed in 2021 shall be used in the planning and conduct of the procurement process and have indicated that the accommodation provision and support element must be commissioned together.
- 3.5 The soft market testing was followed by a supplier engagement event with several organisations prominent in the supported accommodation field attending. The proposed Supported Accommodation Pathway and Panel were discussed at that event. The Coronavirus pandemic has seen providers of accommodation and support come together in a more collaborative way than for some time and the opportunity to build on these strengthened relationships is one that needs to continue and grow. A fortnightly Supported Accommodation Panel, using a standard referral form, is now established and is a forum where cases are reviewed and where the clients progress since moving into the setting are discussed. It is proposed to widen the scope of the panel to include allocation decisions, moves between settings and ultimately, the move on to independent accommodation.
- 3.6 The Eastlands service, operated by Home Group, is jointly funded by HRS grant funding and Mental Health Support funding. Housing Related Support Commissioners are working with Mental Health Commissioners to help shape the proposed new service. Continued grant funding for the existing Home Group provision for 2023/2024 will allow time for that review of requirements whilst maintaining delivery of Housing Related Support in relation to supported accommodation for homeless households to their vulnerable clients.

4. **CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

4.1 This recommendation contributes to the Council's Corporate Priorities:

1. The Economy & Inclusive Growth
 - Environment – Carbon Impact Assessment - This decision is anticipated to have a neutral impact because the award of agreement continues existing arrangements and therefore emissions will not change.
 - Homes and Workplaces
 - Jobs and Money
2. Our Places & Communities
 - Places and Safety (including any rural implications)
 - Lives and Work
 - Health and Wellbeing
3. Prevention, Independence & Resilience
 - Adults

5. **CONSULTATION**

5.1 Consultation has been carried out with all existing grant recipients of Housing Related Support funding on the award of grant agreements until December 2023 and a full procurement will be undertaken throughout 2023.

Consultation with the Executive Director of Place and Economy and the Corporate Leadership Team.

6. **ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

6.1 Award grant funding and grant agreements for the continued provision of accommodation-based Housing Related Support in relation to supported accommodation for homeless

households to grant recipients for the period from the signing of the CMDN to the 31 December 2023

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

7.1 The recommendations in this report will ensure that the continuity of Housing Related Support in relation to supported accommodation for homeless households to some of the most vulnerable in society is achieved, whilst the long-term solution is progressed.

7.2 Housing Related Support is provided for vulnerable people, often with complex support needs either in an accommodation-based setting, through drop-in support or through floating support provided by outreach workers. Our evidence shows that the Housing Related Support provided through the homeless hostels plays a significant role in helping to reduce homelessness in the city. Drop-in and floating support reaches hard to engage groups, assisting people with complex and entrenched needs, often living chaotic lifestyles.

7.3 The Homelessness Act 2002 sets out the Council's powers to meet the aims of the act and its duties towards homeless people.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 Cut funding completely and stop the Housing Related Support funding to grant recipients. This was rejected due to the adverse impact on the provision of hostel provision and homeless prevention.

8.2 Carry out a full procurement exercise imminently. This was rejected due to the time required to plan and conduct the procurement procedure and to ensure that funding and the deliverables would not be impacted in the short term whilst the procurement is conducted in time for new long-term contracts to commence in January 2024.

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

9.1 Grants will be awarded subject to confirmed funding for the Housing Related Support Programme and the provider entering into a grant agreement with the Council.

9.2 The breakdown of Housing Related Support is as follows:

- Longhurst Group (formerly Axiom Housing Association) – Hostel accommodation and drop-in services - £425,722.53;
- Cross Keys Homes – hostel accommodation - £67,610.91
- Cambridgeshire & Peterborough YMCA – hostel accommodation - £200,860.28;
- Futures Housing Group – hostel accommodation - £46,641.96;
- Home Group – hostel accommodation - £58,938.63

Legal Implications

9.2 The Council has the legal power to make grant awards under the general power of competence contained in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011.

The new subsidy control regime has been considered and applied in the award of grant funding. The funding awarded is in compliance with the regime.

The terms of the funding shall be set out in grant agreements, which shall be issued to all recipients to ensure that the funding can only be used for the defined purpose. Throughout

the period of funding, the Council shall regularly review the arrangement to make sure the funding remains limited to what is necessary to deliver the services.

Equalities Implications

9.3 There are no equalities implications arising from this decision.

10. DECLARATIONS / CONFLICTS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS GRANTED

10.1 None

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985) and The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

11.1 None

12. APPENDICES

12.1 None