

Decisions taken by the Cabinet Committee: Housing on Tuesday, 5 November 2024

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision	Reasons	Alternative Options
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Part A – Items considered in public

A7	TACT board report back			
A10	Temporary accommodation plan & pathways	<p>That the following are agreed –</p> <p>1.1. That 80-82 Sussex Street is re-purposed as temporary accommodation.</p> <p>1.2. That the current move-on policy for households in council-owned Temporary Accommodation be amended.</p> <p>1.3. That the expansion of the provision of supported accommodation at Trinity: Winchester be</p>	<p>Report CAB3472(H) directly supports the council plan priority of delivering ‘Homes For All’.</p> <p>In the last financial year, the council experienced a 122% increase in approaches from households who were homelessness or at risk of homelessness, thereby intensifying pressure on the availability of accommodation and staffing resources. Furthermore, in October 2023, Hampshire County Council (HCC) announced a spending review aimed at achieving savings of £132 million to address a projected</p>	<p>Do nothing and incur an increase in emergency accommodation, at a minimum gross cost of £166,000 as outlined in Appendix 1 of the report first data set and a possible maximum gross cost of £999,000.</p> <p>To backfill the Social Inclusion funding for West View but future homeless prevention grant funding is not guaranteed, and this will have a significant impact on all our other prevention activities as highlighted in the financial assessment,</p>

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		<p>supported.</p> <p>1.4. That the Council’s lettings policy in respect of Sheltered Accommodation be amended.</p> <p>1.5. That the revised move on policy for applicants residing at The Quakers be agreed.</p> <p>1.6. That the council enter into negotiations with Hampshire County Council regarding the level of funding that the council require from HCC to support the households affected by the closure of Westview House in light of the social inclusion finding being extended until March 2026. The</p>	<p>budget shortfall. HCC currently funds various social inclusion services for vulnerable adults at risk of homelessness throughout the Winchester District and the wider county.</p> <p>Following a recent Cabinet decision HCC have confirmed they will continue to fund 13 bed spaces at Sussex Street (managed by Two Saints), as well as an additional £24,500 allocated to the Beacon’s services until March 2026.</p> <p>Following the announcement of HCC’s spending review, A2Dominion made the decision to withdraw services at West View House (29 bed spaces) from the end of April 2025 regardless of the outcome of the review. This</p>	<p>Appendix 1.</p>

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		<p>support required is outlined in recommendations 1.7 to 1.9 below.</p> <p>1.7. That a housing first worker be established to support the delivery of an in-house housing first model.</p> <p>1.8. That the role of the Complex Needs Navigator continue to be funded for 18 months.</p> <p>1.9. That an in house ‘tenancy ready post’ be established to provide intensive support to help the individuals who are directly impacted from the HCC funding cuts to be able to move on and successfully</p>	<p>will result in a saving of £249,000 to HCC by the service ending early and the council has formally requested funding from HCC to help mitigate the loss of West View House provision and support. The council has historically supplemented this funding with an annual contribution of £50,000 from its Homelessness Prevention Grant and has already mitigated some of the reductions in social inclusion funding that were implemented by the county in April 2023 (CAB3393(H)).</p> <p>Despite the rising demand, the council has maintained top quartile performance in preventing homelessness, with the use of emergency accommodation remaining</p>	

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		<p>sustain their tenancy within a community.</p> <p>1.10. That the temporary staffing posts of the Outreach Worker and the Strategic Housing Support Worker be extended until 31 March 2027.</p> <p>1.11. That this strategy will be reviewed in twelve months in light of confirmed additional demand and the impact of proposals.</p> <p>1.12. That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director with housing responsibility in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing to agree any further additional</p>	<p>within budget. However, the increasing demand presents significant challenges that may necessitate the provision of emergency accommodation in the future resulting in an increased cost to the council. These challenges are outlined in detail within the report.</p> <p>Given the circumstances, it is imperative that the council formulates a robust response to this escalating need, not only by expanding accommodation options but also by ensuring adequate staffing and resources to effectively manage households increasingly complex situations.</p> <p>To address these challenges, the council proposes six viable options aimed at</p>	

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		<p>spending of the homelessness prevention grant reserve or the allocation of the 25/26 Homeless Prevention grant and any new or additional grants awarded to the council by Central government that support preventing homelessness and rough sleeping.</p>	<p>increasing supply of accommodation and providing vital support services while minimising the financial burden to the council. These proposals can be implemented promptly to meet the increasing demands and diminishing supply. The proposals form the recommendations, and they are detailed in the body of the report.</p> <p>If the initial proposals are adopted and implemented the council will continue to monitor closely the impact of the changes and continue to explore other opportunities to decrease the gap between supply and demand. This may also reduce the financial pressures on the council of the cost of emergency accommodation costs and</p>	

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			<p>impact on staff resources.</p> <p>It is crucial to note that failure to adopt these proposals could impose significant financial strain on the council. Without an adequate response to the outlined homelessness pressures, expenditures on emergency accommodation could escalate.</p> <p>The latter part of the report presents eight housing pathways and options available to residents of the Winchester District, tailored to their specific circumstances.</p>	
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