

REPORT TITLE: HOMELESSNESS ROUGH SLEEPING AND DOMESTIC ABUSE GRANT

6 JULY 2026

REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER: Cllr Kathleen Becker, Cabinet Member for Healthy Communities

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WARD(S): ALL

PURPOSE

This report is to inform Cabinet Committee Housing of the final funding allocations confirmed through the Local Government Finance Settlement for the three-year period 2026/27 to 2028/29 for the Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant, and to seek approval for a proposed three-year spending plan setting out how this funding will be used over the medium term.

This new grant brings together the previous homelessness and rough sleeping revenue grants for the Prevention, Relief and Staffing element of the Homelessness Prevention Grant (HPG); and the Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery Grant (RSPARG). It also includes the Renters' Rights Act New Burdens funding and the Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Grant.

This is the first time MHCLG (Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government) have provided a three-year funding plan to ensure councils' have the opportunity to invest in long-term solutions to prevent homelessness and this report sets out a proposed approach to deploying these resources in a planned and sustainable way over the three-year funding period (2026-2029).

This multi-year funding is intended by Government to support the shared ambition to move the homelessness system away from crisis response and towards prevention and early intervention, as set out in the cross-government Strategy on Homelessness and Rough Sleeping: A National Plan to End Homelessness published in December 2025. It also supports the Government's commitment to improve support for victims of domestic abuse.

The grant cannot be used on costs relating directly to temporary accommodation.

The council's 3-year combined funding is £2,661,474. Obviously, use of funding could be reviewed by the new Mid Hants Unitary Council in the future.

The report will also set out other spending proposals for the council to respond to its homelessness pressures through additional funding streams, 'Homes for Ukraine Grant' from Hampshire County Council (HCC) and spending from the homelessness grant reserve and the Ukraine (homelessness) reserve.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Cabinet Committee: Housing is asked to:

1. Approve the Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant Spending Plan for the three-year period 2026/27 to 2028/29, as set out at paragraph 11.18 of this report.
2. Agree to extend all the fixed term staffing contracts as set out in point 4.4 of the report.
3. Approve the allocation of £286,000 draw down from the Homelessness Grant reserve, to fund the Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Spending Plan for 2026-27 and Approve the Homelessness Reserve Spending Plan set out at paragraph 11.24.
4. Approve the Homes for Ukraine spending plan and reserve plan as set out at paragraphs 11.33 and 11.40.
5. Approve the allocation of £47,856 for New Burden's funding associated with the Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight Act) 2023 as set out in paragraph 11.44.
6. Approve a capital budget to purchase up to 2 properties up to the value of £500,000 in total, with 50% funded from the Ukrainian reserve (Homelessness) and 50% funded from the Homelessness reserve.
7. Delegate authority to the Strategic Director with housing responsibility, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Healthy Communities, to agree any minor amendments to spending plans for the homelessness, rough sleeping and domestic abuse grant, the homelessness reserve grant, Homes for Ukraine funding, Ukrainian reserve and New Burdens funding related to the Renter's Rights Act and the Supported Housing Regulatory Oversight Act 2023 .

IMPLICATIONS:

1 COUNCIL PLAN OUTCOME

This report and the proposed spending plan supports all the priorities within the Council Plan 2025 – 2030 but specifically in respect of the Homes For All priority, ensuring we are reducing homelessness and ensuring a good supply of accommodation options.

1.1 Greener Faster

The spending plan contributes to the greener faster agenda by supporting more efficient use of housing stock and temporary accommodation options, reducing reliance on high-cost and high-carbon forms of temporary accommodation and enabling more sustainable housing solutions.

The spending plan makes a significant contribution to the Council Plan priority of Thriving Places, by supporting safe, inclusive and resilient communities where residents are able to live with dignity, stability and security by prioritising early intervention, homelessness prevention and rapid access to support, the spending plan helps reduce the social and environmental impacts of homelessness and rough sleeping on neighbourhoods, including the use of emergency accommodation, street homelessness both visible and hidden and repeat crisis presentations improving community cohesion and a sense of community safety.

Investment in outreach, Housing First, tenancy sustainment, domestic abuse support and personalised prevention funding enables individuals and families to remain settled in their communities wherever possible, maintaining access to employment, education, health services and social networks through partnership-based delivery models. Where homelessness cannot be prevented, the focus on rapid rehousing and sustainable accommodation solutions ensures that homelessness is rare, brief and non-recurring, limiting disruption to communities and public spaces.

The Spending Plan contributes directly to the Healthy Communities priority by addressing the housing, safety and wellbeing factors that underpin good physical and mental health.

Homelessness, rough sleeping and domestic abuse are strongly linked to poor health outcomes, including mental ill-health, substance misuse, increased use of acute health services and reduced life expectancy.

By prioritising prevention and early intervention including an investment in outreach provision, Housing First, personalised budgets, domestic abuse support and tenancy sustainment enables people facing multiple and complex needs to access coordinated assistance, improving engagement with health, social care and community services. Partnership working with voluntary and statutory agencies supports trauma-informed approaches, safeguarding, and continuity of care for those most at risk.

By reducing rough sleeping, improving access to safe accommodation, and supporting people to live in stable homes, the spending plan helps improve health outcomes, reduce health inequalities, and support stronger, healthier communities across the district.

1.2 Good Homes for All

The spending plan makes a significant contribution to the Council Plan priority of Homes for All, by focusing on the prevention of homelessness, reducing rough sleeping, and enabling residents to access and sustain suitable accommodation.

Investment in housing options, tenancy sustainment, resettlement, outreach and Housing First support ensures that people receive timely advice and practical assistance before a housing crisis escalates. Flexible prevention funding, personalised budgets, and partner prevention grants enable tailored responses to individual circumstances, improving housing stability and reducing the need for temporary accommodation.

1.3 Efficient and Effective

The proposed spending plan supports the Efficient and Effective priority by ensuring that homelessness, rough sleeping and domestic abuse funding is deployed in a planned, value-for-money and outcomes-focused way over the three-year period.

Multi-year funding enables the Council to move away from short-term, reactive interventions and invest in sustainable solutions that reduce demand over time, particularly through prevention, early intervention and tenancy sustainment. This approach reduces reliance on high-cost temporary accommodation and emergency responses, improving financial sustainability and service efficiency.

The plan continues the established and effective interventions funded from the Homelessness Prevention Grant, combining skilled in-house staffing with partner services to deliver statutory duties and a prevention and early intervention-based service. Investment in digital case management systems, workforce capacity and commissioning oversight ensures robust performance monitoring, accountability and continuous improvement.

Flexibility within the plan allows the council to respond to changing levels of demand and national policy requirements, while maintaining delivery within agreed budgets and approved outcomes.

1.4 Listening and Learning

The spending plan reflects the Listening and Learning priority by being informed by consultation, service insight, performance data and lived experience.

2 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The provision of the grant set out below is the final allocation for 2026/27 – 2028/29.

Year	Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant Total	Funding for Homelessness and Rough Sleeping	Funding for Renters' Rights Act 2025 New Burdens	Funding for Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Grant
Financial Year 2026/27	£846,502	£761,349	£46,589	£38,564
Financial Year 2027/28	£904,932	£843,552	£21,937	£39,443
Financial Year 2028/29	£910,040	£869,781	£0	£40,259
Total Allocation Financial Years 2026 – 2029	£2,661,474	£2,474,682	£68,526	£118,266

The detailed spending plan sets out how the grant will be spent over the next 3 years. It should be noted that there is no guarantee of any additional grant top-up or future funding past 2028/29. The Mid Hants Unitary council may review the proposed use of funding when it comes into operation in the future.

The grant is proposed to be flexible to respond to current and emergency needs. The grant spend is reported annually to MHCLG.

2.1 **Temporary Accommodation (including emergency/interim accommodation)**

From 2026/27 funding for temporary accommodation is un-ringfenced and part of the Revenue Support Grant in the Local Government Finance Settlement. Funding relating directly to temporary accommodation has been separated out from the Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse grant to ensure that councils are focusing on prevention and early intervention activity.

The General Fund Bed and Breakfast (emergency and interim temporary accommodation costs) budget for 2026/27 is £350,000. Due to proposals in the Temporary Accommodation and pathways plan, temporary accommodation stock has increased and reliance on Bed and Breakfast is reducing. The Bed and Breakfast total spend for 2025/26 was £105,589.63.

The Homelessness Grant (Formerly Homelessness Prevention Grant) reserve as of 31 March 2026 is £1,449,345.

The purchase of two properties will mitigate future temporary accommodation costs and provide better temporary homes, until a permanent home is available. A business case for the acquisitions will be presented to a future meeting once suitable homes have been identified and funded from the Ukrainian (Homelessness reserve) and the Homelessness reserve.

2.2 Homes For Ukraine funding

The council will continue to receive a reduced amount of 'Homes for Ukraine' funding from Hampshire County Council until March 2028. The funding amount for 2026-27 is £196,988 with a provisional allocation of £132,613 for 2027-28.

As set out by HCC this is funding provided for the specialist posts (within the Resettlement team and the Communities team) at 100% of the previous levels provided for the first half of 2026/27 (April–September) (as previously agreed) and 50% from October 2026 to March 2027.

The Ukraine housing reserve as of 31 March 2026 is £941,584.

2.3 Asylum Dispersal funding

The council also received Asylum dispersal funding for 2025/26 of which £68,750 has been carried forward. Further Asylum dispersal funding will be received throughout 2026/27 which will be spent in line with the Home Office funding instructions.

2.4 Renters Rights Act New Burdens funding

The council also received New Burdens Funding for the Renters Rights Act in respect of Private Sector Housing functions. This is in addition to the New Burdens Funding as part of the Homelessness Grant in 2025/26 of £34,533.77 and 2026/27 of £68,048. This funding will fund the Regulatory Compliance Apprentice for 2025-27 and will be used to fund other burdens relating to the act.

It is anticipated that the work carried out by officers enforcing the Renters Rights Act will generate income to fund the posts moving forwards. This will be reviewed within 12 months time and alternative funding sought from the Homelessness grant reserve if this is not the case.

2.5 Other background

As of 31 March 2026 Hampshire County Council's Social Inclusion funding came to an end. This previously funded stage 1 and stage 2 accommodation in the District. West View House (stage 1 accommodation funded) closed a year ahead of the funding ceasing on 31 March 2025 and for the period of 2025/26 HCC provided the council with funding of £83,000 to fund a tenancy ready worker and the housing first worker for a 12 month period to enable the council to continue to provide housing support to the cohort who would have originally been accommodated at West View House. This also meant the end of £24,500 of funding which was previously provided to the council which the council provided as a grant directly to the Beacon.

The funding will ensure that the appropriate services to prevent homelessness are able to continue for the next 3 years, whilst drawing on the homelessness grant reserve.

- 2.6 The grant has historically funded and will fund for the next 3 years a number of fixed term posts. Therefore, provision has been made within the homelessness grant reserve for potential redundancy costs for these posts which is estimated at £100,000 depending on post holders at the time of contracts ending.

3 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The principle statutory provisions relating to homelessness are set out in Part VII of the Housing Act 1996 (as amended). The Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) 2017 also sets out duties with the aim of preventing and relieving homelessness and came into effect in April 2018.
- 3.2 The legislation sets out duties and powers that apply to local housing authorities in relation to people, who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, having access to assistance provided they are eligible for assistance. The HRA 2017 introduced a new duty on local housing authorities to take reasonable steps to prevent homelessness. The intention behind this duty is to try and prevent households from becoming homeless, for example, supporting them to stay in their current accommodation, or providing financial support to secure alternative accommodation. The recommendations in this report support the principles of the HRA 2017 with a focus on prevention and early intervention options which will be provided through the interventions proposed.
- 3.3 The proposals set out in this report for the expenditure of this grant are either compliant with the Procurement Act 2023 (PA23) (contract) or are permitted under the subsidy control regime (grants). Ongoing legal and procurement support will be provided as required, in relation to the expenditure of the various grants.

4 WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are a number of workforce implications related to the grant spend as the grant directly funds a number of permanent and fixed term posts.

- 4.2 The table below sets out the current fixed term posts which have been funded by previous grants. Whilst there are no proposals within this spending plan for additional resources to be established, the proposals do seek to extending a number of existing fixed term posts. The table below sets out the current posts and the date the current fixed term contract comes to an end.
- 4.3 The proposals set out within the spending plan would extend all current fixed term posts funded by the Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Prevention Grant until 31st March 2029. Subject to further grant funding for 2029/10 the posts could be extended further.
- 4.4 As a result of these posts being grant funded, provision has been made within the homelessness grant reserve for any redundancy costs required by 2029.

Current Post	Current end date	Proposed end date
Housing First Worker	27/02/2027	31/03/2029
Outreach worker	31/03/2027	31/03/2029
Resettlement Officer	Not currently in post FTC for 18 months	31/03/2029
Resettlement Officer	Not currently in post FTC for 18 months	31/03/2029
Resettlement Officer (Ukraine 50%)	30/09/2027	31/03/2029
Strategic Housing Officer	31/03/2027	31/03/2029
Tenancy Sustainment Officer (PRS)	31/03/2027	31/03/2029
Tenancy Ready Worker	19/02/2027	31/03/2029
Temporary Accommodation Officer (Ukraine)	31/12/2025	31/03/2029

5 PROPERTY AND ASSET IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The spending plan will seek to make best use of all assets.

6 CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

- 6.1 The Housing Options Service held a Homelessness Forum on 26 March 2026 where all stakeholders were briefed on the grant and a session was held to consult with all stakeholders, including voluntary sector, statutory agencies and those with lived experience on gaps in service and how these could be funded through grant spend. All views have been incorporated into the plan.
- 6.2 The Housing Options Team, including all front-line staff were consulted on the spending plan during a team meeting held on the 14 May 2026 and all views have been incorporated into the plan.
- 6.3 The Cabinet Member for Healthy Communities has been fully briefed on the spending plan and is in full agreement and support.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The proposals set out in this report are expected to have a positive environmental impact, primarily through the prevention of homelessness, reduction in rough sleeping and decreased reliance on emergency and short-term accommodation.
- 7.2 Overall, the spending plan supports the Council's response to the climate and nature emergency by promoting preventative, place-based solutions that reduce environmental harm while improving outcomes for residents.

8 PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

- 8.1 Under s149 (1) of the Equality Act the council, must have due regard, in the exercise of it's functions, (and Cabinet Housing Committee must. As the decision maker in respect of the proposed decision have due regard) to the need to
- a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the act
 - b) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share relevant protected characteristics and persons who do not share them
 - c) Foster good relations between persons who share relevant protected characteristics and persons who do not share them.

9 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 The Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant Spending Plan targets support at those most at risk through prevention, early intervention, outreach, tenancy sustainment and specialist domestic abuse support, helping to reduce barriers to safe and suitable accommodation. An

Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and is attached as Appendix 1, which concludes that the proposals will have a positive impact by improving access to support, supporting earlier intervention and advancing equality of opportunity for vulnerable residents across the Winchester district and not negatively impacting any group.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk	Mitigation	Opportunities
<p>Financial Exposure</p> <p>Insufficient funding to meet homelessness, rough sleeping and domestic abuse demand over the three-year period, including the risk of increased pressure on the General Fund if prevention activity is reduced.</p>	<p>The spending plan prioritises prevention, early intervention and tenancy sustainment which are evidenced to reduce demand for high-cost emergency and temporary accommodation.</p> <p>Multi-year planning, regular budget monitoring and use of fixed-term funding arrangements limit long-term financial exposure. Homelessness Grant reserves provide contingency to respond to emerging pressures.</p>	<p>Demonstrates value for money through early intervention and prevention options resulting in a spend to save argument.</p>
<p>Reliance on 3-year funding beyond 2028/29, with no guarantee of continuation past this period.</p>	<p>Grant-funded posts and commissioned services are time-limited, with no automatic commitment to ongoing General Fund funding. The Council will continue to plan for a sustainable service past 2029.</p>	<p>There is the opportunity to evidence successful outcomes over the three-year period to support future funding bids and inform longer-term service design.</p>
<p>Exposure to challenge</p> <p>Risk of challenge if statutory homelessness</p>	<p>Funding is targeted at Prevention and Relief</p>	<p>Strengthens statutory compliance while</p>

or domestic abuse duties cannot be met due to funding or capacity constraints.	duties, domestic abuse safe accommodation duties and early intervention, supported by robust governance, legal oversight and contract management.	reducing the likelihood of costly legal challenge or emergency intervention.
Innovation Risk that services remain reactive and resource intensive if delivery models are not adapted.	Multi-year funding enables planned investment in Housing First, outreach, tenancy sustainment, digital case management and partnership delivery models early intervention and prevention focused.	The interventions provide the opportunity to move away from crisis response and embed innovative, preventative approaches consistent with national policy direction and local strategy.
Reputation Increased homelessness, rough sleeping or visible use of unsuitable accommodation impacting public confidence and Council reputation.	Clear alignment with the Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2025–2030, ongoing performance monitoring, and partnership working through the Homelessness Forum.	Maintains Winchester's strong reputation for effective homelessness prevention, partnership working and compassionate service delivery.
Achievement of outcome Risk that intended outcomes (reduced homelessness, reduced rough sleeping, improved sustainment) are not achieved due to rising demand or system pressures.	Outcomes are monitored through H-CLIC data, performance management and contract review. Flexibility within the plan allows resources to be re-directed in response to need while remaining within approved budgets.	Opportunity to focus investment on evidence-based early intervention and prevention interventions that deliver the greatest impact for residents.
Property		

<p>Risk that Council assets used to support homelessness services are not optimally aligned with service need.</p> <p>Property Purchase: Risk that demand for TA units will reduce, or that suitable properties cannot be identified</p>	<p>Property purchases to be supported by full business case, which demonstrates sufficient demand, suitability of property</p>	<p>Opportunity to make more effective and flexible use of Council assets to support prevention and move-on solutions.</p>
<p>Community Support</p> <p>Reduction in community-based prevention capacity if voluntary and community sector partners are unable to sustain services.</p>	<p>Multi-year partner grants provide stability and enable early engagement with residents before crisis point. SLAs and partnership governance support consistent delivery.</p>	<p>Strengthens community-based prevention and reduces demand on statutory services.</p>
<p>Timescales</p> <p>Risk that services cannot respond quickly enough to changes in demand or national policy requirements.</p>	<p>Risk that services cannot respond quickly enough to changes in demand or national policy requirements.</p>	<p>Supports agility and responsiveness over the three-year funding period.</p>
<p>Project capacity</p> <p>Workforce capacity constraints impacting delivery.</p>	<p>The spending plan sustains existing skilled staff and extends fixed-term posts, providing continuity and resilience.</p>	<p>Retains experienced staff and protects organisational knowledge during system change.</p>
<p>Local Government Reorganisation</p> <p>Risk that service continuity or statutory delivery is disrupted</p>		<p>This report will ensure that homelessness services are best placed for the move to LGR and</p>

<p>during transition to a future unitary authority.</p> <p>The 3rd year of this spending plan will be administered by the new unitary authority</p>		<p>ensures the council is able to continue to deliver it's statutory duties from the outset.</p> <p>The report supports future readiness by stabilising services, maintaining statutory compliance and embedding robust governance, data and commissioning arrangements that can transition into a successor authority.</p>
Other	None	None

11 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION:**

- 11.1 As a local housing authority the council has statutory duties to assist households who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and to provide accommodation to households who are owed a duty. Households who are homeless or threatened with homelessness approach the council for advice and assistance.
- 11.2 The council is committed to preventing homelessness, this is underpinned by the council's Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy published in November 2025, with a vision of 'Working together to ensure that everyone at risk of homelessness has early and effective access to the right support, and where homelessness cannot be prevented, ensuring a safe, suitable, and sustainable home is secured as quickly as possible'.
- 11.3 The council's focus is on early intervention and prevention services. Many of the interventions set out within the spending plan focus on the council's approach to providing the right advice and assistance to households to work with them to prevent homelessness from occurring in the first place alongside a recovery from homelessness or rough sleeping.
- 11.4 In previous years the council has adopted this approach, resulting in minimal placements and spend on Bed and Breakfast and other nightly paid emergency or interim accommodation options. This funding further gives us the opportunity to continue this approach, and the spending plan reflects this and ensures our local services continue to move towards a system that prioritises prevention and provides holistic support to people based on

assessment of need. This is ultimately better for those we serve and those delivering services.

- 11.5 With this multi-year increased funding and the Government's new approach to funding, alongside the new Cross-Government Strategy: A National Plan to End Homelessness and Local Outcomes Framework, councils are tasked to maximise resources to support those most in need. This is an opportunity to invest in preventing homelessness, reducing reliance on expensive temporary accommodation and targeting resources to support people facing the worst forms of homelessness and facing the most complex needs to prevent repeat homelessness.
- 11.6 Approval of the proposed spending plan will enable the council to meet its statutory homelessness and domestic abuse duties, provide greater service stability and target resources at those at greatest risk of homelessness, including people facing multiple and complex needs. The approach will ensure that funding is used effectively, delivers value for money and remains sufficiently flexible to respond to changes in demand across the three-year period which will ensure that the funding is early intervention and prevention focused so the council does not face higher costs through increased duties towards households who end up homeless and in need of emergency or temporary accommodation.
- 11.7 The Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2025 – 2030 also underpins this approach and aligns closely with the new Government Strategy.
- 11.8 For the purpose of this report, where interim or emergency accommodation is referred to, this is usually in the form of Bed and Breakfast, hotel or other nightly paid accommodation and will be a short-term option. Temporary accommodation will refer to more settled accommodation, although still temporary, and is usually provided within the council's own stock of temporary accommodation provision.
- 11.9 The homelessness grant spending plan is comprehensive and ensures that homelessness prevention, rough sleeping and domestic abuse is prioritised through the spending plan.
- 11.10 The MHCLG funding guidance is for local housing authorities to:
 - Discharge their duties under the Housing Act 1996, as set out in the Homelessness Code of Guidance for local authorities, and provide support for rough sleeping – including prevention, relief, main duty activities and staffing resource.
 - Deliver against local homelessness strategies and the metrics set out in the Local Outcomes Framework ensuring no families are in Bed and Breakfast past 6 weeks, increasing the percentage of households where homelessness was prevented or relieved and halving the number of individuals rough sleeping.

- Focus on early intervention and maximising prevention activities. Including working with landlord to support households to retain private sector accommodation and maximise engagement with local voluntary and community partners to support households.
- This grant may not be spent on costs directly related to temporary accommodation.
- The Domestic Abuse grant element states that the purpose of this funding is to support local authorities in meeting their statutory duties under Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

11.11 The final element of this grant is New Burdens funding for the Renters' Rights Act to support the council with homeless new burdens arising from the act.

11.12 The grant can be used flexibly among these functions.

11.13 In the financial year 2025-26 the council received over 559 approaches for assistance from households who were either homeless or threatened with homelessness, this is a 16% reduction on the previous year 2024-25. Of these approaches over 77.3% of households were recorded as having one of more support needs, relating to mental health, physical health, learning disability, domestic abuse etc. This highlights that not only are individuals facing a homelessness situation but that due to the levels and complexity of their needs, their situation is not likely to be easy to resolve without additional assistance.

11.14 Of those approaches 212 households were owed a prevention duty and 176 households were owed a relief duty, of those households the council prevented or relieved 214 cases and a further 103 households were awarded a main duty and provided with temporary accommodation. In comparison to the previous year there is a slight reduction in cases being prevented or relieved and a slight increase in main housing duties being owed. The variance is around 5% so does not demonstrate a significant increase or reduction.

11.15 On 31 March 2025 the council lost 29 units of stage 1 supported accommodation through the closure of West View House. This has meant a reduction in options, particularly for single people who require support and has therefore resulted in the decrease in cases being prevented.

11.16 The council currently have no 16/17 years old or families in Bed and Breakfast accommodation and generally have very low use of expensive emergency accommodation options in comparison to neighbouring authorities.

11.17 In respect of rough sleeping, the official annual rough sleeping snapshot figure was 6, which was an increase of 1 from the previous year. The council records a 'flow' or around 10 – 15 rough sleepers per month, which due to the nature of rough sleeping does vary. Around 5 of these individuals each month are usually returning to rough sleeping when they have previously slept rough.

It is therefore crucial that the spending plan invests in services to support individuals rough sleeping and sustainable accommodation options.

11.18 **Part 1 - Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant**

The recommended option being proposed is that Cabinet approve the homelessness, rough sleeping and domestic abuse grant spending plan.

	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant	846,502	904,932	910,040
Expenditure			
Flexible Prevention Grant	70,000	70,000	70,000
Beacon Core Grant	159,000	0	0
Trinity Core Grant	210,000	0	0
Tenancy sustainment post (PRS)	48,703	48,703	48,703
Resettlement Officer	45,080	46,080	47,410
Resettlement Officer	45,080	46,080	47,410
Resettlement Officer (50% funded by Ukraine until 28/29 then fully funded)	22,693	23,040	47,410
Housing Options Officer	61,132	61,132	61,132
Housing Options Officer	58,258	59,113	60,793
Strategic Housing Officer	46,080	47,410	48,703
Outreach Worker	48,798	48,798	48,798
Lead Homelessness and Outreach Officer uplift	5,646	7,082	8,424
Housing Options Manager- 50% of post	36,792	37,585	38,486
Strategic Housing Manager- 50% of Post	35,978	36,682	37,585

Domestic Abuse project lead	42,768	42,768	42,768
Tenancy Ready Officer	46,080	47,410	48,703
Housing First Worker	46,080	47,410	48,703
Civica IT costs (Homelessness case management system)	13,000	13,000	13,000
DAHA fee	2,500	3,000	3,000
Legacy Plus Programme	40,000	0	0
Complex Needs Navigator (Trinity)	33,000	34,000	35,000
Rough Sleeper personalised Budget	5,000	5,000	5,000
Housing First Furniture Costs for in-house provision	10,000	8,000	5,000
Training budget for Strategic Housing	12,000	14,000	12,000
Interpreter services	500	600	500
Partner prevention grants	30,000	35,000	30,000
Senior Resettlement Officer (Year 3 funding only)	Funded from Ukraine grant	Funding from Ukraine grant	47,851
Total Expenditure	1,174,168	781,893	856,379
Expenditure in excess of grant to draw down from reserve	286,000	0	0

11.19 The spending plan does not propose to create any new posts but to continue to fund existing posts that have previously been funded by the homelessness grant or other grants.

11.20 Full details of the activities outlined in the above table can be found in appendix 1.

11.21 This spending plan broadly mirrors the effective prevention model funded through 2023/24 and 2024/25 grant allocations, where partner activity helped reduce pressure on statutory services despite increasing complexity. This

ensures the council can continue to evidence need and outcomes effectively during the three-year funding period.

11.22 The interventions set out in the spending plan exceed the grant allocation for 2026/27 and therefore there would need to be a drawn down on reserves detailed in appendix 2.

11.23 In the years 2027/28 and 2028/29 a proportion of the grant remains unallocated. In 2027/28 £123,039 and 2028/29 £53,661. This will enable the service to respond to any new or additional pressures flexibility within the year.

11.24 **Part 2- Homelessness Grant Reserve**

11.25 The proposed spend in 11.18 above exceeds the grant allocation for years 2026-27 therefore there will need to be a draw down on reserves.

11.26 Redundancy costs

Redundancy costs for the fixed term posts set out in 11.18 - the estimated cost is approximately £100,000 depending on the post holders in post at the time of contracts ending.

11.27 SWEP, cold weather and discretionary placements

Due to the new restrictions on the grant funding as mentioned in point 2.1, this means the grant cannot be used for any emergency, interim or temporary accommodation spend, which includes any discretionary placements and Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) placements, this budget, usually funded from the homelessness grant will now need to be funded from the reserve.

Discretionary placements and SWEP placements prevent loss of life and serious harm, provide a gateway into Relief and Housing First pathways, reduce long term system costs associated with entrenched homelessness, even when there is not a statutory duty to do so.

11.28 The Private Sector Housing Posts to support the council's response to the Renters' Rights Act of the regulatory compliance apprentice and the Strategic Tenancy Relations Officer have already been agreed by ELB funding for these posts is set out above.

11.29 This would result in £1.0 million reserve remaining after proposed spending plans for both the homelessness grant and the homelessness reserve. It is proposed that some of this reserve is utilised to fund 50% of the purchase of 2 properties to be used as temporary accommodation. This will mitigate temporary accommodation costs and provide better homes. A business case for the acquisitions will be presented to a future meeting once suitable homes have been identified.

A full table illustrating the costs to be drawn from the reserve are outlined in appendix 2 of this report

11.30 Part 3 - Homes for Ukraine Funding and New Burdens Funding

11.31 In previous years the council benefited from substantial grants from Hampshire County Council however, with the scheme well established, lower arrival numbers and a greater focus on independent living means that Hampshire County Council have reduced grant funding for 2026-27 and combined funding into one single combined allocation for 'Homes for Ukraine'.

11.32 HHC have confirmed the funding approach for 2026/27 and 2027/28. Funding provided for specialist posts within Strategic Housing and communities will be funded at 50% from September 2026. The confirmed allocation for 2026-27 is £196,988 and the provisional allocation for 2027-28 is £132,613. There is no indication at this point that funding will be extended beyond 31.03.28

11.33 The proposed spending plan for 'Homes for Ukraine' funding 2026-2029 is set out below:

	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Ukraine allocation	196,988	132,613	0
Expenditure			
Senior Resettlement officer	45,310	46,488	0 - Funded from Homelessness grant
Resettlement Officer	22,693	23,040	0 - Funded from Homelessness Grant
Communities posts funded from April - Sept	80,000	0	0
Budget for housing support	80,000	80,000	60,000
Total spend	228,003	149,528	60,000

Required to draw down from Reserve	31,015	16,915	60,000
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11.34 Resettlement Officer and the Resettlement Officer (Ukraine) (at 50%) until 2028.

These two posts, already established support households who are homeless, risk or homelessness or require support to move-on or resettle who are part of the 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme. The resettlement officer will also support households from other recognised government resettlement schemes.

11.35 Ukraine related posts in the Communities team

The already established posts to support households from Ukraine to fund the ongoing posts until September 2026.

11.36 Housing Support Fund

11.37 A budget available to officers supporting households from Ukraine of £80,000 and reducing to £60,000 for 2028-29 for housing support and other initiatives to support Ukrainian households with costs such as rent deposits, emergency accommodation costs, white goods and other housing related costs to support them to move on.

11.38 Due to the reduction in grant from Hampshire County Council a drawn down from reserves will be required.

11.39 The Ukrainian reserve (homelessness) as of 31 March 2026 is £941,584.

11.40 The proposed spending plan for Ukrainian reserve (homelessness) is below:

	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Opening reserve balance	941,584	615,489	552,494
Expenditure			
Temporary Accommodation Officer (Ukraine)	45,080	46,080	47,410
Stable Yard development	250,000	0	0

Drawn down from reserves for budget	31,015	16,915	60,000
Closing reserve balance	615,489	552,494	445,084

11.41 Temporary Accommodation Officer (Ukraine)

The post sits in the Temporary Accommodation team providing tenancy support to those households from Ukraine who are residing in Temporary Accommodation. Any potential redundancy costs have been calculated as part of the wider redundancy costs set out at point 11.26 and Appendix 2.

11.42 Stable Yard development

The proposed budget for the development of this asset was included in the Budget Report 2026/27, which included provision of £150,000 to be funded from the Ukraine reserve. Current estimates suggest a spend of £250,000 and a business case is being developed prior to seeking approval to spend.

11.43 Following the proposed budget, there would be a remaining reserve of £445,084. It is proposed that this reserve is utilised to fund 50% of the purchase of up to 2 properties to be used as temporary accommodation. This will mitigate temporary accommodation costs and provide better homes, 1 of these properties will be prioritised for Ukrainian households. A business case for the acquisitions will be presented to a future meeting once suitable homes have been identified.

11.44 New Burdens Funding – Supported Housing Regulatory Act

The council also received £47,856 New Burdens Funding in 2025/26 to help council's fulfil their new statutory duties under the Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023 through internal or external resources needed to develop and publish the strategy, build partnerships and prepare for future licensing and oversight. It is proposed that the council appoint a specialist consultant to carry out the required needs assessment and development of the strategy, in line with procurement arrangements to ensure the council is compliant and the supported housing strategy is developed by March 2027.

11.45 **Part 4 Temporary Accommodation**

In November 2024 Cabinet Committee Housing approved the Temporary accommodation plan and pathways paper, CAB 3472 (H) which set out the predicted demand and supply for temporary and emergency accommodation and alternative options for temporary accommodation provision

The plan and pathways paper provided a business case outlining that there would always be a constant flow of households in emergency accommodation. Since adopting the plan, the council has seen a steady flow of single households requiring emergency accommodation.

The council are experiencing households approaching the housing options service who have more complex needs and can't be housed into the conventional units of emergency and temporary accommodation. There is also a shortage of ground floor temporary accommodation, resulting in longer stays in emergency accommodation

Emergency accommodation providers are withdrawing from supporting our residents

To meet this need outlined above this paper is proposing that the council purchase up to 2 properties, 50% funded from the Ukrainian (homeless) reserve and 50% funded from the homelessness reserve to be utilised as temporary accommodation to further meet the council's statutory requirements, increase the temporary accommodation provision and reduce any further burden on Bed and Breakfast cost

12 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 12.1 The option of not committing to the spending plan is rejected as it is a MHCLG requirement that the grant is spent within the year. It would dramatically reduce any opportunity to prevent or relieve homelessness if the proposals are not approved.
- 12.2 The option of not committing to the reserve spend is also rejected as the proposals are required to sustain the housing options service and it's statutory duties.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:-

Previous Committee Reports:-

CAB3472 (H) Temporary accommodation plan and pathways paper

CAB3410 (H) Housing Strategy

CAB3491 (H) Preventing Homelessness Grant Spending Plan 23 – 24

CAB 3508 (H) Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2025 - 30

Other Background Documents:- None

Appendices

Appendix 1 -Full details of the homeless prevention activities to be funded from the Homeless, rough sleeping and domestic abuse grant

Appendix 2- Homelessness Grant reserve spend table

Appendix 3- EQIA

Appendix 1- Details of Homeless Prevention activities

1. Flexible Prevention Grant

The flexible prevention grant is a fund available for front line officers working within Housing Options to access to prevent or relieve homelessness through various initiatives. Funding is granted such as rent deposit to secure accommodation in the private rented sector, court costs, furniture, bus passes, clearing of rent arrears in emergency situations. The case will be assessed to ensure that the fund will prevent homelessness and ensure the household is able to sustain the accommodation option moving forwards. In 2025/26 this fund helped prevent homelessness for 70 households.

Proposed budget £210,000 over 3 years.

2. Beacon Core Grant

Historically the Beacon received grant funding from Hampshire County Council to provide accommodation services for single people who are homeless or rough sleeping by providing vital support and move-on accommodation. Previous social inclusion funding was cut by HCC and the council have utilised the Homelessness Prevention Grant to top this up. In 2025-26 the council was granted £24,500 by HCC to grant to the Beacon. There is no further funding from Social Inclusion funding from 2026 onwards and therefore it is proposed that the council continue to fund the Beacon the historic core grant amount of £13,000 plus continue the previous top up grant of £40,000 recognising that the Beacon will have lost £24,500 of funding this financial year.

Proposed budget of £159,000 over 3 years.

3. Trinity Winchester Core Grant

Trinity Winchester delivers frontline services aligned the council's strategy supporting some of the city's most vulnerable residents through access to safe daytime support, homelessness prevention, secure accommodation pathways, mental health and wellbeing interventions, employability activity, and reduction of social isolation. Trinity Winchester's Day Centre provides a vital safety net for individuals experiencing homelessness, housing insecurity, and extreme vulnerability. This includes people sleeping rough, those sofa-surfing, and individuals in unstable accommodation

The grant has increased this year in recognition of the weekend outreach provision and extended evening and weekend opening at Trinity Winchester.

Proposed budget of £210,000 over 3 years.

4. Tenancy sustainment Officer (PSH)

This post works to support households in the private rented sector who need additional support and assistance to either sustain their tenancies or to move on if the property is no longer suitable or they are at risk of homelessness.

This post is more crucial this year given the changes due to the Renters' Rights Act.

Proposed budget of £146,109 over 3 years.

5. x3 Resettlement Officers

These posts work with up to 25 individuals each ensuring early intervention and prevention support to households who need it. One officer is already in post supporting those individuals who are on one of the resettlement schemes. The other officers are in the process of being recruited to. The posts will also ensure temporary accommodation residents have access to support to prevent repeat homelessness in temporary accommodation. One of these posts will work with Ukrainian guests and is funded 50% from Ukrainian funding for 2026-27 and 2027-28 but fully funded from the Homeless grant from 2028-29.

Proposed budget of £370,283 over 3 years.

6. x2 Housing Options Officers

These two posts are permanent posts but have been historically funded through grant funding to manage the increased burden on housing options teams to deliver the HRA 2017 and the more complex needs of our customers.

Proposed budget of £361,560 over 3 years.

7. Strategic Housing Officer

This post supports the allocations, housing options and temporary accommodation teams with increased administrative burdens of the HRA (2017) and the increased number of applications to the housing register, they support to manage payments and complex and increased requests from customers such as Subject Access Requests and Freedom Of Information requests.

Proposed budget of £142,193 over 3 years.

8. Outreach Worker

The outreach work is vital to the council's work to prevent and address rough sleeping. The outreach officer provides early morning outreach and support and is often the first point of contact for those individuals experiencing rough sleeping ensuring they are engaged with the right support and services to prevent their rough sleeping.

Proposed budget of £146,394 over 3 years.

9. Lead Homelessness and Outreach Officer uplift

This post which is the senior officer for the housing options team and has historically been funded from the general fund. The post was recently

regraded and therefore requires additional funding (approx. 10% of the total cost) from the grant to fully fund the post.

Proposed budget of £21,152 over 3 years.

10. Housing Options Manager- 50% of post

To fund 50% of the Housing Options Manager post which oversees the housing options team and the statutory homelessness duties and the resettlement service.

Proposed budget of £112,863 over 3 years.

11. Strategic Housing Manager- 50% of Post

To fund 50% of the Strategic Housing Manager post which oversees the housing allocations and temporary accommodation services.

Proposed budget of £110,245 over 3 years.

12. Domestic Abuse project lead

The Domestic Abuse project lead has been in post since 2023. This post ensured the council achieved Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance accreditation and historically the post has been funded from the Domestic Abuse element of the HPG. Although, the council have achieved DAHA accreditation, our work to address Domestic Abuse cannot end there. The role is a vital part of the service, supporting the service approach to victims of Domestic Abuse incorporating best practice into the service and ensuring continued standards are reached when DAHA reassessment periodically occurs and ensures this element of the funding is to support the council in meeting our statutory duties under Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 whilst working in close partnership with HCC.

Proposed budget of £128,304 over 3 years.

13. Tenancy Ready Officer

The tenancy ready officer has been in post since August 2026 and has already supported 33 households to engage in the bespoke tenancy ready programme, ensuring that those households who are well placed on Hampshire Home Choice who may have faced barriers to moving on to social or private rented accommodation have the skills they need to sustain future tenancies and prevent repeat homelessness. As of May 2026, 5 households have successfully moved on and a further 10 are currently under nomination waiting to move. Feedback from customers has been extremely positive and given households the confidence to move on to long term accommodation.

Proposed budget of £142,193 over 3 years.

14. Housing First Worker

Housing First support has been provided by both A2Dominion (one housing first worker) and an in-house housing first worker employed by the council.

The current contract with A2Dominion will come to end in October 2026 and it is proposed that this is not renewed and the internal housing first worker fixed term contract is extended until 31st March 2029. The internal worker can take on the current case load of the A2Dominion Officer plus up to another 7 cases. This work is vital to ensure a person-centred supportive approach to ensuring suitable accommodation and support is available for those individuals with a history of sleeping rough for who the usual housing pathway options are not sustainable.

Proposed budget of £142,193 over 3 years.

15. Civica IT costs (Homelessness case management system)

It is critical that the council continues to provide a case management system that fulfils our statutory duty to provide the relevant Government returns.

Proposed budget £39,000 over 3 years.

16. Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance fee

This is a standard fee to ensure the council remain DAHA accredited until 2029.

Proposed budget of £8,500 over 3 years.

17. Legacy Plus programme

Legacy Plus launched in October 2025 and is currently supporting 11 young people and their families. This project provides extended support to young people aged 12 – 25 who are at risk of criminal exploitation and living in or educated in Winchester taking a multiagency approach to support young people.

Proposed budget £40,000 for year 1

18. Complex Needs Navigator (Trinity)

The complex needs navigator, hosted by Trinity Winchester, provides intensive support to those individuals who are furthest away from having their rough sleeping resolved, as per the Government's Target Priority Group. Supporting individuals to navigate the various systems and agencies to support them to recover from rough sleeping and sustain alternative housing solutions.

Proposed budget of £102,000 over 3 years.

19. Rough Sleeper personalised budget

To support the delivery of the Complex Needs Navigator and Outreach worker work, this is a small budget which officer can access to support individuals who are rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping, using innovative solutions to prevent or relieve their rough sleeping.

Proposed budget of £15,000 over 3 years.

20. Housing First Furniture Costs

A small budget to ensure those individuals moving into Housing First accommodation have their property furnished and carpeted to ensure this becomes a home and the individual is therefore more likely to sustain their tenancy.

Proposed budget of £23,000 over 3 years.

21. Training budget for Strategic Housing

It is critical the officer remain up-to-date on new legislation and holistic work associated with those households who are experiencing homelessness in order to best prevent homelessness and reduce temporary accommodation spend.

Proposed budget of £38,000 over 3 years.

22. Interpreter

We are seeing an increased need for translation and interpreting services and we need to ensure we are responding to our customers' needs effectively.

Proposed budget of £1,600 over 3 years.

23. Senior Resettlement Officer

Following Hampshire County Council's reduction in funding for 'Homes for Ukraine' specialist officers from 2028-29 this post will need to be funded from the grant for year 3 only if no further Ukraine funding is received. From 2028 – 29 there is no guaranteed Ukraine funding to be received. Therefore the two posts funded by Ukraine funding – Senior Resettlement Officer and the Resettlement Officer will need to be fully funded from the grant.

Proposed budget of £47,851 over 3 years.

24. Partner prevention grants

This grant allocation will enable a provision of grants to local partners, voluntary sector and charities who request this. This provision of grants to local partners to support homelessness prevention, rough sleeping reduction and complex needs support. Community partners play a critical role in engaging people before statutory thresholds are reached, particularly for rough sleepers and those with multiple needs. Partner grants are able to work with cases before formal duties are triggered and support engagement with residents less likely to approach statutory services reduce repeat and cyclical homelessness presentations and enables services to adapt to changing needs for services.

Proposed budget of £90,000 over 3 years.

Appendix 2 – Homeless Grant Reserve Table

	2026/27	2027/28	2028/09
Starting reserve figure	1,449,345	1,073,642	989,473
Expenditure			
Drawn down for annual spending plan	41,666	0	68,339
Redundancy payments	0	0	100,000
SWEP, Cold weather and discretionary placements	35,000	35,000	35,000
Private Sector Housing posts as agreed by ELB January 2026			
Regulatory Compliance Apprentice	0	21,140	0
Strategic Tenancy Relations Officer	54,703	28,029	0
Total spend from reserve	375,703	84,169	203,339
End reserve figure	1,073,642	989,473	786,134

Appendix 3 – Equality Impact Assessment**Winchester City Council****Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)****Section 1 - Data Checklist**

When undertaking an EqIA for your policy or project, it is important that you take into consideration everything which is associated with the policy or project that is being assessed.

The checklist below is to help you sense check your policy or project before you move to Section 2.

		Yes/No	Please provide details
1	Have there been any complaints data related to the policy or project you are looking to implement?	No	We have not received any previous complaint regarding how the council has spent the various grants.
2	Have all officers who will be responsible for implementing the policy or project been consulted, and given the opportunity to raise concerns about the way the policy or function has or will be implemented?	Yes	The council's housing options service, relevant managers and voluntary and statutory agencies have been consulted on the spending plan.
3	Have previous consultations highlighted any concerns about the policy or project from an equality impact perspective?	No	The spending plan is based on individual's homelessness situation/eligibility and therefore is inclusive.
4	Do you have any concerns regarding the implementation of this policy or project? <i>(i.e. Have you completed a self-assessment and action plan for the implementation of your policy or project?)</i>	No	No, monthly monitoring of the use of the grant will ensure it is being spend effectively.
5	Does any accessible data regarding the area which your work will address	No	The budget supports different cohorts of households based on

	identify any areas of concern or potential problems which may impact on your policy or project?		their homelessness situation or risk of homelessness.
6	Do you have any past experience delivering similar policies or projects which may inform the implementation of your scheme from an equality impact point of view?	Yes	Yes, there have been annual spending plans for the homelessness grant since 2023.
7	Are there any other issues that you think will be relevant?	No	No

Section 2 - Your EqIA form

Directorate: Strategic Housing	Your Service Area: Housing Options	Team: Housing Options	Officer responsible for this assessment: Charlotte Quinn	Date of assessment: 30/04/2026
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	Question	Please provide details
1	What is the name of the policy or project that is being assessed?	Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant spending plan.
2	Is this a new or existing policy?	This is a spending plan which supporting existing policies and projects.
3	Briefly describe the aim and purpose of this work.	The spending plan sets out various proposals across the housing options service to prevent homelessness for the next 3 years across the housing options service.
4	What are the associated objectives of this work?	The objectives are to enable to council to meet its legislative duties under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 and other relevant legislation and frameworks. To prevent and relive homelessness by increasing activity through internal

		and external interventions which support the prevention and early intervention approach. To spend the relevant grants in line with the funding guidance.
5	Who is intended to benefit from this work and in what way?	All residents in the Winchester District or with a connection to the Winchester District who are homeless or threatened with homelessness, rough sleeping or requiring general housing advice.
6	What are the outcomes sought from this work?	To ensure the relevant grants provided by Government to prevent homelessness or support particular groups who are at risk of homelessness or rough sleeping are supported to prevent or relieve their homelessness or rough sleeping by making the best use of funding to prevent temporary accommodation spending.
7	What factors/forces could contribute or detract from the outcomes?	External factors which may lead to the increase in homelessness, such as change to government policy on housing, immigration or costs of living.
8	Who are the key individuals and organisations responsible for the implementation of this work?	Strategic Housing Service
9	Who implements the policy or project and who or what is responsible for it?	Strategic Housing Service

		Please select your answer in bold . Please provide detail here.		
10a	Could the policy or project have the potential to affect individuals or communities on the basis of race differently in a negative way?	Y	N	Each intervention is available to any individual or household who is homeless or at risk of homelessness.
10b	What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?	Winchester district has a relatively low proportion of residents from ethnic minority backgrounds. There is no evidence that any interventions within the spending plan would impact		

		individuals differently on the basis of race.		
11a	Could the policy or project have the potential to affect individuals or communities on the basis of sex differently in a negative way?	Y	N	No, each intervention is available and accessible to any individual or household who is homeless or at risk of homelessness.
11b	What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?	Approaches to the housing options service show that 32% male (single or couples) 34% female (single of couples) and 34% couples (with or without children) so this is equally balance and all households would have access to the interventions based on their individual needs.		
12a	<p>Could the policy or project have the potential to affect individuals or communities on the basis of disability differently in a negative way?</p> <p><i>you may wish to consider:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Physical access</i> • <i>Format of information</i> • <i>Time of interview or consultation event</i> • <i>Personal assistance</i> • <i>Interpreter</i> • <i>Induction loop system</i> • <i>Independent living equipment</i> • <i>Content of interview)</i> 	Y	N	No, each intervention is available and accessible to any individual or household who is homeless or at risk of homelessness. To access each intervention (through a housing options full housing assessment) the service has support to ensure physical access to the service, interpretation and translations, induction loop, braille services.
12b	What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?	The 2021 census reported 15.4% with a disability. Housing Options Data reported 28% with a disability, therefore proportionally more individuals with a disability approached the service and therefore more households with a disability will have access to the support available.		
13a	Could the policy or project have the potential to affect individuals or communities on the basis of sexual orientation differently in a negative way?	Y	N	No, each intervention is available and accessible to any individual or household who is homeless or at risk of homelessness.

13b	What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?			
14a	Could the policy or project have the potential to affect individuals on the basis of age differently in a negative way?	Y	N	No, each intervention is available and accessible to any individual or household who is homeless or at risk of homelessness.
14b	What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?			
15a	Could the policy or project have the potential to affect individuals or communities on the basis of religious belief differently in a negative way?	Y	N	No, each intervention is available and accessible to any individual or household who is homeless or at risk of homelessness.
15b	What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?			
16a	Could this policy or project have the potential to affect individuals on the basis of gender reassignment differently in a negative way?	Y	N	No, each intervention is available and accessible to any individual or household who is homeless or at risk of homelessness.
16b	What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?			
17a	Could this policy or project have the potential to affect individuals on the basis of marriage and civil partnership differently in a negative way?	Y	N	No, each intervention is available and accessible to any individual or household who is homeless or at risk of homelessness.
17b	What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?			
18a	Could this policy or project have the potential to affect individuals on the basis of pregnancy and maternity differently in a negative way?	Y	N	No, each intervention is available and accessible to any individual or household who is homeless or at risk of homelessness.
18b	What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this?			
19	Could any negative impacts that you identified in questions 10a to 15b create the potential for the policy to discriminate against certain groups	Y	N	

	on the basis of protected characteristics?			
20	Can this negative impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for certain groups on the basis of protected characteristics? Please provide your answer opposite against the relevant protected characteristic.	Y	N	Race: N Sex: N Disability: N Sexual orientation: N Age: N Gender reassignment: N Pregnancy and maternity: N Marriage and civil partnership: N Religious belief: N
21	How will you mitigate any potential discrimination that may be brought about by your policy or project that you have identified above?	No negative impacts identified.		
22	Do any negative impacts that you have identified above impact on your service plan?	Y	N	No negative impacts identified.

Signed by completing officer	
Signed by Service Lead	