

EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD

REF No 379.21

A1 Service Area	Environment & Housing
A2 Title	Vulnerable Renters Payment Scheme
A3 Decision Taken By	Deputy Leader/ Chief Officer
A4 Chief Officer	Please print name: Sal Khan Please sign name: Approval by email 261121
A5 Deputy Leader	Please print name: Cllr R. Faulkner Please sign name: Approval by email 251121
A6 Date of Decision	26 th November 2021

Confidentiality

A7 Is this Decision confidential by containing exempt information as described in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972?	No
A7.1 If yes, please state relevant paragraph from Schedule 12A LGA 1972.	NA

Scrutiny

A8 Which Scrutiny Committee should this decision be submitted to? *(Please tick as appropriate)*

Scrutiny (Audit & Value for Money Council Services) Committee

Scrutiny (Community Regeneration, Environment and Health and Well Being)

Committee ✓

B1 What is the Decision?	To approve the 'Vulnerable Renters Payment Scheme' at Appendix 2 following a DLUHC award of funding for this purpose (Appendix 1). Also, to use a small amount of the funding (£514) to publicise the scheme, with any remaining funds after publicity exercise conclude being made available for payments under the scheme.
B2 What are the reasons for the Decision?	<p>DLUHC recognise that some private renters have rent arrears built up as a result of the pandemic and that vulnerable households may need additional support. The Council has been awarded a one-off payment of £56,514 to support low-income private renters with COVID-19 related rent arrears to avoid eviction or find a new home where necessary in order to prevent homelessness.</p> <p>The scheme at Appendix 1 is designed to meet this objective by assisting tenants in rented accommodation, beginning with private renters who have the lowest security of tenure, to clear arrears of up to £2k incurred during the pandemic. The scheme will only clear arrears on an existing tenancy that has a long term future, in that the reasons the arrears were accrued can be resolved to enable that household to avoid homelessness. The assessment and homelessness support will be led by the Homelessness code of guidance for local authorities.¹</p>
B3 What are the contributions to Corporate Priorities?	Environment and Health and Wellbeing
B4 What are the Human Rights considerations?	There are no Human Rights issues arising from this decision.

Financial Implications

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homelessness-code-of-guidance-for-local-authorities>

<p>B5 What are the financial implications?</p>	<p>The main financial issues arising from this decision are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DLUHC letter at Appendix 1 states that the Council will receive £56,514.00 to spend on the target cohort. • The grant is ring-fenced for 2020-21 and is to be spent in adherence with the principles set out in the letter at Appendix 1, by the 31st March 2022. • Spending on the scheme will be capped at the funding amount. • Any underspend on the £514.00 ear marked for publicity will be made available for payments to successful applicants for the scheme.
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Revenue	2021/22	2022/23
Homelessness Prevention Grant – Winter 2021 COVID-19 rent arrears financial support	(£56,514.00)	Nil
Vulnerable Renters Payment Scheme	£56,000.00	Nil
Publicity for the Scheme	£514.00	Nil
Impact on the MTFs	Nil	Nil

<p>The finance section has been approved by the following member of the Financial Management Unit:</p>	<p>Please print name: Anya Murray</p> <p>Please sign name: Approval by email 231121</p>
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Policy Framework

<p>B6 Is the Decision wholly in accordance with the Council's policy framework?</p>	Yes
<p>B6.1 If No, does it fall within the urgency provisions (Part 3 of the Constitution)?</p>	NA
<p>B6.2 Has it got the appropriate approvals under those provisions?</p>	Yes
<p>B7 Is the Decision wholly in accordance with the Council's budget?</p>	Yes
<p>B7.1 If No, does it fall within the urgency provisions (Part 3 of the Constitution)?</p>	NA
<p>B7.2 Has it got the appropriate approvals under those provisions?</p>	Yes

Equalities Implications

B8 What are the Equalities implications:
B8.1 Positive (Opportunities/Benefits): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Council is able to support more East Staffordshire residents who have a low income.
B8.2 Negative (Threats): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None identified.
B8.3 The subject of this decision is a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised. An equality impact assessment is attached as Appendix 3.
B8.4 The equality impact assessment identified the following actions to be carried out: None.

Risk Assessment

B9 What are the Risk Assessment implications:
B9.1 Positive (Opportunities/Benefits): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Council is able to offer a new service to households at risk of homelessness, potentially reducing future homelessness presentations.
B9.2 Negative (Threats): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• That demand exceeds supply and households applying following conclusion of the scheme are disappointed.
B9.3 The risks do not need to be entered in the Risk Register. Any financial implications to mitigate against these risks are considered above.

Legal Considerations

B10 What are the Legal Considerations:
B10.1 It is important that the monies are distributed and used in accordance with the conditions of funding as set out in the letter from the DLUHC dated 23 October 2021.
This section has been approved by the following member of the Legal Team.
Please print name: Caroline Elwood

B10 What are the Legal Considerations:

Please sign name: [Approval by email 221121](#)

Sustainability Implications

B11 What are the Sustainability implications:
B11.1 The proposal would not result in an overall positive effect in terms of sustainability (including climate change and change adaptation measures). The positive/negative impacts are set out below (please refer to guidance notes).
B11.2 Positive (Opportunities/Benefits): NA
B11.3 Negative (Threats): NA

Health & Safety Implications

B12 What are the Health & Safety implications:
B12.1 A Risk Assessment has not been carried out and entered into Safety Media for all significant hazards and risks because there are no significant hazards or risks arising from this decision.
B12.2 Any financial implications to mitigate against these hazards and risks are considered above.
B12.3 NA
B12.3.1 Positive (Benefits) NA
B12.3.2 Negative (Threats) NA

Key Decision

B13 Is this a Key Decision? No (*please delete as appropriate*)

Note: A Key Executive Decision is one where:

- 1. REVENUE – Any contract or proposal with an annual payment or saving of more than £100,000**
- 2. CAPITAL – Any capital project with a value in excess of £150,000**
- 3. A decision which significantly affects communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards.**

B13.1 If this is a Key Decision, is this an urgent decision such that a delay caused by use of the Call-in Procedure would <u>seriously</u> prejudice the public interest?	No
B13.2 If yes, has the Mayor or in his/her absence the Deputy Mayor or in his/her absence the Chair of the relevant Scrutiny Committee agreed that the decision will be exempt from Call-in?	NA

NOTE: If this decision is subject to the Call-in Procedure it will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of 3 working days after publication – unless 10 Members of the Council call in the decision.

Please send the original signed document to andrea.davies@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk