



**EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Council Meeting 21st March 2022**

Question received from Councillor D Florence-Jukes and response from the Deputy Leader (Environment and Housing) Councillor R A Faulkner.

20/22

In November 2020, it was announced that ESBC was to receive an additional £241,251 for local schemes that provide secure ‘move on’ style accommodation for people at risk of sleeping on the streets. Will the Deputy Leader provide a breakdown of how this additional funding has been allocated and provide an overview of the outcomes of the expenditure?

The £241,251 was secured by the Council in a joint bid with Trent and Dove to the [Next Steps Accommodation Programme](#) (NSAP) Capital Fund [EDR No. 234/20]. The funding comprises both capital and revenue for support until 31 Mar 24. The capital component is £180k for 6 properties (the remainder being revenue) and has been secured under the ‘purchase and repair’ model, with properties purchased from the open market on long lease to be made available for 30 years for those rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping and homelessness. Rent are then set at affordable rent levels, with tenancies for a maximum of two years as residents secure the skills they need to move into general needs housing.

The project funded by NSAP is known as ‘Stage 2 Accommodation’ for individuals who have made progress in shared supported accommodation (‘Stage 1’) but are not yet ready for independent living. All properties in the project are self-contained with their own front door to support independent living, and therefore give the residents a sense of progress whilst retaining the support they need to fully integrate into the community. There are a number of skills which can be an obstacle to moving into independent living, and are best worked in a self-contained environment such as: developing the skills to budget and pay utilities / rent, developing hobbies and interests, accessing training, education and/or employment.

To date 5 purchases have completed and 4 properties are occupied by the target cohort, all 4 residents are doing well though none have moved on yet having occupied the accommodation for approx. 9 months in most cases. The 5th property remains void pending repair and allocation, the 6th property to be purchased under NSAP has been delayed by lease terms which prevent sublet amongst other issues. Following the addition of funding from the [Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme](#) (RSAP) [EDR No. 287/21] on the same terms as the NSAP funding, there will be 7 additional ‘Stage 2’ properties bringing the total of 13 properties and 1.3



FTE support staff. So far, there have been 2 properties purchased with RSAP funding both of which are now being repaired.

Question received from Councillor R G W Grosvenor and response from the Deputy Leader (Finance) Councillor S Sankey.

21/22

Could the cabinet member who has responsibility for finance please answer the following question (please note I am just seeking a factual response and no additional commentary at this stage)

Appendix c which was issued for the the recent MTFS debate held at council said that the total earmarked revenue reserves are , and are forecasted to be ;

31/03/21 - 26,500,264

31/03/22 - 19,278,605

31/03/23 - 17,435,627

31/03/24 - 15,028,830

31/03/25 - 13,300,247

Is this appendix correct ?

Appendix C to the Medium Term Financial Strategy sets out the forecast of earmarked and general reserves over the period of the MTFS.

Earmarked reserves are by their nature monies that are set aside for a specific purpose and therefore the appendix takes into account forecasts as to when those reserves are likely to be utilised in line with the purpose for which they have been earmarked.