



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

SCRUTINY COMMISSION
COUNCIL

8 OCTOBER 2020
27 OCTOBER 2020

Wards affected:

ALL WARDS

PILOT PROJECT – Countywide hoarding project funded from the Better Care Fund

Report of Director Community Services

1. Purpose of report

To advise members of a countywide hoarding project led by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council on behalf of the seven districts councils, funded through the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) element of the Better care Fund.

2. Recommendation

Council:

- 2.1 Endorses participation and hosting of the pilot project.
- 2.2 Agrees a supplementary income and expenditure budget for the value of the external funding of £315,000.
- 2.3 Agree a one off reduction in the DFG budget of £45,000.

3. Background to the report

- 3.1 Members will be aware that the Council's disabled facilities grant (DFG's) service is managed through the Lightbulb partnership. There is approximately £1.8m underspend of DFG funding across Leicestershire. This underspend is due to receiving additional DFG funding from central government and needing to spend less on expensive DFGs as a result of better prevention work.

- 3.2 As a result of the budget underspend the Lightbulb Management Board have considered a number of options that the underspend could support. One of the options approved by the Board and by District Chief Executives, and which was developed and led by officers from Hinckley and Bosworth Borough council, has been a pilot project to test a new approach to supporting and assisting people who are hoarders.
- 3.3 Hoarding is impactful for individuals, families, communities and services and anecdotally is reported by front line services in Leicestershire to be increasing in numbers and complexity. The purpose of the pilot is to move away from traditional approaches to dealing with hoarders, where Districts take enforcement action to clear a property once it reaches a certain threshold (filthy and verminous, with risk to human life) to a more holistic approach which focuses on trying to address the underlying cause of hoarding and break the cycle.
- 3.4 The Purpose of this Pilot is to provide:
- a) An understanding for hoarding demand across all services and associated costs and resources needed to help manage the increasing demand
 - b) A common, holistic hoarding needs assessment for Leicestershire residents, provide efficient, cost effective service delivery through service redesign; capitalising on opportunities to create more effective working practices, and improved processes to create more timely and appropriate solutions to aid hoarded households.
 - c) A broader, targeted offer of support, providing a pragmatic response to a wide range of complex issues that contribute to hoarding including therapy work alongside practical support, and helping to prevent such work being required in the future. The purpose of the pilot is to determine and present a sustainable offer going forward.
- 3.5 The pilot offer comprises:
- Hoarding Support Officers who will be specialists working across the County directly with service users. This will include commissioning clearances, advocacy and support work with people affected, their relationships, neighbours and services to work towards positive outcomes.
 - Commissioned specialist mental health support – Hoarding Disorder has been listed as a distinct mental health condition, or may be caused by some other condition and therapy support is needed to promote a holistic recovery, enable safe and healthy independent living and social inclusion. Specialists such as 'Ardent Care' offer therapy alongside clearance to help with the underlying issues
 - Commissioned house clearance specialists for house clearance and therapy / support.

- For Self Neglect Cases, being able to offer a service that prevents residents having to reach an unacceptable threshold before an intervention is offered.

3.6 It has been agreed that each District will allocate £45,000 from their 2020/21 DFG allocation for a one year pilot. Through the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Statutory Guidance it is possible to 'top slice' DFG funding with all partners agreement. This means that capital funding can be used to support the revenue costs associated with this pilot project. Funds will be transferred, with a Memorandum of Understanding from County Council (who hold the overall Disabled Facilities grant funding under the Better Care Fund) to Hinckley & Bosworth Council to manage the pilot on the behalf of Leicestershire Districts. The overall cost of the Pilot Project is £315,000. A draft cost proposal is summarised in the table below:

	Cost £000
Staffing Resource 1 x Coordinator 3 x Support officers	168
Consultancy and CBT support i.e. Ardent Care offer	10
Commissioned House Clearance	100
IT	2
Self Neglect clearances	35
Total	315

3.7 A Performance Dashboard will be reported to the Lightbulb Management Board on a quarterly basis and will include:

- Number of self neglect cases by district
- Number of complex cases by district
- Completion times
- Type and Number of outcomes
- Spend per case

5.2 The pilot outputs will be reviewed quarterly during the pilot and it is anticipated that these will include:

- At least 1 complex hoarding case per district
- 100 self neglect cases across all districts
- Creation of a database to record and monitor activity
- A sustainable pathway / standard operation procedure after the pilot

6. Exemptions in accordance with the Access to Information procedure rules

6.1 This report is to be taken in open session

7. Financial implications (DW)

7.1 The estimated impact of the pilot study project outlined is set out below:-

	£
Cost County Wide Hoarding Project Pilot Study	315,000
Income Better Care Funding *	(315,000)
Overall Impact	0

*Of the Better Care funding the councils contribution would be £45k being the per council contribution from their 2020/21 DFG allocation

7.2 This Councils element will be met from an underspend Disabled Facilities Grant budget.

7.3 Additionally, the Council will need to consider various other issues as part of the governance and monitoring process for the project. These will include:-

Ensuring only eligible expenditure is committed.
Scheme monitoring (financial and non financial outputs)
Appropriate accounting treatment
An exit strategy

All additional governance, monitoring and administration costs will need to be met from the £315,000 allocation of the budget.

7.4 The exit strategy will need to ensure any the Council is not left with a financial liability at the end of the project. Primary this may arise for employee related costs.

7.5 In accordance with financial procedure rules, if endorsed by SLT, the £315,000 expenditure and income budget mentioned above will require Council approval. As part of this report the DFG budget reduction of £45,000 will also require approval.

7.6 Any future projects arising from a successful pilot will require separate approval in accordance with financial procedure rules.

8. Legal implications MR

8.1 Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 empowers the Council to do anything which individuals generally may do for the benefit of persons residing or present in its area

9. Corporate Plan implications

9.1 Contributes to people, places and prosperity priorities .

10. Consultation

- 10.1 The hoarding task and finish group, lightbulb delivery group and District Chief Executives

11. Risk implications

Management of significant (Net Red) risks		
Risk description	Mitigating actions	Owner
The funding is claimed upfront.	No penalties imposed low risk.	Rose Leach
Reputational risk	Working to ensure compliance with requirements of the funding	

12. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

- 12.1 The decision will enhance the powers available to HBBC to improve conditions in people's homes to the benefit of all members of the community accessing the service.

13. Climate implications

- 13.1 There are no specific climate implications.

14. Corporate implications

- 14.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset management implications
- Procurement implications
- Human resources implications
- Planning implications
- Data protection implications
- Voluntary sector

Background papers:

Contact officer: Rosemary Leach 01455 255923
Executive member: Councillor M Mullaney