

## London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

**Report to:** Cabinet

**Date:** 02/03/2020

**Subject:** MHCLG Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grants

**Report of:** Deputy Leader - Councillor Sue Fennimore

**Responsible Director:** Jo Rowlands, Strategic Director, The Economy Department

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### Summary

The Council was notified during January and February 2020 that it has been successful in securing several grants from the Ministry for Housing & Local Government (MHCLG). In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations Cabinet approval is required to amend revenue budgets which exceed £100,000. Cabinet approval is therefore required to accept and receive the grant monies as additional funding and to approve a corresponding expenditure budget to be spent in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant. The monies are to be spent as set out in Table 1.

The funding will enable some existing services for rough sleepers, refugees and survivors of domestic abuse to continue and be strengthened and to deliver new and improved services to vulnerable people. There is no additional cost to the General Fund from the recommendation in the report as additional expenditure will be fully funded by the grant funding.

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### Recommendations

That Cabinet:

1. Approves the acceptance of the following grant allocations from the MHCLG and approve corresponding amendments to expenditure budgets to be spent in line with the relevant grant conditions:

**Table 1**

<b>MHCLG Grant</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Cold Weather /Derogation Fund	£71,940
Cold Weather Fund/Winter Pressures	£29,196
Rough Sleeping Initiative	£626,013
Domestic Abuse Fund	£99,937
BAMER Domestic Abuse Refuge Provision	£101,142
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£928,228</b>

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**Wards Affected:** All

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## **H&F Priorities**

Please state how the outcome will contribute to our priorities

<b>Our Priorities</b>	<b>Summary of how this report aligns to the H&amp;F Priorities</b>
Creating a compassionate council	As a compassionate H&F is committed to ending rough sleeping and the harm it causes to individuals and communities. New services will contribute to better outcomes for homeless people. The proposals will strengthen services for survivors of domestic abuse.
Doing things with local residents, not to them	The proposed services were informed by the views of over 100 homeless people and survivors of domestic abuse
Being ruthlessly financially efficient	The grants will enable the Council to deliver new services and meet strategic priorities from external funding sources.

## **Financial Impact**

Due to the timing of the announcement of the grant funding allocations, the proposed revenue budgets for 2020/21 did not include budgetary provision for the additional grant funding and related expenditure. In accordance with the Financial Regulations, Cabinet is required to approve any amendments to expenditure budgets when additional funding becomes available. This report is therefore requesting that Cabinet accept the MHCLG grant allocations totalling £928,228 as set out in the recommendation and approve corresponding expenditure budgets to be spent in line with the grant terms and conditions.

The majority of the grant allocations will continue previously grant funded services, or to deliver new services as set out in the grant proposals. Any additional expenditure in the provision of these services is intended to be fully met by the grant allocations, with no additional call on the General Fund.

In relation to the Domestic Abuse Grant, part of the grant allocation can be used to fund the cost of our existing refuge provision, enabling a one-off saving to the General Fund of £59,937 in 2020/21.

The award of any contracts to be funded from these grant allocations will be subject to the requirements of the Contract Standing Orders and any decision reports will include the Financial Impact of those award decisions. Any expenditure incurred will need to be in line with the terms and conditions of the grant to ensure that there is no significant risk of having to repay grant monies.

## **Legal Implications**

There are no particular legal implications arising from this report. Legal advice will be obtained, where necessary, when the grant monies are to be spent.

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### **Background Papers Used in Preparing This Report**

None

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## **DETAILED ANALYSIS**

### **Proposals and Analysis of Options**

1. As a compassionate council, H&F is determined to end rough sleeping and the harm it causes to individuals and communities. In addition, H&F has a strong track record in responding effectively to the needs of survivors of domestic abuse.

### **Grant allocations**

2. The grant allocations awarded to Hammersmith and Fulham are summarised in the table below:

<b>Grant</b>	<b>Service Proposal</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Cold Weather/Derogation Fund	Accommodation and subsistence costs for rough sleepers with no recourse to public funds	Up to £71,940
Cold Weather Fund/Winter Pressures	Homeless Hospital discharge co-ordinator; accommodation and subsistence costs for homeless people	Up to £29,196
Rough Sleeping Initiative	24-hour rough sleeper assessment hub; three rough sleeper navigator posts; two Housing First workers; specialist dual diagnosis support	£626,013
Domestic Abuse Grant	Funding towards an existing generic women's refuge and a new contract for a gay men's service.	£99,937
Domestic Abuse Refuge Provision	Specialist BAMER refuge.	£101,142
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£928,228</b>

### **Rough Sleeping**

3. In 2019-20, the MHCLG issued several funding prospectuses inviting local authorities to bid for grants for rough sleeping initiatives (RSI). In 2018, H&F was excluded from bidding for RSI monies due to too few rough sleepers. In 2019-20, the fund was opened up and H&F received £252,000. We have successfully bid for grants to continue services funded in 2019-20 and for new services in 2020-21 as set out above to meet identified gaps in local services to meet our policy objective to end rough sleeping.
4. The proposed services are aligned with the recommendations in the independent Rough Sleeping Commission's report 2018 and informed by the views of over 100 homeless people.

### **Domestic Abuse**

5. In October 2019, the MHCLG announced a £15m Domestic Abuse fund for accommodation services. We were successful in securing funding towards the cost of our existing refuge provision for women and children experiencing domestic abuse and a gay men's service. The grant will enable a one-off saving to the General Fund of £59,937 in 2020/21.

### **Specialist BAMER Refuge Provision**

6. In addition to the above funds we have secured £101,142 for a specialist BAMER refuge.

### **Reasons for Decision**

7. The grants are new monies and approval to receive these grants and amend corresponding expenditure budgets in excess of £100,000 is required in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations.

### **Equality Implications**

8. It is not anticipated there will be any adverse impact on protected groups resulting from the recommendations in this report.
9. The receipt of these grant monies will enable the council to strengthen services for women, BAMER women and gay men experiencing domestic abuse which is anticipated to have a positive impact on these groups.

Implications verified by: Fawad Bhatti, Policy & Strategy Officer, tel. 07500 103617.

### **Consultation**

10. Over 100 homeless people's views were sought in developing the Rough Sleeping Commission's recommendations and the recommendations in this report are aligned with the Commission's.
11. In 2019-20, H&F has undertaken consultation with local specialist services and survivors through the recent VAWG re-commissioning process. The consultation highlighted the importance of safer accommodation for survivors and, in particular, the need for specialist BME provision.