

**HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Report to the Housing Select Committee**

**2<sup>nd</sup> July 2015**

<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Homelessness Prevention Expenditure Update</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR:</b>	<b>Councillor McCabe – Executive Councillor</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>Pranali Praikh – Regeneration Manager</b>
<b>WARDS INVOLVED:</b>	<b>All</b>

**1. Reason for the Report**

The report informs the Executive of the expenditure of the Homelessness Budget 2015/16 and Second Homes Council Tax allocation for 2015/16

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the Executive note the Homelessness Budget distribution for 2015/16
- 2.2 Note the 2015/16 Second Homes Council Tax distribution for 2015/16
- 2.3 Note the successful application to the Government’s fund to support those fleeing domestic abuse
- 2.4 A report be brought forward in October to set out the options for funding in 2016/17

**3. Executive Summary**

- 3.1 The Council received a non ring-fenced Homelessness Grant from the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG). CLG’s stated intention is that the grants are used to set up a homelessness prevention fund but it is up to the Council how the money is spent.
- 3.2 The Council also received funding from the Second Homes Council Tax initiative which is an agreement with Derbyshire County Council to use 75 per cent of council tax income raised from second homes to support local vulnerable people find a home.
- 3.3 The Council has funded the projects outlined in tables 3 and 4 for a number of years. The proposed 2015/16 expenditure is merely a continuation of these existing projects. The preparation of the report has been delayed for two

reasons. Firstly, the Second Homes Council fund from Derbyshire County Council was not approved until 24<sup>th</sup> March, and; secondly, the opportunity arose to bid for some additional funding from CLG through the Strengthening Accommodation Based Specialist Domestic Abuse Service Provision. The outcome of the bid was not announced until 9<sup>th</sup> March.

#### 4. **How this report links to Corporate Priorities**

- 4.1 This report relates to the corporate priority of the provision of Decent and Affordable Housing

#### 5. **Options and Analysis**

- 5.1 There are no specific options with this report as it is for noting only.

#### 6. **Implications**

- 6.1 Community Safety - (Crime and Disorder Act 1998)  
None

- 6.2 Workforce  
None

- 6.3 Equality and Diversity/Equality Impact Assessment  
This report has been prepared in accordance with the Councils Diversity and Equality Policies

- 6.4 Financial Considerations  
Summary of funding outlined in this report:  
£115,000 Second Homes Council Tax allocation 2014/15  
£50,300 Base Budget  
£117,775 Carry forward from CLG Homelessness Prevention Grant and Second Homes Council Tax  
  
£100,000 CLG Strengthening Accommodation Based Specialist Domestic Abuse Service Provision

- 6.5 Legal  
None

- 6.6 Sustainability  
None

- 6.7 Internal and External Consultation  
None

- 6.8 Risk Assessment  
None

Dai Lerner  
**Executive Director**

**Web Links and Background Papers**

Derbyshire County Council, Cabinet report, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2015 Derbyshire Second Homes Programme

**Location**

Strategic Housing

**Contact details**

Kate Hall  
Housing Strategy Officer

**7. Background and Detail**

- 7.1 The homelessness budget of £283,075 is made up from funding carried forward from previous grant allocations, additional Government funding, second homes Council tax, and a contribution from the Council's general fund.
- 7.2 The budget is spent on services commissioned from other agencies and is aimed at preventing or reducing the occurrence of homelessness and supporting vulnerable households. The projects funded through the second homes funding must demonstrate links to Derbyshire County Council's Health and Adult Care priorities.
- 7.3 Derbyshire County Council's Cabinet report of the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2015 outlines the proposed expenditure for the Second Homes Council Tax 2015/16 for the four councils in Derbyshire with the highest proportion of second homes;

**Table 1 County Council second homes investment programme for 2015/16**

<b>District and Borough Councils</b>	<b>Allocation 2015/16</b>
Amber Valley	£80,000
Derbyshire Dales	£309,000
High Peak	£115,000
South Derbyshire	£62,000
Total	£566,000

- 7.4 In 2014/15 the outcomes listed below were achieved by partner agencies delivering services funded by homelessness budget
- 97 rent bond guarantees were given in 2014/15
  - The Harmony Project has provided supported accommodation to 17 young women facing domestic violence or abuse.
  - 30 tenants were referred to the Citizens Advice Bureau for specialist debt advice
  - 2 new homes were specially adapted for families with disabled children
  - 10 families were financially assisted to down size due to the impacts of the spare room subsidy

**Table 2- Homelessness Prevention Outcomes for since 2009/10 – 2013/14**

	Year End 2009/10	Year End 2010/11	Year End 2011/12	Year End 2012/13	Year End 2013/14	Year End 2013/14
Number in Temporary Accommodation	22	14	6	11	6	6
Prevented Homeless Cases	227	213	187	166	159	159
Rent Bonds Issued	182	140	132	129	129	129
Homeless Presentations	74	61	49	93	32	32
Number of Homeless households to whom a duty is accepted	30	29	19	41	26	26
Number of households receiving housing advice & assistance	647	609	537	529	515	515
Total households seen	721	670	587	622	573	573

## **8 Funded Projects**

8.1 In order to be funded each project must meet one or more of the priorities of the Council's Homelessness Strategy;

- Preventing homelessness and sustaining tenancies
- Mitigating any potential impacts of the welfare reforms and Localism Act
- Increasing the availability of affordable homes

**Table 3 - Second Homes Council Tax Allocation 2015/16**

Project name	Service Description	(£)
Meeting the accommodation needs of people with disabilities including Disabled Facility Grants	Grants to achieve the Lifetime Homes standard in new build affordable homes or adaptations through additional Disabled Facility Grants	£50,000
Support for Families in Crisis Project	Good News Family Care provides access to suitable accommodation for vulnerable women and families who	£20,000

	are homeless or have support needs	
Domestic Abuse Project	This project enables Crossroads Derbyshire to provide a specialist service to younger women (13-25) to address issues of domestic abuse in their relationships	£20,000
Housing Enablement Project	A partnership with the Peak District National Park Authority to work with communities to carry out parish needs surveys and build affordable housing in rural areas	£15,000
Homelessness Prevention Grant	Enables the Housing Advice Team to give grants to prevent homelessness	£5,000
Vulnerable adults affected by the welfare reforms	Practical support in the form of financial assistance for vulnerable households affected by the welfare reforms with the associated costs of downsizing to avoid future arrears, assistance with removal costs or rent arrears	£5,000

**Table 4 - Homelessness Prevention Budget 2015/16**

Project name	Service Description	(£)
Abor Project	Supported accommodation for high risk offenders. This project was previously funded through Derbyshire County Council but funding was reduced	£3,000
Access to the private Rented Sector Project	Provides a combination of services to vulnerable households <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rent bond and tenancy support. Gives households access to a rent bond and initial tenancy support</li> <li>• Pre tenancy training course for vulnerable people with chaotic lifestyles who need additional skills to successfully maintain a tenancy</li> </ul>	£55,700
Rent bond top up	Financial top up to the rent bond fund which is administered as part of the Access to the Private Rented Sector	£10,000
Court Desk and Debt Advice	Citizens Advice Bureau provides specialist debt advice to vulnerable households at risk of eviction from rent or mortgage arrears	£25,000

Move-on Officer	A Derbyshire wide project help vulnerable people leaving supported accommodation	£2,000
Hometrack	A web based data system	£2,100

## 9 Domestic abuse fund

- 9.1 On the 25<sup>th</sup> November the government announced a £10 million fund to strengthen accommodation-based specialist support for victims fleeing domestic abuse and create a strong national network of refuges. Councils were invited to bid for up to £100,000 over two years.
- 9.2 A bid was submitted in partnership with Crossroads Derbyshire (formally High Peak Women's Aid) to seek funding to enable them to continue The Harmony Project.
- 9.3 The CLG announced on the 9<sup>th</sup> March that the Council had been successful and we were awarded £100,000 to continue the specialist service providing accommodation-based support to young women fleeing violence.