

**EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD**

**REF No 493/23**

<b>A1</b> Service Area	Communities and Housing Standards
<b>A2</b> Title	Reinstatement of Vulnerable Renters Payment Scheme
<b>A3</b> Decision Taken By	Deputy Leader/ Chief Officer
<b>A4</b> Chief Officer	Please print name: Sal Khan  Please sign name: <a href="#">Approval by email 030223</a>
<b>A5</b> Deputy Leader	Please print name: Cllr B Peters  Please sign name: <a href="#">Approval by email 080223</a>
<b>A6</b> Date of Decision	20 <sup>th</sup> January 2023

**Confidentiality**

<b>A7</b> Is this Decision confidential by containing exempt information as described in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972?	No
<b>A7.1</b> 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 ✓

<b>B1</b> What is the Decision?	To approve the 'Vulnerable Renters Payment Scheme' at Appendix 1, which reinstates a successful scheme from winter 2021/22. <sup>1</sup>
<b>B2</b> What are the reasons for the Decision?	<p>Some renters will have rent arrears as a result of high inflation and rising energy bills, and this scheme will offer vulnerable households additional support using a tried and tested method. The Council has been awarded a Homeless Prevention Grant Top Up to maximise prevention of homelessness activity and reduce reliance upon temporary accommodation (Appendix 2). This 'Top Up' will be combined with any unspent funds from the substantive Homeless Prevention Grant which has similar requirements<sup>2</sup> (Appendix 3).</p> <p>The Vulnerable Renters Payment Scheme (hereafter VRPS) will support low-income private renters with rent arrears to avoid eviction or find a new home where necessary in order to prevent homelessness.</p> <p>The VRPS is set out in detail at Appendix 1, and is designed to meet this objective by assisting tenants in rented accommodation to clear arrears of up to £2k. 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.<sup>3</sup></p> <p>If an applicant is dissatisfied, they have the opportunity to request a review within 3 working days which will be considered by a senior officer.</p>
<b>B3</b> What are the contributions to Corporate Priorities?	Environment and Health and Wellbeing
<b>B4</b> What are the Human Rights considerations?	There are no Human Rights issues arising from this decision.

<sup>1</sup> EDR 379.21

<sup>2</sup> Reducing the number of families in temporary accommodation by maximising family homelessness prevention.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homelessness-code-of-guidance-for-local-authorities>

## Financial Implications

<p><b>B5</b> 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"> <li>• The DLUHC letter at Appendix 2 states that the Council will receive £43,472.00 to spend on maximising prevention of homelessness activities and reducing reliance upon temporary accommodation.</li> <li>• Any grant from Appendix 3 which is not earmarked for expenditure elsewhere by 31 March 23 will be available to expand payments issued under the VRPS. Any available funds from this source will be identified in March 2023.</li> <li>• Both grants are ring-fenced for 2022-23 and are to be spent in adherence with the principles set out in the letters at Appendices 2 and 3, by the 31st March 2023.</li> <li>• Spending on the scheme will be capped at the funding amount.</li> </ul>
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Revenue	2022/23	2023/24
Homelessness Prevention Grant Top Up	(£43,472.00)	Nil
Vulnerable Renters Payment Scheme	£43,472.00	Nil
<b>Impact on the MTFS</b>	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: <a href="#">Approval by email 020223</a></p>
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## Policy Framework

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

## Equalities Implications

<b>B8</b> What are the Equalities implications:
<b>B8.1</b> Positive (Opportunities/Benefits): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Council is able to support more East Staffordshire residents who have a low income.</li></ul>
<b>B8.2</b> Negative (Threats): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None identified.</li></ul>
<b>B8.3</b> The subject of this decision is not a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised. An equality impact assessment not required.
<b>B8.4</b> The equality impact assessment identified the following actions to be carried out: None.

## Risk Assessment

<b>B9</b> What are the Risk Assessment implications:
<b>B9.1</b> Positive (Opportunities/Benefits): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Council is able to reinstate a service to households at risk of homelessness, potentially reducing future homelessness presentations.</li></ul>
<b>B9.2</b> Negative (Threats): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• That demand exceeds supply and households applying following conclusion of the scheme are disappointed.</li></ul>
<b>B9.3</b> 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

<b>B10</b> What are the Legal Considerations:
<b>B10.1</b> Any payments under the Scheme must be made in accordance with the conditions of funding as set out in the letter from DLUHC at Appendix 2 and Appendix 3.
This section has been approved by the following member of the Legal Team.
Please print name: Glen McCusker – Locum Solicitor

**B10** What are the Legal Considerations:

Please sign name: [Approval by email 010223](#)

## Sustainability Implications

<b>B11</b> What are the Sustainability implications:
<b>B11.1</b> 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).
<b>B11.2</b> Positive (Opportunities/Benefits): NA
<b>B11.3</b> Negative (Threats): NA

## Health & Safety Implications

<b>B12</b> What are the Health & Safety implications:
<b>B12.1</b> 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.
<b>B12.2</b> Any financial implications to mitigate against these hazards and risks are considered above.
<b>B12.3</b> NA
<b>B12.3.1</b> Positive (Benefits) NA
<b>B12.3.2</b> 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.**

<b>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?</b>	No
<b>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?</b>	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](mailto:andrea.davies@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk)