

Committee: Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Subcommittee	Dated: 04/03/2024
Subject: Post Rough Sleeping Initiative Planning Report	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1,2,3,4,10
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	N/A
Report of: Judith Finlay – Executive Director, Community and Children’s Services	For Information
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Summary

This report provides Members with a summary of the projects, posts and funds currently funded wholly, or in part, by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) grant. The current three-year award enters its final year in 2024/25. Decisions regarding levels of funding from 2025/26 are yet to be made by DLUHC. This report explains the evaluation process underway to assess the impact of each funded intervention, sets out plans for actions that are required now and through the next financial year. A budget summary demonstrating how the RSI fund contributes to the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping local risk budget is also provided.

This report references the following priority areas from the 2024–27 Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy:

- Priority 1 – Rapid, effective and tailored interventions
- Priority 2 – Securing access to suitable, affordable accommodation
- Priority 3 – Achieving our goals through better collaboration and partnership
- Priority 4 – Providing support beyond accommodation

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The RSI is part of the Government's ongoing Rough Sleeping Strategy which sets out the vision to end rough sleeping by the end of the current Parliament. The initiative makes grant awards to local authorities to assist them in supporting people sleeping rough to move away from the streets and develop their wellbeing and stability, helping to reduce the number of people sleeping rough in both the short and longer term.
2. In February 2022, City of London officers submitted the 2022–2025 RSI proposal totalling £3,709,566. This multi-year fund was preceded by four single-year funds which commenced in 2018/19. Funding over this period increased steadily year on year to the annual average between 2022 and 2025 of £1.2 million.
3. The current RSI award covers 14 projects, posts or funds. Most are funded wholly by the RSI grant. Some are funded by a mix of RSI grant and City Fund, and some are shared with other local authorities from their respective RSI awards.
4. An additional contract – the Tri-borough Staging Post, is funded by the RSI through a separate fund known as Targeted Funding. This non-recurring fund expires on 30 September 2024.
5. Posts have been created at the City of London as well as with partner organisations. Funds refers to small budgets held either by the City or by a commissioned service to support the delivery of a particular area of work.
6. Two challenges emerge from the uncertainty around any grant award in April 2025:
 - The level of funding is unknown. If less than the current award, we will need to consider ending or amending current work funded through the RSI or funding work from City Fund.
 - The timing of any grant determination has a bearing on decision-making. Some contracts are set to expire during 2024/25 and, without notification of further funding, all contracts will need to come to a close by 31 March 2025.
7. Some contracts have an extension clause taking us beyond 1 April 2025, however, we cannot execute these without a confirmed source of funding.

Current Position

8. The table below sets out the 14 interventions currently funded by the RSI.

	Intervention	Type	Contract end date	Extension end date
1	Outreach Senior Practitioner	External role	31/10/2024	31/03/2025
2	Tri-borough Psychotherapy Service	Project	30/06/2025	N/A
3	City & Tower Hamlets Navigator Service	Project	31/03/2025	N/A
4	Lead Outreach Worker	External role	31/10/2024	31/03/2025
5	Mobile Intervention Support Team	Project	31/08/2025	N/A
6	Homeless Health Co-ordinator (City of London)	Internal role	31/03/2025	N/A
7	Co-production Programme	Project	30/04/2025	N/A
8	The Lodges	Project	31/12/2024	31/03/2025
9	Commissioning Officer (City of London)	Internal role	29/08/2024	N/A
10	Employment & Progression Service	Project	01/08/2025	N/A
11	Housing First	Project	31/03/2025	N/A
12	ASC Strength Based Practitioner, PB & Reflective Practice (City of London)	Internal role	06/07/2025	N/A
13	Pathway Liaison Officer (City of London)	Internal role	31/03/2025	N/A
14	Personalisation Fund	Fund	N/A	N/A

9. The total level of funding for these 14 interventions is £1,373,840.

10. In April 2023 the City applied for and received £606,114 from Targeted Funding at the RSI. This has been used to create the Tri-borough Staging Post service at City Inn Express which is shared with Hackney and Tower Hamlets. The City of London is the commissioning body and funding was awarded based on the project meeting the needs of three local authorities.

11. The Targeted Funding is a distinct fund, which differs from the core RSI award despite being administered by the same team. The funding covers the period 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024 and is non-recurring.

12. The Tri-borough Staging Post was extended after City of London's funding for the City Inn Express came to an end and the opening of the new Rough Sleeping Assessment Centre at Snow Hill Court was delayed.

Notes on interventions (numbered as per table above)

1) The Outreach Senior Practitioner has a contract end date which aligns with the core Outreach service contract. This review begins in March 2024. The post sits with the Outreach service. Funding from RSI takes us up to the extension end date.

2) The City of London is the commissioning body for the Tri-borough Psychotherapy Service. Equal financial contributions are made by London Borough of Tower Hamlets and London Borough of Hackney from their respective RSI awards. A break clause exists should the contract need to be terminated on 31 March 2025.

3) Tower Hamlets is the commissioning body for City & Tower Hamlets Navigator Service. Payments are made from our RSI allocation to Tower Hamlets.

- 4) The Lead Outreach Worker role has a contract end date which aligns with the core Outreach service contract. The post sits with the Outreach service. Funding from RSI takes us up to the extension end date.
- 5) The Mobile Intervention and Support Team (MIST) supports rough sleepers placed in discretionary temporary accommodation, B&Bs, Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEPE) placements and the City of London Women's Project. This is effectively an extension of the Outreach team. Funding for any contract extension beyond 31 March 2025 is dependent upon a new RSI award. A break clause exists should the contract need to be terminated on 31 March 2025.
- 6) The Homeless Health Co-ordinator is post is based in the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Service. The role provides operational co-ordination and strategic level inputs to address health inequalities faced by rough sleepers and the wider homeless population. The post has a fixed-term contract duration aligned with the funding.
- 7) The Co-production Programme is commissioned to develop mechanisms and procedure to ensure lived experience is fully integrated into service design, delivery and governance. A break clause exists should the contract need to be terminated on 31 March 2025.
- 8) The Lodges are shared with Westminster City Council which provides an equal level of funding from their RSI allocation. A contract extension is available to 31 March 2025.
- 9) The Commissioning Officer post is funded jointly between the RSI award and the City of London on an equal share basis. Work is underway to secure funding internally in Community and Children's Services to sustain the post to 31 March 2025 in the first instance. This is a priority.
- 10) The Employment and Progression Service is commissioned to deliver a wide-ranging programme of learning and training opportunities for rough sleepers and our Pathway residents. A break clause exists should the contract need to be terminated on 31 March 2025.
- 11) City and Hackney Housing First is a scheme that provides support to rough sleepers living in social housing or private rented sector tenancies. Hackney is the commissioning body.
- 12) The Adult Social Care (ASC) Strength Based Practitioner role supports the Rough Sleeping Social Worker post in the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Service. The role comes with a small budget for personalised spending (PB) and a budget for team reflective practice sessions.
- 13) The Pathway Liaison Officer post is one of two roles which straddle the Rough Sleeping and Pathway teams. The other post is already established with the

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Service. The roles drive efficiency and clarity of purpose among our partners delivering rough sleeping and accommodation services.

- 14) The Personalisation Fund is a small budget delegated to the Outreach team to use directly with clients.

Budget info

13. The table below sets out expenditure and income for the Homeless and Rough Sleeping Budget for 2024/25 with some key areas of income and expenditure highlighted.

	2024/25
	£'000
Local Risk	
Employee expenses	(791)
Transport related expenses	(3)
Supplies and Services:	
High Support Hostel	(770)
Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI)	(1980)
Outreach Contract	(400)
Rough Sleepers Assessment Centre	(500)
Severe Weather Emergency Protocols (SWEP)	(50)
Other Supplies and Services	(206)
	(3,906)
Third Party Payments:	
Other Bodies	(294)
Client accommodation	(900)
Client subsistence & travel	(5)
	(1,199)
Total Expenditure	<u>(5,899)</u>
Homelessness Prevention Grant	134
Joint Financing - Rent Allowance	444
RSI Grant Income	1980
Total Income	<u>2558</u>
Total Local Risk	(3,328)

14. The total Local Risk of £3,328,000 is augmented with £2,558,000 of income from two government grants – the Rough Sleeping Initiative (£1,980,000) and

the Homelessness Prevention Grant (£134,000). A further £444,00 is expected from rent income from temporary accommodation placements.

15. Local Risk combined with grant and rent income creates a total budget of £5,899,000.
16. Expenditure is shown as employee related expenses, supplies and services (most of our commissioning activity) and third-party payments (client related costs etc.)

Procurement

17. The Corporation's Procurement Code applies to each externally provided intervention funded by the RSI, and Commissioning and Procurement Activity takes place in line with this code. In turn, this runs alongside existing Commissioning and Procurement commitments and undertakings. To resource adequately, Commercial Services are involved in future planning to ensure that internal governance is not compromised, and resources are available to undertake the work.
18. Routes to market for services funded by the RSI are overwhelmingly by competitive tender as set out in the Procurement Code to satisfy Public Contract Regulations, to ensure the best quality and value of services and equally to ensure that the Corporation's wider commitments to social value, responsible procurement and climates can be assured.
19. Additionally, for services where the Corporation is satisfied that exercising the contract extension is the appropriate course of action, the same diligence and governance needs to be applied by a host of officers from various departments under the Category Boards or relevant committee.
20. Certain services that have been running for some time are coming to an end and will need a full review and potential redesign to enable the Corporation to tender a new service fit for purpose.

Evaluation Process

21. Due to the uncertainty of RSI funding levels beyond 31 March 2025 we have commenced an evaluation process for each intervention funded by the RSI. This process will review the interventions by considering impact, cost of delivery and risks associated with ending the service.
22. Some interventions were intended to be time limited; others may prove less impactful than we hoped. The evaluation process is designed to provide an objective lens through which to view each intervention, and the findings will go on to inform planning for 2025/26 and beyond. Where applicable, performance against key performance indicators will be included in the evaluation.
23. Given that we cannot know what level of funding will be available from DLUHC. Officers will plan based on three potential outcomes:

- Levels of RSI funding remain roughly where they are for a period of at least 12 months.
- RSI funding is reduced by approximately half the level currently awarded.
- RSI funding ends completely at the end of 2024/25.

24. Officers are in contact with commissioners in Tower Hamlets and Hackney regarding contracts which are shared or where another authority is the commissioning body.

Next Steps

25. All interventions will have undergone an initial evaluation by 31 March 2024.

26. The following RSI-funded interventions are subject to a contract extension review and report during 2024/25:

- The Lodges
- Employment & Progression Service
- Tri-borough Psychotherapy Service
- Mobile Intervention and Support Team (MIST)
- Outreach Lead Worker (as part of the contract extension review for the host Outreach service)
- Outreach Senior Practitioner (as part of the contract extension review for the host Outreach service).

27. The Tri-borough Staging Post contract will be decommissioned or re-tendered depending on RSI funding available from 1 October 2024. This decision will be undertaken in collaboration with Hackney and Tower Hamlets.

28. Members will receive an update on this report at the June Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee meeting.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

22. Financial implications – financial implications are not known at this time; however, RSI funding could end or be reduced to the extent that current contracts are at risk. Should these contracts be considered critical to service delivery, it may be necessary to ask Members to consider an increase to the local risk budget. This risk also exists in the event that funding certainty is not achieved, and procurement timelines make further delays to contract extensions impossible.

23. Resource implications – N/A

24. Legal implications – N/A

25. Risk implications – N/A

26. Equalities implications – N/A

27. Climate implications – N/A

28. Security implications – N/A

Conclusion

29. The RSI currently funds 14 interventions with a combined value of just over £1,373,840. An additional £606,114 was received from a separate fund at the RSI for the Tri-borough Staging Post project.

30. The total budget available for Homelessness and Rough sleeping in 2024/25 is £5,899,000. This made up from £1,979,954 of RSI grant income, £134,000 from the Homelessness Prevention Grant and £440,000 of expected rent income from temporary accommodation placements.

31. DLUHC have not issued any communications regarding future awards from 2025/26 onwards.

32. An evaluation process has commenced to review each intervention in the event we must end or modify service delivery after 31 March 2024.

33. Members will continue to be briefed on the evaluation process as it develops at future Sub-Committee meetings.

34. Some contracts have extension periods that can be activated should a funding award be made and break clauses exist for those contracts which must be brought to an end on 31 March 2025.

Appendices

- None

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