



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

Thursday, 15 June 2023

Report of the Executive Director - Adult Social Care and Health

Housing Support for Local Communities 2023-2025

(Cabinet Member for Health and Communities)

1. Divisions Affected

1.1 The Council Tax allocation to support local housing priorities covers Amber Valley, Derbyshire Dales, High Peak and South Derbyshire District Councils.

2. Key Decision

2.1 This report is to approve the distribution of funding from Second Homes Taxes from the Council Tax allocation to support local housing priorities for audit purposes.

2.2 This is a key decision because it is likely to result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or savings which are, significant having regard to the budget for the service or function concerned (this is currently defined as £500,000); and

2.3 it is likely to be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral areas in the County.

3. Purpose

- 3.1 The purpose of this report is to request Cabinet approve the funding allocated to the four District and Borough Councils that receive a percentage of the Council Tax allocation for residential properties in their local government area.
- 3.2 Cabinet is asked to approve the funding allocations for the forthcoming period of 2023-2025 (£0.562m) covering the use of the Council Tax Allocation for Amber Valley, Derbyshire Dales, High Peak and South Derbyshire District Councils to deliver low level housing related support.
- 3.3 Cabinet is asked to consider a review of the use of this element of Council Tax allocation with key partners and stakeholders prior to reconsideration in 2025-2027. The programme has been re-occurring since 2004 with no review process having been undertaken.

4. Information and Analysis

- 4.1 The rules on levying Council Tax on people's second homes were changed in 2004. The County Council agreed with the four District Councils most affected: Derbyshire Dales, High Peak, Amber Valley and South Derbyshire that £0.562m (75% of the then additional income raised for the County and District/Borough Councils) would be used to enhance low level housing support for people with the highest need in these areas. Examples of the housing related services supported include Housing Options, Help to Move, support for homeless people and a Domestic Abuse project. See Appendix 2 for details.
- 4.2 Cabinet 8 June 2017 (Minute 177/17) and 16 March 2020 (Minute 58/20) and 10 February 2022 (Minute 40/22) agreed two-year investment programmes of £0.552m for 2017-19, 2019-2021 and 2021-23.
- 4.3 The delivery of the current allocation has shown the value of targeting services for people with the highest need, resulting in reduced demand, and meeting the Boroughs', Districts' and County Council's Housing, Health and Adult Care strategic policy objectives.
- 4.4 Many of the District and Borough Council's housing customers also receive services from Derbyshire County Council and vice versa. By supporting people through the services outlined in this programme, Councils are able to reduce demand on their own services by providing enhanced housing and support services to people who are the most vulnerable.

4.5 Housing Support for Local Communities, as set out in Appendix 2, will assist the County Council to deliver on its strategic plans and priorities as set out in the Council Plan, Adult Social Care and Health plans, and the Health and Well-being strategies

5. Consultation

5.1 There is no requirement to consult in relation to the Council Tax allocation to support local housing priorities funding allocation.

6. Alternative Options Considered

6.1 Cabinet could decide not to agree to the recommendation to fund the Council Tax allocation to support local housing priorities. This would mean that the relevant Districts and Boroughs would be required to source alternative funding, or to cease their programmes.

7. Implications

7.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

8. Background Papers

8.1 None identified.

9. Appendices

9.1 Appendix 1 – Implications

9.2 Appendix 2 - Utilisation of the Council Tax allocation to support local housing priorities funding as reported by each District or Borough area.

10. Recommendation(s)

That Cabinet:

- a) Approves the Council Tax allocation to support local housing priorities covering the use of £0.562m from the Council Tax allocation to support local housing priorities budget for Amber Valley, Derbyshire Dales, High Peak and South Derbyshire District / Borough Councils for 2023 – 2025

- b) Agrees to support a review of the use of Second Homes Tax allocation to deliver housing support for local communities with key partners and stakeholders prior to reconsideration in 2025-2027.

11. Reasons for Recommendation(s)

- 11.1 To enable the activities in Amber Valley, Derbyshire Dales, High Peak and South Derbyshire to receive the funding allocation.

12. Is it necessary to waive the call in period?

- 12.1 No

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Implications

Financial

1.2 The cost for 2023-2025

The total funding allocation is £0.562m per annum for 2023-2025 which would be met from the Council Tax to support local housing priorities budget which is allocated to the overall ASCH budget:

Amber Valley	£0.080m
Derbyshire Dales	£0.305m
High Peak	£0.115m
South Derbyshire	£0.062m
<u>Total</u>	<u>£0.562m p.a.</u>

Legal

- 2.1 s1 Homelessness Act 2002 requires all housing authorities to formulate a homelessness strategy. In accordance with s1(2) the County Council shall give such assistance that the housing authority may reasonably require and under s1(6) shall take account of that strategy in the exercise of their function in relation to that district or borough.
- 2.2 Prevention is one of the six principles of the Care Act 2014. The County Council has a statutory duty to prevent and delay the development of needs for care and support and in performing that duty a local authority must have regard to the importance of identifying services, facilities and resources already available (s2(2)(a) Care Act 2014).
- 2.3 The Care and Support Statutory Guidance states that the wellbeing principle (the duty on local authorities to promote an individual's wellbeing when carrying out care and support functions) should also be considered by the local authority when it undertakes broader, strategic functions and should be seen as the common theme around which care and support is built. The Care and Support Statutory Guidance also states that supporting people to live as independently as possible, for as long as possible, is a guiding principle of the Care Act.
- 2.2 The recommendation is considered to meet the requirements and expectations of the relevant legislation.

Human Resources

- 3.1 No obvious implications

Information Technology

4.1 No obvious implications

Equalities Impact

5.1 Not applicable

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

6.1 Not applicable

Other (for example, Health and Safety, Environmental Sustainability, Property and Asset Management, Risk Management and Safeguarding)

7.1 Not applicable

Appendix 2

Utilisation of Council Tax funding as reported by each District or Borough area.

Amber Valley Borough Council – Allocation £0.080m

For the period of 2021-2023 £21,000 per year has been allocated to provide additional project worker capacity.

The remaining £59,000 has been used on preventative discretionary spend. This has allowed us to provide funding for the County Council's Healthy Homes service, works arranged by the home improvement agency and cases that Adult Social Care P&P wanted financial support for where they did not have access to funding for preventative work like hoarding clearance.

For the period of 2023-2025 we are working on a replacement project worker function that will absorb the loss of the Home Improvement Agency. Work is currently underway to quantify the scale of the capacity required in the in-house service connected to other changes within the team. We anticipate that any balance will be used as capital to support cases that are referred as well as linking in with the healthy homes service. Given the focus on hospital discharge and continued emerging increase focus within health and social care about underlying causes (and the cost of living shock) we feel that there will be an increase in referrals for individuals and households struggling with the cold and the cost of repairs that in turn increase the likelihood of avoidable admission or delayed discharge. This will need to be reviewed with input from DCC Public Health and others as we are conscious that there is investment in Marches Energy Agency so locally within our 'place' we will anticipate doing some work that will shape the Council's direct role in what is an emerging picture. The response to the core client group and the solutions

are not straightforward but we hope that any new roles will help make better links with NHS and Social Care staff to help more people to stay in their home for longer.
Derbyshire Dales District Council – Allocation £0.305m

For the period of 2021-2023

NCHA Accommodation Support Service = £22,976

Vulnerable adult housing advice service = £52,329.40

Q1. Our Home-Options support team helped with 14 cases. They supported in providing £2950 in financial gain, £17,614 in benefit gain and £5700 in one-off payments.

Q2. Our Home-Options support team helped with 23 cases. They supported in providing £2905 in financial gain, £50,243.76 in benefit gain and £100,800.07 in one-off payments.

Q3 Our Home-Options support team helped with 15 cases. They supported in providing £3200 in financial gain, £47,647 in benefit gain and £45,663.91 in one-off payments

Age UK £97,000

Q1 Age UK supported 10 new cases and reopened 17 cases, generating £9745 in one off payments and £45,629 in weekly payments.

Q2 Age UK supported 20 new cases and reopened 30 cases, generating £40718 in one off payments and £131,131 in weekly payments.

Q3 AGE UK supported 27 new cases and reopened 22 cases, generating £18,205 in one-off payments and £84,567.92 in weekly payments.

Help to Move £52,000

Q1 There have been 5 moves in this ¼ and there are 2 imminent moves

Q2 There have been 4 moves in this ¼ and some significant and time consuming work for decluttering and downsizing in order to move/prepare for moving. 11 active clients at present

Q3 There have been 9 clients during this quarter. 6 moves have been undertaken and some significant and time-consuming work for decluttering and downsizing in order to move/prepare for moving for clients. There has also been one client for decluttering only and some intensive work providing post move support for 2 clients.

Hurst Farm £45,000

The Hurst Farm regeneration project goes from strength to strength and is based on a collaborative partnership between the District and County Council, the Friends of Hurst Farm residents association, Castle View primary school and a whole range of other agencies. In 2022/23 several notable projects were completed thanks in part to the Community Development Manager funded through this grant, including; the £480,000 renovation of the Social Club to form a rebranded 'Farmers View' community centre, the first Community Pantry in Derbyshire Dales feeding over 80 families per week and a successful £1.2m Heritage Lottery Grant to connect and the heritage sites around Hurst Farm through a new and upgraded footpath.

Bungalow provision £36,000

This year we have completed one major affordable housing scheme at Bakewell Road in Matlock with a total of 57 high quality affordable homes. Of these 6 were provide and built to the M4(3) standard. A further 5 affordable housing bungalows are on site at Whitworth Dale.

For the period of 2023-2025

Vulnerable adult housing advice service

Our proposal for 2023/24/25 is to continue the service in the same way. The costs now exceed the contribution sought from 2nd homes due to wage inflation, but we have met that from our own resources. In addition, we have recruited a 3rd post in order to meet the additional demands placed on the council through Ukrainian refugees. We have used the DCC allocation passed to DDDC via the Homes for Ukraine scheme. All 3 posts now provide support to Ukrainian refugees as well as residents in housing crisis.

Age UK £97,000

Our proposal for 2023/24/25 is to continue with this service. The financial gains alone are substantial as are the softer outcomes linked to hospital discharge, advocacy and support with access to services and help to secure more appropriate accommodation.

Help to Move £52,000

Our proposal for 2023/24/25 is to continue with this service. The service provides intensive help and practical support for older residents who would otherwise be unwilling to move to more appropriate accommodation. It takes time to build a relationship with clients, but through the project we can assist with removals, moving home, support with utilities and basic fixtures.

Hurst Farm £45,000

Our proposal for 2023/24/25 is to continue with the same level of funding but to reshape the project to help take forward the next phase of the regeneration project. This includes supporting the 'Green Estate', a new community interest company that will help delivery the Heritage Lottery Grant, particularly the softer aspects including volunteering opportunities, work with the local schools and accessing the natural environment around the Hurst Farm estate. The post will also work with a new Green Estate Ranger to recruit and support 2 forestry and horticultural apprentices.

Bungalow provision £36,000

Our proposal for 2023/24/25 is to continue the project and support further bungalow schemes built to M4(2) and M4(3) so that we make further provision for disabled households.

High Peak Borough Council – Allocation £0.115m

For the period of 2021-2023

Domestic abuse project - Services provided by Crossroads Derbyshire - Harmony

The Harmony Project provides safe accommodation and intensive support to young women (aged 16-24), and their children, who are fleeing domestic abuse. They are

homeless because of abusive intimate or familial relationships, sexual exploitation and forced marriage. Support is provided to help people improve their mental health and wellbeing and work with them around their children's practical and emotional needs. This age group is the hardest to reach and police crime records show that they are the most vulnerable, more likely to experience sexual crimes and increasingly likely to be targeted through social media. Meaningful and challenging activities and group sessions are delivered within the project, which focus on safety, recovery, resilience against future harm, understanding healthy relationships and self-esteem. From April 2021 to Dec 2022, 33 women and 17 children accessed emergency refuge accommodation and support through The Harmony Project.

Over the same period Harmony outreach support was provided for 22 girls and young women.

Making Positive Choices is a project which provides intensive one-to-one and group support to young people in Derbyshire who are at risk of entering unhealthy relationships. This includes specialist work with young people who are showing signs of abuse towards a parent or sibling. The programme also works to raise awareness in schools across the High Peak, to encourage healthy relationships and safe online behaviour. From April 2021 to Dec 2022, 162 individuals received support.

Support for Families in Crisis - Service provided by Good News Family Care
Good News Family Care provide accommodation based support to people experiencing domestic abuse, homelessness and addiction issues. Support given to each women/ family varies depending on individual circumstances; this may include the development of work plans, parenting guidance, participation of group support sessions and work skills projects.

In order to ensure that residents succeed and have positive outcomes when they leave the programme a transition from intensive support to a lower level of outreach work is provided. 26 residents and 10 children were accommodated during period Apr 2021- Mar 2022.

Vulnerable adults affected by the welfare reforms

For the period 1.4.2021 to 25.1.2023, 32 households have been assisted, 4 of these have moved to more suitable accommodation. The threat of Court Proceedings has been lifted for at least 12 households some of whom were vulnerable young families.

Meeting the accommodation needs of homeowners and people with disabilities

The funding has already been used to fund 2 grants for heating and insulation issues, and 5 DFG Cases where the client was unable to contribute to major works or required assistance to move house. Funding has also been allocated to assist with the adaptation of a new build property for the benefit of disabled tenants the property transfer waiting list.

Action Housing Project

The Action Housing project provides supported accommodation and housing related support to offenders with a connection to the Derbyshire area and supports our key

partners, Derbyshire Police and Derbyshire Probation Trust with public protection. The project supported new clients and assisted clients to move in a planned way. Recall to custody for public protection reasons is regarded as a positive move on as it means that re-offending has been prevented.

Debt Advice Project

The project is jointly funded by the local authority to reflect priorities within the Homelessness Strategy and the growing financial difficulties affecting vulnerable households impacting upon housing circumstances.

During 2021/22 the project dealt with 1750 debt issues and managed £657,914 of debt. Increasingly help and advice is needed with Breathing Space Moratorium, Debt Relief Orders and Council Tax debt.

Clients accessing the service have multiple vulnerabilities; 73% of clients have a disability or long-term health condition. The impact of debt is detrimental to mental health, leaving people isolated, powerless and at risk of homelessness

For the period of 2023-2025

Support for families in crisis £20,000

Continuation of funding to the Good News Family Care project which enables women to access accommodation with intensive and flexible support, including drug and alcohol treatment. The aim of the project is to help women and families in crisis, who are homeless, and need support due to a range of issues ranging from substance misuse, alcohol dependency, mental health or are at risk of domestic abuse.

Domestic Abuse project £20,000

This Harmony Crossroads project enables the provision of supported accommodation specifically for young women aged 16-24 years and their children who are escaping domestic abuse. In recognition of the age of the young women and their complex needs, a high level of support is provided with workers present 24/7. The refuge is more than just a place of safety - supporting people to develop basic skills, confidence and resilience against future harm, parenting, access training and employment and improve their understanding of healthy relationships.

The project also provides floating outreach support to young women and men High Peak and across North Derbyshire who have experienced abuse or display risky behaviour. The support is delivered through one-to-one sessions and group work based in the community to women who have experienced a variety of abuse issues ranging from forced marriage, sexual violence to domestic abuse within the family.

The programme also works to raise awareness in schools across the High Peak, to encourage healthy relationships and safe online behaviour. Sessions address what domestic abuse is, how to recognise the patterns of an abuser and how to stay safe.

The sessions also look at sexual exploitation including the use of social websites, and the effects of domestic abuse on any children of these young women. The project provides a place of safety and supports girls and young women to make appropriate choices about their well being, and develop skills to stop the cycle of abuse and prevent young women and their children from suffering abuse.

It is acknowledged that while the main support issue the women seeks support for is domestic abuse they often need additional support for a variety of issues including

drug/ alcohol dependency, parenting, mental illness (including depression, self harm and suicide idealisation), support into employment or education.

Vulnerable adults facing financial hardship £7,500

Financial support for vulnerable households facing exceptional housing related financial pressure; in order to maintain tenancies, or facilitate a move to alternative affordable accommodation where for instance rent arrears debt may prevent this. Support will be made available to vulnerable households (i.e. low income, older/ younger people, families with children, physical or learning disability, experiencing domestic abuse, mental health or drug & alcohol issues, or engaged with support/ statutory services). Assistance will be provided to those impacted by;

- Welfare reforms, for instance bedroom tax or moving from Housing Benefit to Universal Credit
- cost of living crisis situations, to prevent homelessness
- exceptional cases of emergency, to support housing costs where existing housing support schemes do not meet this exceptional need
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Meeting the accommodation needs of homeowners and people with disabilities £55,000

This will provide additional grants to:

- achieve the Lifetime Homes standard in new build affordable homes/ bungalows or adaptations through Discretionary Adaptation Grants which will allow vulnerable households to remain and receive care at home for longer
- to provide discretionary assistance to eligible clients who sit outside the current DFG Eligibility criteria to enable adaptations that would otherwise fail to reach conclusion. The funding may be used to top up a mandatory grant entitlement, provide assistance to eligible clients who face unaffordable contributory costs in relation to an adaptation as a result of a means test, or provide assistance towards the costs associated with moving home where the clients current property cannot be reasonably adapted for their needs.
- provide support for the most vulnerable households (ie. those who are elderly, low income households or disabled persons) living in the worst conditions in providing Home Repairs Assistance Grant to carry out emergency or essential repairs to their properties or home owners seeking to bring an empty property back into use for owner occupation or rental, in order to ensure that their homes are safe to live in. Individuals may struggle to find assistance towards for general items of essential repair, for example bathroom and kitchen replacement, new boiler/heating systems or energy efficiency.

Debt and money advice £12,500

The debt and money advice project is delivered to households that may be at risk of repossession due to debt, rent or mortgage arrears. The project helps to tackle problems before they reach crisis point and helps people to manage their finances. The project is jointly funded by the local authority to reflect the growing financial difficulties affecting vulnerable households.

South Derbyshire District Council – Allocation £0.062m

For the period of 2021-2023 South Derbyshire District Council have utilised the Second Homes Funding in the following way:

To fund a Temporary Accommodation & Homelessness Prevention Officer in the Housing Solutions Team on a fixed term contract for 18 months.

To part-fund emergency accommodation for those homeless or threatened with homelessness with P3. Including 2 hostel spaces at Midland Lodge and access to dispersed units of accommodation.

For the period of 2023-2025 South Derbyshire District Council intend to utilise the Second Homes Funding in the following way:

To part fund the extension of the Temporary Accommodation & Homelessness Prevention Officer in the Housing Solutions Team for a fixed term contract of approximately 24-36 months.

Further spend to be confirmed.