

Report to : Executive Board - 17th June 2002

DELIVERY OF OXFORD CITY COUNCIL'S ROUGH SLEEPERS FORWARD PLAN

Report of:	<i>Operations & Outreach Manager Neighbourhood Renewal</i>	WARDS AFFECTED All
Report Author:	<i>John Adcock Tel no. 01865 252825 Email: jadcock@oxford.gov.uk</i>	
Lead Member Responsible:	<i>Portfolio holder for Housing Portfolio holder for Crime & Community Safety</i>	
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Responsibility:	<i>Housing Economic and Social Well Being</i>	
Key Decision:	YES	
SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS		
<p>The Council has been successful in an award of funding to facilitate the provision of the City's Rough Sleepers Forward Plan through grants of funding to several organisations within the City to employ workers for 9 months from July 2002.</p> <p>This report seeks a waiver of Contract Procedure rules and major contract approval for the award of the funding and minor contract approval for several of the larger grants to organisations.</p> <p>The Executive Board is Asked to:</p> <p>a) Grant major contract approval for the agreement with the DTLR to receive the £470,135 funding, £85,235 has yet to be authorised by the DTLR Homelessness Directorate.</p> <p>b) Grant minor contract approval for those agreements with organisations which are over £40,000 in value, shown below;</p> <p>c) Waive the requirements of Contract Procedure Rules 7 and 9 for the agreements which would otherwise require quotes and tenders to be sought for the provision of the funding to the organisations shown below (in accordance with CPR 3.01) (d).</p>		

D) Approve the 'appropriate' budget adjustments, even though there is not a net cost to the Council

E) Approve the bid for Oxford City Council to receive 1.5% (£6,208) of total revenue funding to cover management costs for facilitating this work.

The agreements referred to above are;

St Thomas Fund	£114,186(Minor contract)
Elmore Team	£50,825 (Minor contract)
The Bridge (Oxford) Ltd	£23,323
Oxford Night Shelter	£35,182
Simon House	£21,207
English Churches Housing Group	£90,177 (Minor contract)
English Churches Housing Group	£50,000 One off Refurbishment
Costs	
1st July '02 - 31st March '03 Total	£384,900

Bids to be approved by DTLR -

Befriending Scheme Co-ordinator [CTBC]	£21,760
Partnership Support Officer	£10,150
Homelessness Task Force Co-ordinator	£47,090
1st July '02 - 31st March '03 Total	£79,000

1. BACKGROUND TO AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECTS

1.1 The DTLR Homelessness Directorate has awarded funding to Oxford City Council to ensure the Rough Sleepers Forward Plan can be delivered. Currently all of the named organisations are receiving DTLR Homelessness Action Programme funding and employ existing staff based upon DTLR grant[Excluding the Befriending Scheme Co-ordinator]. From the 1st July 2002 the DTLR Homelessness Directorate funding will be awarded to the Local Authority to administer. Subject to satisfactory performance over the 9 months the DTLR may award the funding for 12 months to run from April '03 to March '04. This funding will be the subject of a separate report to the Board next year.

1.2 Oxford City Council Rough Sleepers Forward Plan aims and objectives are to

- Maintain the number of rough sleepers to below 10 on any one occasion - [a count is carried out every 6 weeks]
- Maintain the number of street drinkers to below 5 on any one occasion [Count on the same day each month] *Does not include outside the Night Shelter*

- Maintain the number of beggars to below 6 at any one occasion [Count on the same day each month]

These targets are aimed at the City Centre.

1.3 The aims of objectives of day centre, hostel and floating support work are demonstrated in the Hostel Churning / Rebuilding Lives - Performance Indicators as follows -

- Turnover of bedspaces per annum
- % of people leaving hostels who do not return to sleeping rough
- % of those using substances who are engaging with treatment [e.g. Medical]
- % of people in hostels who have engaged in training/educational activity
- % of hostel residents who are accessing voluntary work or paid employment
- % of tenancies sustainment workers, clients to maintain their accommodation for three, six, nine and 12 months +.

Targets will be set out in the Agreements made with the individual organisations

1.4 It is proposed in agreement with the DTLR's Homelessness Directorate the following posts, which are already in existence, [except the Befriending Scheme Co-ordinator] be funded from the 1st July '02 to 31st March '03.

Employing Organisation	Posts
St Thomas's Fund - Contact & Assessment Team	1 x Senior 3 x Project Workers
Elmore Team	2 x Floating Support Workers
The Bridge Project	1 x Resettlement & Preventative Worker
Oxford Night Shelter	2 x Resettlement Workers 1 x Alcohol Resettlement Worker
Simon House	1 x Drugs Resettlement Worker
English Churches Housing Group	Resettlement Worker Team - 4.5 Workers - one with a brief to support clients to access training, education, voluntary work initiatives and employment. 2 x Substance Misuse Workers

1.5 Still to be confirmed by the DTLR's Homelessness Directorate
Outcomes expected by the 18th June 2002

Oxford City Council [Currently OCVA]	0.6 Partnership Support Officer
Agency to be agreed	<i>1 x Befriending Scheme Co-ordinator</i>
Oxford City Council	<i>Homelessness Task Force Co-ordinator</i>
Oxford City Council	<i>On Costs including - Management & Legal Costs</i>

The additional proposals to the DTLR Homelessness Directorate for the 3 above posts and on-costs to Oxford City Council have been bid for 9 months [1st July '02 - 31st March '03] funding to do the following work -

- Homelessness Task Force Co-ordinator to work for Oxford City Council taking forward the work of the Homelessness Task Force. Costing for post as follows -

Salary	£24,000
NI / Pension	£5,760
Recruitment	£4,000
IT	£2,500
Telephone	£540
Postage/Stationery	£540
Travel/Training	£2,250
Conferences, Promotions & Publications	£7,500
Total -	£47,090

- Continuation of funding for the existing 0.6 Partnership Support Officer [Currently employed by Oxfordshire County for Voluntary Action [OCVA] - employment to be transferred OCC on a temporary contract in line with funding available] to support the work of Oxford City Council's Operations and Outreach Manager.

Salary - [3 Days a week]	£8,150
NI / Pension	£2,000
Total -	£10,150

- Tenders will be invited to bid for Befriending Scheme Co-ordinator - It is proposed that this scheme will provide additional support enabling former rough sleepers to be active members of their communities.

- All on costs, including Management and Legal. 1.5% of total award - **£6,208**
[This does not include refurbishment costs of English Churches Housing Group]

2. OTHER POSSIBLE MEANS OF ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES

2.1 Officers consider that the above agencies have the specialist experience to deliver the above aims and objectives of Oxford City Council's Rough Sleeping Forward Plan.

2.2 Funding is being allocated by the DTLR's Homelessness Directorate to the City Council in the knowledge that this is the proposed method of use for the money.

Consultation Response

2.3 No response has been received through formal Forward Plan Key decision process to date. However these proposals have been developed in consultation with a wide range of agencies and service providers.

3. A DESCRIPTION OF THE AGENCIES TO BE FUNDED FOR 9 MONTHS

3.1 St Thomas's Fund Contact & Assessment Team is part of the Crime Reduction Initiative operating in London and Brighton.

- The team consists of 1 x Team Leader and 3 Project Workers. They carry out outreach sessions 14 hours a day, five days a week.
- They work very closely with Oxford City Council's Operations and Outreach Manager, the Homelessness and Residential Police officer and statutory and voluntary sector services in ensuring rough sleepers are supported to leave the streets as soon as possible.
- All four posts of the project are to be funded.

3.2 The Elmore Team has been operating in Oxford for 12 years. The team specialises in working with people who have complex needs and provide floating support enabling clients to sustain their tenancies and access appropriate services.

- The Elmore Team will be funded to provide two Floating Support Workers to continue the work they have been carrying out to address the needs of former rough sleepers.
- The Team be able to carry out outreach on the streets in cases where their client group sleeps rough.

3.3 The Gap managed by The Bridge (Oxford) Ltd provide a Day Centre targeted to under 25 year olds. The Gap will be funded to provide a Resettlement & Preventative worker to continue the work it has carrying out work in addressing the needs of rough sleepers.

The Gap Day Centre provides-

- Food & showers
- Specialist Drugs advice and referrals
- Life skills and IT training
- A Resettlement and Preventative Worker

3.4 Oxford Night Shelter provides 50 beds for emergency provision for 25 year olds and over. The service also provides The Luther Street 'Wet' Drop-In Centre. The Night Shelter will be funded to provide two resettlement workers and an alcohol resettlement worker to work at the Luther Street Wet Drop-in Centre.

In addition the Night Shelter provides

- A Resettlement Service working from the Night Shelter
- Tenancy sustainment workers
- Wet Drop-in Centre providing shelter, food and wash facilities during the day

3.5 Simon House provides 51 beds of Hostel accommodation. The hostel is 'Dry' and has a history of working with street drinkers and rough sleepers. Simon House will be funded to provide drugs training to all hostel staff and 1-2-1 support to residents receiving treatment for substance misuse.

The hostel provides -

- Alcohol Detox and respite beds,
- Admits clients who are 25 year olds and over,
- Admits both male and female clients.
- Provides life skill training
- Resettlement and aftercare service

3.6 Lucy Faithfull House [ECHG] provides 68 beds of hostel accommodation. The hostel works predominately with clients who have slept rough or used emergency accommodation. 5 beds are allocated to referrals from the Probation Service. ECHG will be funded to provide 3.5 resettlement workers, 1 resettlement/educational worker, 1 alcohol worker and a floating support drugs worker.

The hostel provides

- A resettlement team
- Education, Training and life-skills - through the Learning Zone
- A Dry Flat for recovering alcoholics
- Aspire - Opportunity for residents to work in a supported environment
- Tenancy sustainment worker to provide aftercare to residents resettled into the community

4. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

4.1 All existing staff will be employed on a day to day basis by the managers' of the funded agencies. The Befriending Scheme Co-ordinator yet to be tendered for.

4.2 There will be quarterly performance monitoring meetings with Oxford City Council's Operations and Outreach Manager to review and ensure delivery of service and that outcomes are being achieved by these staff.

4.3 The Homelessness Task Force Co-ordinator and the Partnership Support Officer will be employed by the City Council on temporary contracts. The funding for these posts does not include any costs that might be incurred to the Council for redundancy or for unfair dismissal. The posts holders are on time limited contracts but this does still mean that there may be a financial risk to the Council to cover any such costs.

5. REVENUE COSTS -

5.1 The total value of the contracts are as follows:

Organisation	Posts	Costs- 9 Months [1 st July '02 - 31 st March '03]
St Thomas's Fund - Contact & Assessment Team	1 x Senior 3 x Project Workers	£114,186
Elmore Team	2 x Floating Support Workers	£50,825
The Bridge Project	1 x Resettlement & Preventative Worker	£23,323
Oxford Night Shelter	2 x Resettlement Workers 1 x Alcohol Resettlement Worker	£35,182
Simon House	1 x Drugs Resettlement Worker	£21,207
English Churches Housing Group	Resettlement Worker Team - 4.5 Workers inclu'	£64,076

	1 x Resettlement/ Employment Worker 2 x Substance Misuse Workers	£26,101
	Total	£334,900

English Churches Housing Group	Refurbishment Costs	£50,000
--------------------------------	---------------------	---------

Oxford City Council [Currently OCVA]	0.6 Partnership Support Officer	£10,150
Agency to be agreed	1 x Befriending Scheme Co-ordinator	£21,760
Oxford City Council	Homelessness Task Force Co-ordinator	£47,090
	Total	£79,000
Oxford City Council	On Costs 1.5% Total Allocation [RST* & Homelessness Funding from DTLR - Not Refurb' Costs]	£6253
	Total	£85,253

5.3 Given the overall benefits of these agencies to the Council and to the residents of Oxford City Officers recommend that these contracts are authorised.

THIS REPORT HAS BEEN SEEN BY:
 Business Unit Manager - Neighbourhood Renewal
 Accountant - Dave Higgins
 Legal - Helen Liddear

 Portfolio Holder for -
 Housing - Cllr Val Smith
 Crime & Community Safety - Cllr Susan Brown

6. Background Papers

- Rough Sleepers Provision/Forward Plan