

Agenda Item No.7 (g)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

3 May 2016

Report of the Strategic Director for Adult Care

DERBYSHIRE SECOND HOMES PROGRAMME

ADULT SOCIAL CARE

1. Purpose of the Report

To seek Cabinet approval for the programme covering the use of the £0.566m Second Homes budget for Amber Valley, Derbyshire Dales, High Peak and South Derbyshire District Councils for 2016-17.

2. Information and Analysis

- 2.1 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 75% of the additional income raised for the County and District/Borough Councils would be used to enhance housing and support for local vulnerable people. On 24 March 2015, Cabinet agreed a one year investment programme for 2015-16.
- 2.2 The review of the Second Homes programme for 2015-16 showed the value of delivering services for vulnerable people and meeting the Borough, District and County Council's Housing, Health and Adult Care strategic policy objectives.

3. Second Homes Investment Programme for 2016-17

- 3.1 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 the Second Homes 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. The Second Homes programme and its schemes assist the County Council to deliver on its strategic plans and priorities as set out in; the Council, Adult Care and Public Health plans, the Health and Well-being and

Prevention strategies. The table below maps the programme schemes against the Council plans.

Derbyshire County Council's Plans and Strategies	Second Homes Schemes for 2016-17
People supported in hard times	<p><u>Client Support</u>-provide support and advice on adaptation(AVBC)</p> <p><u>Debt Advice Project</u>- supports people who are vulnerable households and are experiencing financial difficulties due to the Welfare Reforms changes.(DDDC)</p> <p><u>Vulnerable adults affected by the welfare reforms</u>-Practical support in the form of financial assistance for vulnerable households (mental health, drug & alcohol, learning disability, domestic violence) affected by the welfare reforms. (HPBC)</p>
Resilient and safe communities	<p><u>Women and Men Fleeing domestic violence project (DDDC)</u>: Provides support to men and women escaping domestic violence</p> <p><u>Domestic Abuse Project (support for young women aged 13-25)-HPBC</u>: This project enables the provision of supported accommodation specifically for young women aged 16-24 years and their children who are escaping domestic violence.</p>
Thriving children, young people and families	<p><u>Young Persons Sharing Project (DDDC)</u>: This service encourages shared tenancies in the private rented sector, by working with single people, aged 18+ via group workshops, individual workbooks, matching service and incentives to encourage landlords to offer tenancies to sharers, alongside ongoing tenancy support.</p> <p><u>Rural Housing Enabler (DDDC/HPBC)</u>: The provision of new affordable homes and other wider benefits of housing development include the use of local materials, labour, shops and businesses</p>

	<p>during construction. The affordable accommodation provided is designed to meet a range of needs from single person, family housing and bungalows for older people</p> <p><u>Support for families in crisis (HPBC):</u> assist women and families in crisis, who are homeless, and need support due to a range of issues ranging from learning disabilities, chaotic lifestyles, issues with alcohol or are at risk of domestic violence/ abuse.</p> <p><u>Home Improvement Agency Project Worker (AVBC):</u> This post is proving successful in working across a range of health and social care partners to provide detailed expertise and support to help clients with improving their home environment that would otherwise be putting them at risk.</p>
Independent and supported older people	<p><u>Life Time Home Bungalows Scheme (DDDC):</u> aimed at meeting the accommodation needs of people with disabilities, via funding to ensure that new bungalows are built to Life Time Homes Standards.</p> <p><u>Housing Options Service for Older People (DDDC):</u> provides independent information, advice, support and practical help to older people who are living in unsuitable or poor housing and who wish to consider their options on managing to stay put where they live now or move on to other more suitable accommodation.</p> <p><u>Meeting the accommodation needs of people with disabilities including Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG's) - AVBC, HPBC and SDDC:</u> These schemes will provide additional grants to achieve the Lifetime Homes standard in new build affordable homes or adaptations through additional DFGs which will allow vulnerable households to remain and receive care at home for longer.</p>

- 3.2 The proposed investment programme for 2016-17 reflect changes in local needs and a strategic fit with the council's respective priorities is detailed in Appendix 1. In order to ensure that future Second Homes investment continues to meet the changing strategic priorities of the respective councils, a review will be undertaken during 2016-17 and reported to Cabinet.

4. Financial Considerations

The projects for 2016-17 are detailed in Appendix 1. The total costs are £0.566m which will be met from the Second Homes budget.

5. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity; and environmental, health, human resources, property and transport considerations.

6. Key Decision

Yes

7. Is it required that the Call-in period be waived in respect of the decisions being proposed within this report?

No

8. Background papers

Cabinet report of 24 March 2015, Derbyshire Second Homes: Council Tax.

9. OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet approves the programme covering the use of the £0.566m Second Homes for Amber Valley, Derbyshire Dales, High Peak and South Derbyshire District Councils for 2016-17.

**Joy Hollister,
Strategic Director – Adult Care**

**County Hall
MATLOCK**

Appendix 1**SECOND HOMES PROPOSED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2016-17****AMBER VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL (AVBC) - £80,000**

Amber Valley Borough Council and its key delivery partners have continued to innovate and improve the services provided to residents that are in need of adaptations. Amber Valley Borough Council has received recognition of its work as a housing authority in developing relationships with both Adult Care and a range of health services. The relationships place partners in a good position with respect to delivery of supporting the County Council to deliver its Care Act obligations and greater emphasis on the importance of the warmth, safety and suitability of the home environment. Emphasis will continue to be placed on prevention and providing support to clients. Officers are working on integrating services, especially those funded by Adult Care. The proposed Second Homes projects are designed to support vulnerable people and those that need our collective assistance the most.

Client Support (£15,000):

To continue to provide client support for residents needing help to access appropriate adaptations. This client support ensures that the progress chasing function is maintained to reduce delays and ensure that those in need of adaptation receive an appropriate level of support and advice at various stages of the process. It is anticipated that between 150 and 180 clients will receive support to complete their application and over 300 clients will benefit from continued progress chasing support.

Home Improvement Agency Project Worker (£20,500):

To be used to provide additional Project Worker capacity to the Home Improvement Agency and to add to the County Council core funding. This post is proving successful in working across a range of health and social care partners to provide detailed expertise and support to help clients with improving their home environment that would otherwise be putting them at risk. This additional capacity reflects the successful joint working between Adult Care and AVBC in promoting the condition of homes and is helping approximately 150 clients per year. The Project Worker delivers the Council's Healthy and Warm (Amber Valley) scheme that has secured £100,000 of external funding to improve heating and energy efficiency of residents that have long term health conditions and are on low incomes.

Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) (£44,500):

To be used to pay for DFGs to compliment the Better Care Fund allocation for Amber Valley. It is proposed that this funding will be used to either fund DFGs (see below) or to look at how the funding could be used innovatively to prevent admissions or improve hospital discharge processes by using

Regulatory Reform Order powers. Options are being developed with DCC and other partners through the Transformation of Adaptations process. The Council is working with Futures Homescape to look at how existing adapted stock might be safeguarded and used for re-ablement for those that cannot return to home immediately but do not need admission to residential care or being kept on a hospital ward.

If used for DFGs it might be expected to fund between 8 and 10 level access showers or between 16 and 18 straight stair lifts.

DERBYSHIRE DALES DISTRICT COUNCIL (DDDC) £0.309m

Life Time Home Bungalows Scheme (£85,000):

Is a continuation of an existing project aimed at meeting the accommodation needs of people with disabilities, via funding to ensure that new bungalows are built to Life Time Homes Standards.

Young Persons Sharing Project (£19,000):

This service encourages shared tenancies in the private rented sector, by working with single people, aged 18+ via group workshops, individual workbooks, matching service and incentives to encourage landlords to offer tenancies to sharers, alongside ongoing tenancy support. Findings to date have shown that the need is for very flexible, individual needs led approach. The service is focused on young people, aged 18-35, who have most difficulty finding affordable accommodation in the area. The service users often have complex histories, including substance abuse, offending and debt and assisted to secure and maintain tenancies.

Debt Advice Project (£33,500):

The Debt Advice project is part funded by Dales Housing to reflect Welfare Reforms affecting social housing tenants. The service is particularly successful and reflects the growing financial difficulties experienced by vulnerable households.

Housing Options Service for Older People (£95,000):

Older people face difficult decisions regarding the suitability of their family home, the availability of alternative accommodation and hold misconceptions about the level of statutory support. The decision to 'stay or go' is complicated by financial pressures, the need to access support to maintain their home or prepare for future physical deterioration. The Housing Options Service (HOPS) provides independent information, advice, support and practical help to older people who are living in unsuitable or poor housing and who **wish to** consider their options on managing to stay put where they live now or move on to other more suitable accommodation.

Rural Housing Enabler (£30,000):

The provision of new affordable homes across the Derbyshire Dales is one of the two corporate priorities of Derbyshire Dales DC. The wider benefits of housing development include the use of local materials, labour, shops and businesses during construction. The affordable accommodation provided is designed to meet a range of needs from single person, family housing and bungalows for older people. The salary and on costs of the Rural Housing Enabler are partly covered by contributions from Housing Associations.

Escape Project (£35,000):

The aim of this service is to enable residents in Supported Housing or receiving floating support in the Derbyshire Dales to access, leisure activities, developmental opportunities, volunteering opportunities and other services which will improve their mental and physical well-being. Referrals for 2013-14 amounted to 101 individuals and in 2014-15, 41 individuals (to November 2014). Clients include Young people, Men and women fleeing domestic violence, mental health, Men and women experiencing drug and alcohol issues and Offenders / ex-offenders. The service provides signposting on to appropriate services, subsidised access to Derbyshire Dales DC leisure centres (£1 for a swim or gym session), 'nature connectedness' activities run by the project itself such as a gardening club and links with local farms. Clients of the Great Escape project learn essential life skills, gain confidence and improve their physical and mental health and wellbeing. This makes them less likely to need the support of statutory and voluntary sector organisations in the future, and more able to self-manage their lives.

Housing Related Support Services Programme (£11,500).

This project will contribute towards funding a number schemes including: Housing Related Support Services for people with a Learning disabilities, mental health problems and support services for older people.

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL (HPBC) £0.115m**Abor project £ 3,000**

This project is jointly funded by local authorities and Derbyshire County Council. Provides Supported accommodation for high risk offenders.

Support for families in crisis £20,000:

This is a continuation of an existing project which enables women to access accommodation with flexible support. Referrals will mainly be from High Peak Borough Council but will come from other statutory agencies such as social care.

The aim of the project is to assist women and families in crisis, who are homeless, and need support due to a range of issues ranging from learning

disabilities, chaotic lifestyles, issues with alcohol or are at risk of domestic violence/ abuse.

Support given to each women/family will vary depending on individual circumstances; this may include the development of support plans, work with family support workers, parenting guidance, participation on group sessions and the assistance to find alternative independent accommodation when ready either through the move on protocol or the private rented sector.

Domestic Abuse Project (support for young women aged 13-25) £20,000:

This project enables the provision of supported accommodation specifically for young women aged 16-24 years and their children who are escaping domestic violence. 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 project also provides floating support through weekly support 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.

This service addresses the age gap between children and adult services and is the first of its kind in England by specifically providing a tailored refuge and rehabilitation service for younger women. It is acknowledged that while the main support issue the women seeks support for is domestic violence/ abuse they often need additional support for a variety of issue including drug/ alcohol dependency, support into employment or education. They may have mental illness or some sort of physical or leaning disability and a history of offending.

Housing Enablement Project £15,000:

Working in partnership with the Peak District National Park the aim of this project is to work with local communities to deliver new affordable housing across the High Peak. Detailed parish needs surveys collect data about all households living in the parish and identify house need requirements. This enables the new homes delivered to be tailored to the needs of the community, for example bungalows for older people, apartments for single vulnerable households or family accommodation. By providing suitable affordable accommodation in rural locations enables vulnerable households to received floating support within their communities rather than relocate to larger settlements to receive support.

Vulnerable adults affected by the welfare reforms £5,000

The constantly changing framework around the benefits regime means vulnerable household require additional debt advice to assist them to successfully manage their tenancies.

Meeting the accommodation needs of people with disabilities including Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG's) £50,000:

This will provide additional grants to achieve the Lifetime Homes standard in new build affordable homes or adaptations through additional DFGs which will allow vulnerable households to remain and receive care at home for longer

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL (SDDC) £62,000

The Government's funding for Disabled Facilities Grants has been inadequate to meet the actual demand in South Derbyshire for many years. Over recent years the Council has made up the difference in funding by contributing funding to ensure the full demand was met but as housing capital receipts have reduced, the ability to subsidise these grants has also reduced. The Council's updated Capital Programme identifies that there is no additional funding (from retained capital receipts) for mandatory Disabled Facilities Grant in 2012-13. As in 2011-12, the District Council committed its share of the additional revenue derived from the second homes council tax charges to mandatory DFG.

As of 30th January 2015 the estimated outcomes for 2015-16 is that the Council has received referrals to the value of £0.223m for which these works will need to be funded from 2015-16 allocation. Funding currently known is £0.336m (from the Better Care Fund). Hence, next year's budget has already been 66% committed. Without any additional funding, based on previous year's expenditure there will be insufficient funding to meet the demand for DFGs. Therefore, South Derbyshire District Council is asking that the County Council continue to contribute Second Homes Funding towards the cost of DFGs of £62,000.

On the basis that the County Council continue to contribute £62,000 of Second Homes funding Members of South Derbyshire Council's Finance Committee held in January 2015 agreed to match fund. Hence, this could potentially mean that the total funding available for 2015/16 is £0.460m.