



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL



Non-key Decision

7 March 2024

Report of Councillor Ashley Baxter –
Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member
for Finance

Asylum Dispersal Funding

Acceptance of the Asylum Dispersal Grant 2023/24

Report Author

Sarah McQueen – Housing Options Manager

 sarah.mcqueen@southkesteven.gov.uk

Approved for
publication:

Councillor Ashley Baxter – Leader of the
Council, Cabinet Member for Finance

7 March 2024

Recommendation(s) to the decision maker (s)

- 1. Approves to formally accept the allocation of £190,500 Asylum Dispersal Grant from the Home Office for 2023/24 and to allocate the funding to enable the home Office Asylum Dispersal Grant to be spent.**

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance

- 1.1 The allocation of funding must be spent in accordance with the grant conditions. Once approved, the required budget lines will be established.

Completed by: Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 The Cabinet Member has the necessary authority to take this decision in accordance with thresholds in the Council's Financial Regulations at Part 4 (Rules of Procedure) in the Constitution.

Completed by: Graham Watts, Assistant Director (Governance and Public Protection) and Monitoring Officer

2. The Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 The Home Office has made funding available to Local Authorities to be spent on expenditure incurred, or to be incurred by them in delivering its statutory duties in supporting Asylum Seeker Dispersal during the financial year 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.
- 2.2 To set out the reason behind the funding being required to support in the ongoing provision of statutory homelessness services.

3. Available Options Considered

- 3.1 To grant the approval to accept the funding.
- 3.2 To not accept the grant funding and the work will be picked up through daily demands which will further increase the pressure on the homelessness service and the general fund budget.

4. Preferred Option

- 4.1 To grant approval to accept the Home Office Asylum Dispersal grant three funding of £190,500 for 2023/2024

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 5.1 On 4 October 2023 the Home Office granted South Kesteven District Council asylum burdens funding totalling £190,500.

It has been agreed with the Home Office that this funding can be utilised not only for the asylum dispersal costs but also to assist the Council in its statutory homelessness duties, in particular the provision of emergency temporary accommodation.

Over the last 2 years there has been a significant increase in the number of households who require temporary accommodation. This together with a reduction in homelessness accommodation within our own stock due to Health & Safety works required has increased external costs.

As of 24 January 2024 there are 18 households in B&B accommodation and 9 households in nightly paid accommodation in the district at an average cost of £70 per night.

There has also been an increase in complex cases with high support needs, meaning that more single homeless people are considered as priority and fall within the Council's statutory duties to accommodate them. With no other available options, nightly paid accommodation is frequently used.

Accepting this funding will help alleviate pressure on the general fund as the funding can be used for the provision of temporary accommodation.

Report Timeline:	Date decision due to be made	15 March 2024
	Call-in deadline	22 March 2024
	Date decision effective (subject to call-in)	23 March 2024