

CABINET MEMBER DECISION



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Decision:

That approval is granted 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) Details of Decision

To seek approval 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.

(2) Considerations/Evidence

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.

To set out the reason behind the funding being required to support in the ongoing provision of statutory homelessness services.

(3) Reasons for Decision:

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

Conflicts of Interest

(Any conflict of interest declared by any other Cabinet Member consulted in relation to the decision to be recorded).

None

Dispensations

(Any dispensation granted by the Monitoring Officer in respect of any declared conflict of interest to be noted).

None

Decision taken by:

Name: Councillor Ashley Baxter
The Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Finance and Economic Development

Date of Decision: 15 March 2024

Date of Publication of Record of Decision: 15 March 2024

Date decision effective (i.e. 5 days after the date of publication of record of decision unless subject to call-in by the Chairman of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee or any 5 members of the Council from any political groups):

23 March 2024