



**EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD
Cabinet Member**

REF No: 66/23

A1 Service Area	Communities and Regulatory Services
A2 Title	Reinstatement of Vulnerable Renters Payment Scheme
A3 Decision Taken By	Cabinet Member
A4 Chief Officer	Please print name: Thomas Deery Please sign name: T. Deery (Approval by email 21/09/23)
A5 Leader / Deputy Leader	Please print name: Cllr Simon Slater Please sign name: S. Slater (Approval by email 22/09/23)
A6 Date of Decision	25 September 2023

Confidentiality

A7 Is this Decision confidential by containing exempt information as described in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972?	No
A7.1 If yes, please state relevant paragraph from Schedule 12A LGA 1972.	NA

Conflict of Interest

Are there any conflicts of interest to declare? No

(If “Yes” please contact the Chief Executive before making the Decision. A note of dispensation should be attached).



Scrutiny

A8 Which Scrutiny Committee should this decision be submitted to? (*Please tick as appropriate*)

Scrutiny (Value for Money Council) Committee

Scrutiny (Regeneration Development and Market Hall) Committee

Scrutiny (Health and Wellbeing) Committee ✓

Scrutiny (Climate Change and Environment) Committee

B1 What is the Decision?	To approve the ‘Vulnerable Renters Payment Scheme’ at Appendix 1, which reinstates a successful scheme from winter 2021/22 and 2022/23. ¹
B2 What are the reasons for the Decision?	<p>Some renters will have rent arrears as a result of high inflation and rising energy bills, and this scheme will offer vulnerable households additional support using a tried and tested method. The Council has been awarded a Homeless Prevention Grant to maximise prevention of homelessness activity and reduce reliance upon temporary accommodation (Appendix 2), with a top awarded in June 2023 (Appendix 3)</p> <p>The Vulnerable Renters Payment Scheme (hereafter VRPS) will support low-income private renters with rent arrears to avoid eviction or find a new home where necessary in order to prevent homelessness.</p> <p>The VRPS is set out in detail at Appendix 1, and is designed to meet this objective by assisting tenants in rented accommodation to clear arrears of up to £2k. The scheme will only clear arrears on an existing tenancy that has a long term future, in that the reasons the arrears were accrued can be resolved to enable that household to avoid homelessness. The assessment and homelessness support will be led by the Homelessness code of guidance for local authorities.²</p> <p>If an applicant is dissatisfied, they have the opportunity to request a review within 3 working days which will be considered by a senior officer.</p>
B2 Alternative options considered and rejected?	No viable alternatives were identified. This scheme is tried and tested locally, and is recognised by relevant professionals.
B3 What are the contributions to Corporate Priorities?	Standing up for our communities
B4 What are the Human Rights considerations?	There are no Human Rights issues arising from this decision.

¹ EDR 379.21 and EDR 493.23

Financial Implications

<p>B5 What are the financial implications?</p>	<p>The main financial issues arising from this decision are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DLUHC letter at Appendix 3 states that the Council will receive £140,739 to maximise support for the Ukrainian cohort into sustainable accommodation, but it may also be used to support with wider homelessness pressures.. • Any grant from Appendix 3 which is not earmarked for expenditure elsewhere by 31 March 24 will be available to expand payments issued under the VRPS. Any available funds from this source will be identified in late February 2024. • Both grants are ring-fenced for 2023-24 and are to be spent in adherence with the principles set out in the letters at Appendices 2 and 3, by the 31st March 2024. • Spending on the scheme will be capped at the funding amount.
---	--

Revenue	2023/24	2024/25
Homelessness Prevention Grant Top Up	(60,000.00)	Nil
Vulnerable Renters Payment Scheme	£60,000.00	Nil
Impact on the MTFS	Nil	Nil

<p>The finance section has been approved by the following member of the Financial Management Unit:</p>	<p>Please print name: Anya Murray</p> <p>Please sign name: A. Murray (Approval by email 21/09/23)</p>
--	---

Policy Framework

B6 Is the Decision wholly in accordance with the Council's policy framework?	Yes
B6.1 If No, does it fall within the urgency provisions (Part 3 of the Constitution)?	NA
B6.2 Has it got the appropriate approvals under those provisions?	Yes
B7 Is the Decision wholly in accordance with the Council's budget?	Yes
B7.1 If No, does it fall within the urgency provisions (Part 3 of the Constitution)?	NA
B7.2 Has it got the appropriate approvals under those provisions?	Yes

Equalities Implications

B8 What are the Equalities implications:
<p>B8.1 Positive (Opportunities/Benefits):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council is able to support more East Staffordshire residents who have a low income.
<p>B8.2 Negative (Threats):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None identified.
B8.3 The subject of this decision is not a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised. An equality impact assessment is not required.
B8.4 NA

Risk Assessment

B9 What are the Risk Assessment implications:
B9.1 Positive (Opportunities/Benefits):

B9 What are the Risk Assessment implications:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council is able to reinstate a service to households at risk of homelessness, potentially reducing future homelessness presentations.
B9.2 Negative (Threats)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That demand exceeds supply and households applying following conclusion of the scheme are disappointed.
B9.3 The risks do not need to be entered in the Risk Register. Any financial implications to mitigate against these risks are considered above.

Legal Considerations

B10 What are the Legal Considerations:
B10.1 The main legal issues arising from this decision are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any payments under the Scheme must be made in accordance with the conditions of funding as set out in the letter from DLUHC at Appendix 2 and Appendix 3.
This section has been approved by the following member of the Legal Team
Please print name: Glen McCusker – Locum Solicitor
Please sign name: G. McCusker (Approval by email 21/09/23)

Sustainability Implications

B11 What are the Sustainability implications:
B11.1 The proposal would not result in an overall positive effect in terms of sustainability (including climate change and change adaptation measures). The positive/negative impacts are set out below (please refer to guidance notes).
B11.2 NA
B11.3 NA

Health & Safety Implications

B12 What are the Health & Safety implications:

B12.1 A Risk Assessment has not been carried out and entered into Safety Media for all significant hazards and risks because there are no significant hazards or risks arising from this decision.

B12.2 Any financial implications to mitigate against these hazards and risks are considered above.

B12.3 NA

B12.3.1 NA

B12.3.2 NA

Key Decision

B13 Is this a Key Decision? No

Note: A Key Executive Decision is one where:

- 1. REVENUE – Any contract or proposal with an annual payment or saving of more than £100,000**
- 2. CAPITAL – Any capital project with a value in excess of £150,000**
- 3. A decision which significantly affects communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards.**

B13.1 If this is a Key Decision, is this an urgent decision such that a delay caused by use of the Call-in Procedure would seriously prejudice the public interest?

NA

B13.2 If yes, has the Mayor or in his/her absence the Deputy Mayor or in his/her absence the Chair of the relevant Scrutiny Committee agreed that the decision will be exempt from Call-in?

NA

NOTE: If this decision is subject to the Call-in Procedure it will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of 3 working days after publication – unless 10 Members of the Council call in the decision.

Please send the original signed document to andrea.davies@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk

The questions contained in this questionnaire are not to be altered in any way. If you have any queries regarding the contents of this document, please contact Andrea Davies Ext 1306 or refer to Part 3 Section 6 of the Constitution.