

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

COUNCIL: 25TH APRIL, 2022

REFERENCE FROM CABINET: 14TH MARCH, 2022

**“C875 HOUSING SUPPORT GRANT DELIVERY PLAN 2022-2025 (HBS)
(SCRUTINY – HOMES AND SAFE COMMUNITIES) –**

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Building presented the report which sought to adopt the draft Housing Support Grant Delivery Plan 2022 - 2025 and authorisation for its submission to Welsh Government.

The Housing Support Grant (HSG) Programme was the policy and funding framework for delivering housing related support to vulnerable people in different types of accommodation and across all tenures. At a local level the programme took forward a number of strategic aims, reflecting community safety and health and social care and wellbeing objectives. It aimed to deliver high quality and strategically planned housing-related support services that were cost effective, complement existing services and provide service users with the best possible outcomes. The HSG was an amalgamation of three existing grants; the Supporting People Programme Grant, the Homelessness Prevention Grant and Rent Smart Wales Enforcement Grant.

In accordance with Welsh Government Guidance for the Housing Support Grant, all local authorities were required to develop a three-year Local Delivery Plan, which had to be submitted to Welsh Government by 31st March, 2022.

The programme contributed to meeting the aims of 'Improving Lives and Communities - Homes in Wales' the National Housing Strategy and the ten year Homelessness Plan, with a strong emphasis on the prevention of homelessness. It was also essential in assisting the local authority to fulfil its duties under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, and the Vale of Glamorgan's Homelessness Prevention Strategy.

Welsh Government has announced indicative grant allocations for 2022-2025.

The budgets for the programmes delivered by the HSG each remained static for 2022-2025 from the 2021-222 allocation, giving a combined total of £4,718,683.58 per annum.

There were no direct resource implications associated with the report. All funding requirements identified for resourcing under the Housing Support Grant Programme was financed through grant funding from Welsh Government.

The development and publication of the Housing Support Grant Delivery Plan was a requirement of Welsh Government to comply with the Housing Support Grant Guidance (Wales).

4 existing housing support contracts were due to expire in the next year. The details of each contract were included in the HSG Delivery plan appended. Due to the high value of those individual contracts (above £300,000), delegated authority was being sought from Cabinet to enable the award of these contracts to the successful providers.

The Supporting People Team intended to commission 4 new supported accommodation services to fill an unmet need in current provision. The details of each service were included in the HSG Delivery plan appended. Due to the high value of these individual contracts (above £300,000), delegated authority was being sought from Cabinet to enable the award of these contracts to the successful providers.

It was therefore recommended that the Housing Support Grant Delivery Plan 2022 - 2025 be approved and Cabinet agreed to its submission to Welsh Government in order to ensure that the Council complied with the requirements of the Housing Support Grant (HSG) Guidance (Wales) April 2021.

The Cabinet Member moved an additional recommendation to use the urgent decision procedure as set out in Section 14.14 of the Council's Constitution be exercised for submission to Welsh Government by 31st March, 2022, which was agreed to be able to respond within Welsh Government deadlines.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein,

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the Housing Support Grant Delivery Plan 2022 - 2025 be approved and submitted to Welsh Government.

(2) T H A T authority be delegated to the Director of Environment and Housing to undertake tendering exercises to secure the services outlined in the Housing Support Grant Delivery Plan 2022-2025

(3) T H A T authority be delegated to the Director of Environment and Housing, in consultation with the Leader, Cabinet Member for Housing and Building Services, Managing Director and Head of Finance, to award contracts to the most economically advantageous suppliers resulting from the procurement process as described in this report.

(4) T H A T authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services to agree the terms and execute the contracts.

(5) T H A T the use of the urgent decision procedure as set out in Section 14.14 of the Council's Constitution be exercised for submission to Welsh Government by 31st March, 2022.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To ensure that the Council complies with the requirements of the Housing Support Grant (HSG) Guidance (Wales) April 2021.
- (2) To secure services in accordance with the Housing Support Grant Delivery Plan 2022-2025
- (3) To ensure that contracts can be awarded in a timely manner to avoid disruption to services and the vulnerable people the Programme supports.
- (4) To ensure that the contracts are properly executed.
- (5) **To ensure being able to respond within Welsh Government deadlines.”**