

REPORT TO:	Cabinet	
DATE:	30 July 2025	
PORTFOLIO:	Councillor Melissa Fisher - Deputy Leader of the Council (Housing and Communities)	
REPORT AUTHOR:	Chris Gregory, Housing Strategy & Policy Manager	
TITLE OF REPORT:	Rough Sleeping grant funding for 2025/26: Award of grants to Maundy Relief and Stepping Stone Projects	
EXEMPT REPORT (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A)	No	Not applicable
KEY DECISION:	No	If yes, date of publication:

1. Purpose of Report

1.1.1 This report outlines the Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery 2025 – 2026 grant and Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme 2025 - 2026 grant funding the Council has been awarded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG).

1.2 The report identifies how the Council proposes to utilise both funding programmes and seeks approval to enter into agreements with Maundy Relief and Stepping Stone Projects to support their activities and services in the relief and prevention of rough sleeping.

2. Recommendations

I recommend:

2.1 Cabinet notes and approves the acceptance of £145,901 Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery grant for 2025/26.

2.2 Cabinet notes and approves acceptance of £75,000 Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP) grant of £75,000 for 2025/26.

2.3 Approves the following grants from the Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery Grant award for 2025-2026 to continue and enhance support for people who are rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping:

- (i) a grant of £20,000 to Stepping Stone Projects for the continuation of the “A Bed Every Night” project
- (ii) a grant of £28,576 to Stepping Stone Projects for the continuation of Step Forward Hyndburn.
- (iii) a grant of £15,000 to Maundy Relief for the continuation of the emergency night shelter
- (iv) a grant of £31,000 to Maundy Relief for the continuation of the street navigator activities.

2.4 Approves an additional grant of £75,000 from the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP) 2025 – 2026 to Stepping Stone Projects for the continuation of their support to occupants of 10 units of dispersed accommodation in the Borough which is provided to help people who have been rough sleeping into longer term accommodation.

2.5 Delegates authority to the Head of Regeneration and Housing, in consultation with the Executive Director (Legal and Democratic Services) to draw up, finalise and execute agreements to grant Maundy Relief and Stepping Stone Projects the funds listed above to continue the support and activities they are currently providing.

3. Reasons for Recommendations and Background

3.1 Rough Sleeping Grant Programmes

3.1.1 In 2018 the Government published their national Rough Sleeping Strategy and Action Plan aiming to halve rough sleeping by the end of this Parliament and eliminate it by 2027. The Government committed funding for programmes such as the Next Steps Accommodation Programme, Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) programme and the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP).

3.1.2 Local authorities were invited to apply for funds to address rough sleeping. The RSAP and RSI programmes are designed to fund complementary interventions and activities for this purpose. There continues to be a need in the Borough for accommodation for rough sleepers as a route off the street and to prevent people from sleeping rough. Consequently, the Council submitted applications and has been successful in securing both RSI and RSAP grant funding.

3.1.3 Cabinet is asked to note that MHCLG have also consolidated what were formerly the Rough Sleeping Initiative, and the Accommodation for Ex-Offenders grants into a single 2025/26 Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery Grant. The awards for 2025/2026, which are based on 2024/25 funding, were announced in December 2024. The Government is looking at introducing a new homelessness strategy following the conclusion of Phase 2 of this year's Government's Spending Review.

3.1.4 Hyndburn Council has successfully worked with a number of local charitable agencies such as Stepping Stone Projects and Maundy Relief to prevent and reduce rough sleeping. The overall aim of the Council is to extend these activities.

3.2 Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) Funding now called Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery grant (RSPR)

3.2.1 The Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery Grant programme replaces the former RSI funding programme which provided additional bed spaces for rough sleepers with tailored support including help with mental health problems, addiction services, tenancy support, and access to training and employment.

3.2.2 Hyndburn's Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery grant allocation reflects and is based on the former RSI funding award for 2024/25.

3.2.3 The table below summarises Hyndburn's Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery grant award for 2025-2026:

A Bed Every Night	£20,000
Flexible surge accommodation fund	£6,325
Emergency night shelter	£15,000
Navigator service	£31,000
Step Forward Hyndburn	£28,576
Support into employment and training for rough sleepers	£45,000
Total	£145,901

Table 1

The proposal is to maintain these existing activities and interventions:

- A Bed Every Night (ABEN) is an existing project which offers short term secure self-contained accommodation with support prior to securing longer term accommodation. Stepping Stone Projects provide support to occupants who live in 5 dispersed flats.
- The night shelter is an existing activity that provides emergency overnight accommodation for rough sleepers and those at imminent risk of rough sleeping.

Access to the accommodation, subject to space, is available year-round. Based at Maundy Relief in the centre of Accrington, the accommodation is in three single rooms with two shared bathrooms. Users can access showers, a washing machine and a kitchenette and are provided with an evening meal and breakfast.

- The navigator service is a continuation of an existing activity and is provided by Maundy Relief. It provides an outreach activity that proactively seeks out rough sleepers in their locations and offers immediate emergency support with food, clothing and overnight accommodation in Maundy's night shelter.
- Supporting Step Forward Hyndburn which is a 12 bedroom project for single male homeless cases including rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping. On reviewing the project it was concluded that there is need to provide 24/7 on-site management, security and support, so this grant supports the running and management of the project.
- Looking at initiatives and activities which lead to employment and training for rough sleepers to help rebuild their lives. It is proposed that this grant will be used to procure initiatives and activities.
- Flexible surge accommodation provides funds to improve access to a wider range of accommodation, such as deposits/rent upfront payments to secure private rented accommodation for rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping. It also provides funding for cold weather payments. This activity will be directly administered via the Council's Housing Advice and Homelessness Team.

3.3 Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP)

- 3.3.1 The Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP) is another programme which was introduced in 2021 to reduce rough sleeping.
- 3.3.2 This Programme provides for both capital and revenue funding to meet the cost of longer term accommodation and support to help rough sleepers rebuild their lives. Local Authorities are expected to work with accommodation providers and specialist agencies to end rough sleeping, especially where local authorities are no longer a landlord.
- 3.3.3 In 2021 Hyndburn secured £175,833 funding for the period 2021 to 2024 to provide access to accommodation and support for rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping. This was covered in a report which went to the Cabinet meeting held on 22nd June 2022. Approval was granted to enter into a grant agreement with Stepping Stone Projects to deliver support to rough sleepers living in five properties.
- 3.3.4 The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUC) invited Councils including those who had already been awarded grant to submit further proposals and bids for 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 for the Rough Sleeping Accommodation

Programme (RSAP). Proposals could include securing additional grant to support existing RSAP projects.

- 3.3.5 Hyndburn made a submission and was awarded additional revenue grant to expand the existing RSAP project so that an additional 5 people who have been rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping can be accommodated with support. This grant covered the cost of support provided by Stepping Stone Projects and helped furnish accommodation.
- 3.3.6 Hyndburn's RSAP award for 2025/2026 is based on 2024/25 funding.

RSAP Grant Programme	2025/2026
Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme	£75,000
Support to occupants in 10 units of accommodation	

Table 2

The proposal is to make a further grant payment of £75,000 to Stepping Stone Projects for the continuation of their support to occupants of 10 units of dispersed accommodation in the Borough which is provided to help people who have been rough sleeping into longer term accommodation

4. Alternative Options considered and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 The award to Hyndburn Council for 2025/26 is a continuation of funding to maintain services and activities to prevent and respond to homelessness. For this reason, no alternative proposals are suggested or recommended.
- 4.2 RSAP and RSI funded interventions support Hyndburn's Prevention of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy. It is widely recognised that housing and support for vulnerable people provides a quicker and more effective service to ensure vulnerable residents can move forward with their lives, and in the case of rough sleeping, preventing a cycle of rough sleeping.
- 4.3 As these agreements are considered grants, they are not subject to the Council's Contracts Procedure Rules as no procurement is taking place. We propose to award the funding by way of grants to Stepping Stones and Maundy Relief as set out in the report because both organisations already do work to prevent and relieve rough sleeping, and the grant will support both organisations and enable them to extend and enhance the activities they already provide successfully in the Borough.

5. Consultations

5.1 The Council's Homelessness Strategy was subject to extensive consultation with a wide range of stakeholders. The activities currently provided by Maundy Relief and Stepping Stone Projects to tackle and reduce the levels of rough sleeping in the Borough support agreed actions within Hyndburn's homelessness and rough sleeping strategy.

5.2 The Council continues to engage and consult with a range of stakeholders via the Hyndburn in Homeless Forum.

6. Implications

Financial implications (including any future financial commitments for the Council)	<p>There is no direct revenue implication for the Council. The cost of the grants to Maundy Relief and Stepping Stone Projects is being met through the Council's 2025/2026 Rough Sleeping Grant Programmes awards:</p> <p>RSPR Grant £145,901 RSAP Grant award £75,000</p> <p>The Council will not have to repay this grant funding so long as it is used in accordance with grant conditions and there is no underspend.</p>
Legal and human rights implications	<p>The funding has been awarded to the Council via a grant determination letter (dated December 2024).</p> <p>The Council's Legal Services Department will draw up grant agreements with Maundy and Stepping Stone Projects to give effect to Cabinet's decision.</p> <p>The award of grants may be a subsidy for the purpose of the Subsidy Control Act 2022. To constitute a subsidy, the granting of financial assistance must be given to an enterprise which is engaging in economic activity that confers an economic advantage. Charities can be deemed as an 'enterprise' if they are undertaking commercial activities. For the purposes of the Subsidy Control regime, an economic activity entails the offering of goods and services on the market.</p>

	<p>However, in this instance the definition of a subsidy is not met as both Maundy Relief and Stepping Stone Projects are not considered to be engaging in economic activities.</p> <p>This grant funding will enable both Maundy Relief and Stepping Stone Projects to extend their activities to provide specialist support and assistance to prevent and relieve rough sleeping.</p> <p>In the circumstances, the activities being funded can be considered non-economic and, by virtue of section 7(2) Subsidy Control Act 2022, Maundy Relief and Stepping Stone Projects would not be acting as enterprises in connection with their activities, so no subsidy would arise.</p>
Assessment of risk	<p>The Council's biggest risk is to ensure compliance with the grant requirements. This will be done by the grant agreements which will specify how the grant is spent; provide for grant clawback in the event of non-compliance or non-delivery and set out how the Council will monitor the use of the funding.</p>
Equality and diversity implications <p>A <u>Customer First Analysis</u> should be completed in relation to policy decisions and should be attached as an appendix to the report.</p>	<p>The Council is subject to the public sector equality duty introduced by the Equality Act 2010. When making a decision in respect of the recommendations in this report Cabinet must have regard to the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; and • advance equality of opportunity between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who don't; and • foster good relations between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who don't. <p>For these purposes the relevant protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.</p> <p>No Customer First Analysis analysis has been completed for the continuation of these existing services.</p> <p>For information, the Customer First Analysis</p>

	which accompanied the Cabinet Report on Rough Sleeping Grant Funding for the 19 th October 2022 meeting is attached as an appendix to this report.
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**7. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985:
List of Background Papers**

7.1 *Copies of documents included in this list must be open to inspection and, in the case of reports to Cabinet, must be published on the website.*

Cabinet Report Rough Sleeping Grant Funding
Date 19th October 2022

Cabinet Report RSAP
Date 22nd June 2022

Hyndburn's Homelessness Strategy
<https://www.hyndburnbc.gov.uk/download-package/homeless-strategy-action-plan-2020-2025/>

Freedom of Information

8.1 The report does not contain exempt information under the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A and all information can be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.