

## **CABINET – 24 JANUARY 2017**

### **HOUSING RELATED SUPPORT POOLED BUDGET AGREEMENT Report by Director for Adult Services**

#### **Introduction**

1. The County Council together with the five city/district councils and the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group has developed under the Health Improvement Board umbrella a new commissioning plan for housing related support services in light of the County Council's £1.5m budget reduction by 2019/20.

2. This financial decision was made in February 2016 in the following context:

The County Council is still the biggest single funder at £1.5m of continuing support; The County Council funded these services beyond its legal obligations through a period of seven years of cuts (since 2010);

The County Council isn't the housing authority. The city/districts are.

3. We have adopted a partnership approach to mitigating the impact of these planned savings and to maintaining services for single homeless people.

4. Together with the five city/district councils and the Clinical Commissioning Group, we have reached a unanimous agreement to create a new joint governance structure to procure and manage services and accommodation for single homeless people. The project will be delivered over a three year period starting from 1 April 2017.

5. A joint statement between all parties involved released on 18 November 2016 stated:

6. "Acting as the lead Commissioning Agency, Oxfordshire County Council is working with South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils, West Oxfordshire District Council, Oxford City Council, Cherwell District Council and Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group to ensure the reduction in beds is managed and local provision for rough sleepers continues. The total investment from all agencies involved is £2,940,000 over three years."

#### **Legal mechanism for pooling budget**

7. The County Council legal team developed a partnering agreement relating to a pooled budget arrangement for housing related support services - attached at Annex 1. This partnering agreement describes how the partners would work

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together to procure and manage services and accommodation for single homeless people.

8. It describes a two tier governance structure to set strategic direction for 3 to 5 years and to manage the new housing related support joint commissioning budget:

Tier 1 - elected member/senior officer level through the Health Improvement Partnership Board

Tier 2 - officer level through a Housing Related Support Joint Management Group.

9. This document is in its second draft. All partners are seeking further internal legal advice with a view to agree the final version in early January when the officers meet next. All city/district partners have delegated the decision making authority for entering into this agreement to a lead senior officer in their respective organisations.

10. Separately to this agreement, the County Council and the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group will enter into an agreement under section 256 National Health Service Act 2006 to manage the health contribution to the new pooled budget. This agreement is being drafted and will be signed by March 2017.

11. Formal signing of these two legal agreements is planned later in the year, well in advance of the parties commencing any new procurement or contracting activities. The Housing Related Support Joint Management Group will meet formally when these agreements have been signed by all parties.

### **Financial and Staff Implications**

12. The Council's budget for housing related support agreed in February 2016 is £1,500,000 from April 2017 with a reduction of £500,000 per year to reach zero by April 2019. The budget remains unchanged by these proposals.

13. Financial contributions agreed by other partners in September 2016 are shown alongside the council's budget in the table below:

<b>Housing Related Support Pool Budget Income</b>	<b>Year 1 2017/18</b>	<b>Year 2 2018/19</b>	<b>Year 3 2019/20</b>
Oxford City Council	£161,700	£161,700	£161,700
Cherwell DC	£62,700	£62,700	£62,700
South Oxfordshire DC	£36,300	£36,300	£36,300
Vale Of White Horse DC	£36,300	£36,300	£36,300