



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

**NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL
SOCIAL SERVICES, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

23rd January 2025

**Report of the Head of Housing and Communities –
Chelé Zandra Howard**

Matter for Information

Wards Affected: All wards

**HOUSING SUPPORT GRANT MID-POINT REVIEW AND ANNUAL
UPDATE 2024**

Purpose of the Report

To present the Neath Port Talbot Council (“the Council”) Housing Support Grant (“HSG”) Programme Strategy 2022-26 (“HSG Strategy”) Mid-Point Review and Annual Update (Appendix 1).

Executive Summary

In line with Welsh Government (“WG”) requirements, a mid-point review of the HSG Strategy (Background Paper 1) has been undertaken. Alongside this requirement, Officers undertake an annual review of HSG activity and performance, which is also included within the document located at Appendix 1.

Background

HSG is a WG revenue grant, paid annually to the Council. The intention of this funding is to support non-statutory early intervention services to prevent homelessness and provide housing related support.

The Council utilises HSG to fund a range of services that include homelessness prevention, temporary accommodation, domestic abuse refuges, short and longer-term supported housing and time-limited support to people in their own homes.

These services are provided to a wide range of vulnerable adults including older people, care leavers, families fleeing domestic abuse, people with a mental health need, people with a learning disability and people with a substance use issue, as well as households that are homeless or threatened with homelessness.

Local Authorities are required to develop a four-year HSG Strategy, with a mid-point review every two years. The purpose of this Strategy is to outline the strategic direction of the Council for HSG funded services and provide a strategic view of the Councils approach to homelessness prevention and housing support services.

Each year the Council develops an annual update which provides detail on the previous year's HSG activity and performance. Given that the 2023/24 annual review coincides with the mid-point review and much of the information would be the same, both reports have been amalgamated into one document.

Financial Impacts

There are no financial impacts arising from the annual update or mid-point review.

The Council's allocated HSG budget over the last two financial years was:

- 2023/24 - £6,496,185.63
- 2024/25 - £7,108,755.74

The Council has received a letter from WG setting out an indicative budget of £7,960,007.53 for 2025/26.

Integrated Impact Assessment

There is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment as this report is for information purposes.

Valleys Communities Impacts

The contents of this report has no impact on Valleys Communities as the item is for information only.

Workforce Impacts

The contents of this report do not have any impact on the Council's workforce as the item is for information only.

Legal Impacts

The development of a mid-point review is a condition of the WG grant.

Risk Management Impacts

The annual update and mid-point review in itself does not have any risk management impacts, however the services purchased from HSG have the following impacts:

Crime and Disorder Impacts:

Activity outlined in the Annual Update should have a positive effect on the below Crime and Disorder Impacts:

- a) Crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); and
- b) The misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area; and
- c) Re-offending the area

This is due to the Housing Support Grant supporting achievement of the WG outcome measure of 'promoting personal and community safety'.

Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Impacts:

Activity outlined in the Annual Update should have a positive effect on the below Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Impacts:

Section 2(1) of the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 introduced a general duty where a person exercising relevant functions must have regard (along with all other relevant matters) to the need to remove or minimise any factors which —

- (a) increase the risk of violence against women and girls, or
- (b) exacerbate the impact of such violence on victims.

This is because a number of services purchased with HSG relate to the provision of domestic abuse support.

Consultation

There is no requirement for external consultation as the item is for information only.

Recommendations

To note the contents of the Housing Support Grant Mid-Point Review and Annual Update.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

Not applicable.

Implementation of Decision

No decision required.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Housing Support Grant Annual Update 2024

List of Background Papers

Background Paper 1: Housing Support Programme Strategy 2022-26

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