

SERVICE CHANGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

SCIA_G1_ (24/25)

Housing and Health, Sarah Robson:

People and Places

Housing Accommodation, Advice and Homeless Prevention

No. of Staff 5.3 FTE

Details of proposed change	Cost Centre & Account Code of Budget	2024/25 Growth / (Saving) £000	Later Years Comments (ongoing, one-off, etc.)
Homelessness		150	One-off (and then reviewed)

Box 1. Reasons for and explanation of proposed change in service

Since the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act, all councils (nationally) have seen an increase in the number of households presenting as homeless or threatened with homelessness. As a result, this Council has seen an increase in the use and cost of temporary and emergency accommodation.

The length of time customers stay in temporary accommodation is often longer due to lack of suitable and affordable move-on accommodation in the district, both private rented and social housing.

The cost of living has placed further pressures on the homelessness service, alongside new asylum schemes (Homes for Ukraine, Afghan etc.) and increased domestic abuse placements as a result of the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act. Changes to the private rented sector has also resulted in private landlords leaving the sector.

Over the past 3 years, the Council's Housing team has worked hard to minimise the use of temporary and emergency accommodation, which has seen numbers placed into interim accommodation decrease. This has been achieved through introducing more robust processes, a new landlord incentives scheme, support with rent deposit and rent in advance and the success of Quercus Housing, the Council's affordable housing company, which has delivered 41 new affordable homes in the Sevenoaks District. The Council has also sought partnerships with local partners, including West Kent Housing Association and the charity HfT, which has brought forward supported accommodation units at Vine Court Road and Orchard Close, alongside accommodation for single mums and women at Stay Green House.

SERVICE CHANGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Box 2. Key Stakeholders Affected:

Homeless households.

Box 3. Likely impacts and implications of the change in service (include Risk Analysis)

The cost of expensive temporary accommodation, including nightly paid accommodation places a budget growth pressure on the Council.

The Council currently receives Government funding to support homelessness via the Homelessness Prevention Grant. The funding is used to support homelessness prevention staffing costs, but is also used to support part of the nightly paid temporary accommodation costs for homeless households.

The council has a statutory duty to assess the housing needs of households who present as homeless. As demand for homeless services continues, without additional growth funding, the Housing team would be unable to meet its statutory duties under the Homelessness Prevention Act's prevention and relief duties, which includes the provision of interim accommodation.

Risk to Service Objectives (High / Medium / Low)

Medium

Cost Centre 2023/24 Budget (£'000)

Operational Cost	831
Income	(139)
Net Cost	692

Service Budget 2023/24 (relating to the area affected by this SCIA)

Operational Cost	539
Income	-

SERVICE CHANGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Net Cost	539
----------	-----

Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Net Zero Implications

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the council's ambition to be Net Zero by 2030. There is no perceived impact regarding either an increase or decrease in carbon emissions in the district, or supporting the resilience of the natural environment]

SERVICE CHANGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

SCIA _5_ (24/25)

Portfolio / Chief Officer : Sarah Robson
 Service: People & Places
 Activity Health & Communities
 No. of Staff 1.71 FTE

Details of proposed change	Cost Centre & Account Code of Budget	2024/25 Growth / (Saving) £000	Later Years Comments (ongoing, one-off, etc.)
Services	60501 CDDEVLP	(6)	ongoing

Box 1. Reasons for and explanation of proposed change in service

The team is able to reduce the budget to deliver community initiatives and community safety in the District. Instead, we will seek alternative funding routes or opportunities for other partners organisations.

Box 2. Key Stakeholders Affected:

Local communities where initiatives and projects are hosted

Box 3. Likely impacts and implications of the change in service (include Risk Analysis)

Reduction in Number of projects/community safety initiatives delivered

Risk to Service Objectives (High / Medium / Low)

Medium

SERVICE CHANGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT**Cost Centre 2023/24 Budget (£'000)**

Operational Cost	132
Income	0
Net Cost	132

Service Budget 2023/24 (relating to the area affected by this SCIA)

Operational Cost	132
Income	£0
Net Cost	132

Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Net Zero Implications

the decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the council's ambition to be Net Zero by 2030. There is no perceived impact regarding either an increase or decrease in carbon emissions in the district, or supporting the resilience of the natural environment]

Community Impact and Outcomes

There will be a community impact as a number of projects will not be funded

SERVICE CHANGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

SCIA _6_ (24/25)

Portfolio / Chief Officer : Sarah Robson
Service: People & Places
Activity Health & Communities
No. of Staff 0.7 FTE

Details of proposed change	Cost Centre & Account Code of Budget	2024/25 Growth / (Saving) £000	Later Years Comments (ongoing, one-off, etc.)
Services	67100 CDGRNTS	(5)	ongoing

Box 1. Reasons for and explanation of proposed change in service

The Health and Communities team runs an annual community grants programme. However, we are proposing to reduce the annual budget by £5,000.

The team considers it is able to support the saving as it runs other funding options through its Better Together and Community Safety Partnership grants, whilst enabling communities and partner organisations to secure funding and deliver projects as part of our community mobilisation programme.

Box 2. Key Stakeholders Affected:

Voluntary & Community organisations

Box 3. Likely impacts and implications of the change in service (include Risk Analysis)

There will be a reduction in the number of grants awarded each year.

Risk to Service Objectives (High / Medium / Low)

Medium

SERVICE CHANGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT**Cost Centre 2023/24 Budget (£'000)**

Operational Cost	201
Income	0
Net Cost	201

Service Budget 2023/24 (relating to the area affected by this SCIA)

Operational Cost	201
Income	£0
Net Cost	201

Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Net Zero Implications

the decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the council's ambition to be Net Zero by 2030. There is no perceived impact regarding either an increase or decrease in carbon emissions in the district, or supporting the resilience of the natural environment]

Community Impact and Outcomes

There will be a community impact as a number of projects will not be funded

Wellbeing

Wellbeing towards the communities who would not get their projects funded