


**Scrutiny Inquiry Progress Update on Recommendations for  
Rent-in-Advance Inquiry  
Interim Progress Report (12 months on)**


**Select Committee Inquiry Report Completion Date:** Went to Cabinet on 9 November 2015


**Date of this update:** November 2016

**Lead Officers responsible for this response:** Lloyd Jeffries

**Cabinet Member that has signed-off this update:** Martin Phillips, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement





Accepted Recommendations	Original Response and Actions	Progress Update	Committee Assessment of Progress (RAG status) at 6 months	Committee Assessment of Progress (RAG status) at 12 months
<p><i>1. For the County Council to lead in developing a collaborative solution with relevant partner agencies and District Councils along similar lines to the Response model to meet the housing needs of people in Buckinghamshire who have high-level complex needs.</i></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>The Communities team is exploring piloting the Response style model with five housing units for repeat offenders on probation or court order, linked to an integrated offender management scheme.</p> <p>This group have high level complex needs, including barriers to accessing appropriate housing.</p> <p>Communities' intention is to let a two year contract in April 2016 to test the model, during which time the roll out of a larger scheme covering a wider</p>	<p><b>Responsible officer – Lee Scrafton</b></p> <p><b>12 months update</b> - This related to an Integrated Offender Management pilot we tried across Community Safety to tackle some of the barriers related to offender housing. Following a short procurement process which brought together an existing project called Wycombe Community housing project, the overall project was called Evolve and was led by Connections Floating Support.</p> <p>It ran for about 2 years but the housing situation is so desperate that, even investing in targeted resource to help cut through the barriers to housing for offenders, the desired outcomes (of successful accommodation and therefore a reduction in offending) did not materialise.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"></p>	

	<p>range of CHASC service users with complex needs will be investigated.</p> <p>The project is dependent on securing part funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner.</p>	<p>Community Safety decided not to progress the contract this financial year (2016/17).</p>		
<p><b>2: That the County Council runs its own pilot scheme with the Credit Unions (M4Money and Swan Credit Union) to provide a rent-in-advance loan scheme. A suggested sum of at least £30k evenly split between M4Money and Swan Credit Union would help approximately 60 people to secure a private tenancy across the county with the potential to help more people as the loan is repaid and the money is recycled. This would be delivered through a Service Level Agreement and only for people who have been referred to them by the nominated</b></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>BCC takes forward discussions with M4Money and Swan Credit Union to establish a countywide emergency loan fund of £50k through a subordinated loan from BCC.</p>	<p><b>Responsible officers – Richard Ambrose, Janice Moore and Anna Colonnese</b></p> <p><b>12 month update</b> - The Local Emergency Support Team have met with the Credit Union to advise that the £30,000 would be offered as a conditional grant. This has been well received by the Credit Union.</p> <p>The £30k funding is to be split over two financial years 16/17 &amp; 17/18. Arrangements for the first payment of £15k to go to the Credit Union is about to be put in place.</p> <p>The Local Emergency Support Team are to meet with Referring Agents shortly (LA Districts/Homeless Organisations) to implement the process they will operate for referring clients to the Credit Union for assistance with Rent In Advance.</p> <p><b>6 month update</b> - After further research, it has been agreed that the original £30k be offered for the rent in advance scheme to the Credit Union by way of a <b>conditional</b></p>		

<p><i>partner agencies following a successful financial assessment. This would enable the partner agencies to support more people who are eligible for assistance with securing a privately rented property.</i></p>		<p><b>grant</b> instead of a subordinate loan.</p> <p>Conditional in that this is ring-fenced monies specifically for Rent in Advance applications from the District Councils/Homeless Organisations in the Buckinghamshire area, as they will act as the referring agents.</p> <p>This would be delivered through a Service Level Agreement and only for people who have been referred to them by the nominated partner agencies following a successful financial assessment. <i>Legal to assist with terms and conditions.</i></p>		
<p><b>3:</b> <i>That the current model for administering local emergency support is reviewed to explore different ways of commissioning the services so that the maximum amount of money is made available to help those most vulnerable people, thereby reducing the costs associated with administering the scheme.</i></p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Feasibility report to explore key issues and to develop recommendations for the most effective way to provide the service. Issues include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The distribution of funds, to ensure equitable access to the scheme across Buckinghamshire;</li> <li>- The overheads associated with managing the scheme, and how these will be met in a cost effective and sustainable way;</li> <li>- The criteria informing the financial</li> </ul>	<p><b>Responsible officer – Lloyd Jefferies</b></p> <p><b>12 month update –</b> Lloyd Jeffries approved LEST Feasibility study and approved recommendation Option 1 regarding staffing.</p> <p>The feasibility study can be accessed here - <a href="https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/documents/s88700/LEST%20FEASIBILITY%20STUDY.pdf">https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/documents/s88700/LEST%20FEASIBILITY%20STUDY.pdf</a></p> <p><b>6 month update -</b> Work in progress</p>		

	<p>assessment, how assessments will be carried and by who;</p> <p>The feasibility study will be completed by end March 2016.</p>			
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*RAG Status Guidance (For the Select Committee's Assessment)*

	<i>Recommendation implemented to the satisfaction of the committee.</i>		<i>Committee have concerns the recommendation may not be fully delivered to its satisfaction</i>
	<i>Recommendation on track to be completed to the satisfaction of the committee.</i>		<i>Committee consider the recommendation to have not been delivered/implemented</i>