

Officer Decision

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

John Betts, Corporate Director of Finance

DECISION NO:

OD/25/00001

For publication

Subject matter: Acceptance of the councils 2025/26 Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Grant.

Cabinet Member or Council/Cabinet decision to which this action relates:

Roger Gough, Leader

Delegation within key decision report [Decision - 23/00060 - Domestic Abuse Act Framework 2023-25](#)

Decision:

- To accept money on behalf of Kent County Council to meet the support in safe accommodation duties within the Domestic Abuse Act.
- To sign and enter into the Memorandums of Understanding, as required to accept the 2025/26 Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation grant funding.

Reason(s) for decision:

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 placed new duties on local authorities across England to ensure that victims of domestic abuse and their children can access the right support in safe accommodation when they need it.

Within the Domestic Abuse Act definitions of safe accommodation include refuge, dispersed accommodation (non-communal supported accommodation), sanctuary schemes (security provision within a survivor's home) and move-on accommodation where some levels of support are still required. Funding associated with the Act is to provide support services for those in these forms of accommodation.

Financial Implications:

This one-year allocation of £4,031,222 is to support the authority to meet new statutory duties under the domestic abuse act for the period between 01 April 2025 and 31 March 2026.

Legal implications:

The associated Memorandum of Understanding sets out terms of the grant including principles and practices that will apply to the working relationship between MHCLG and local authorities with regard to delivering the new functions under Part 4 of the Act.

Equality Implications:

This funding aids the delivery of elements of the statutory Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy. An EQiA, conducted for the Kent and Medway Domestic

Abuse Strategy found the impact of this work to be positive across all groups.

Comments received from members consulted:

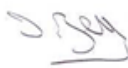
The Leader of the Council has been consulted prior to the officer decision being taken

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

The option of turning down the grant was discarded as there are many people in Kent who will benefit from this resource and it supports the council to meet its statutory duties.

Any conflict of interest declared by any executive member consulted by the decision maker and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

None

		25 Feb 2025
Signed		date

Appendix A: Memorandum of Understanding

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government has determined under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 that a grant of £160 million should be paid to the local authorities detailed at Annex A.

Definitions

1. In this memorandum of understanding ('MoU'):

'MHCLG' means the Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government.

'Act' means the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

'Tier 1 Local Authorities' means county and unitary councils (other than London Boroughs), the Greater London Authority and the Council of the Isles of Scilly.

'Tier 2 Local Authorities' means district, borough and city councils and London Boroughs.

'LPB' means the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board described in Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

2. The 'statutory duty' is: the statutory duties on Tier 1 Local Authorities relating to the provision of support for victims of domestic abuse and their children within safe accommodation as set out in Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act.

3. 'Eligible expenditure' means the payment of £160 million.

4. 'Funding Period' means the period commencing on 1 April 2025 and ending on 31 March 2026.

5. 'Grant Recipient' means Local Authorities.

Purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding

6. The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to formalise the working relationship and expectations relating to the payment of £160 million from the Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government (MHCLG) to the local authorities detailed at Annex A for the purposes of exercising their functions under Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 ('the Act') relating to the provision of support to victims of domestic abuse and their children residing within safe accommodation.

This MoU sets out the principles and practices that will apply to the working relationship between MHCLG and local authorities detailed at Annex A regard to delivering the functions under Part 4 of the of the Act (as described above).

While this document is not a legal or binding agreement, all parties enter into the MoU committed to honouring all their obligations within it.

About the Grant

7. The Secretary of State has determined that to ensure that local authorities are able to deliver the duties under Part 4 of the Act the grant funding for 2025/26 is to be paid during April 2025 based on the understanding that:

- a) The grant only covers revenue expenditure relating to the functions set out in Part 4 of the Act on Tier 1 Local Authorities relating to the provision of accommodation-based support to victims of domestic abuse and their children and on Tier 2 Local Authorities to co-operate with Tier 1 Local Authorities as far as reasonably practicable.
- b) The grant is distributed to Local Authorities for the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 for the purpose of fulfilling the functions of the duties in line with the Act.
- c) Where it has been agreed to delegate commissioning decisions to Tier 2 Local Authorities, Tier 1 Local Authorities should ensure adequate funding is passed to Tier 2 Local Authorities.

Amount of Grant until the end of March 2026

8. The maximum amount of grant payable for the funding period between 01 April 2025 and 31 March 2026 will be £160 million.

Eligibility criteria

9. Payment of grant cannot be offered unless the Grant Recipient is a local authority in England.

SIGNED for on behalf of

The Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Name: Cathy Page

Position: Deputy Director

Signature:



Date: 12 February 2025

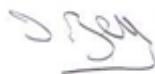
SIGNED for on behalf of
Local Authority:

Name: John Betts

Position: Interim Corporate Director – Finance

Signature:

Date: 25 Feb 2025



Annex A – Local Authority Allocations

Local authority	DA Safe Accommodation Duty Allocation 2025/26 (£)
Adur	35,444
Amber Valley	35,846
Arun	34,981
Ashfield	34,861
Ashford	36,593
Babergh	35,542
Barking And Dagenham	37,817
Barnet	39,399
Barnsley	761,342
Basildon	37,152
Basingstoke And Deane	38,272
Bassetlaw	34,777
Bath And North East Somerset	404,406
Bedford	436,094
Bexley	36,822
Birmingham	4,237,850
Blaby	36,274
Blackburn with Darwen	496,277
Blackpool	534,566
Bolsover	35,137
Bolton	886,520
Boston	34,297
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole	974,401
Bracknell Forest	264,643
Bradford	1,794,316
Braintree	35,156
Breckland	34,268
Brent	38,900
Brentwood	37,864

Brighton And Hove	787,420
Bristol	1,401,911
Broadland	36,040
Bromley	38,019
Bromsgrove	35,774
Broxbourne	37,159
Broxtowe	35,888
Buckinghamshire Council	1,110,329
Burnley	34,626
Bury	521,275
Calderdale	592,188
Cambridge	40,413
Cambridgeshire	1,480,995
Camden	46,203
Cannock Chase	34,583
Canterbury	36,149
Castle Point	35,343
Central Bedfordshire	610,746
Charnwood	35,189
Chelmsford	37,239
Cheltenham	36,528
Cherwell	37,465
Cheshire East	842,025
Cheshire West and Chester	841,222
Chesterfield	35,194
Chichester	37,112
Chorley	33,816
City of London	52,943
Colchester	36,661
Cornwall	1,524,179

Cotswold	36,818
Coventry	1,103,851
Crawley	38,868
Croydon	38,048
Cumberland	841,525
Dacorum	37,211
Darlington	288,796
Dartford	38,132
Derby	780,804
Derbyshire	1,910,734
Derbyshire Dales	35,284
Devon	1,846,710
Doncaster	951,653
Dorset Council	845,139
Dover	35,976
Dudley	862,338
Durham	1,515,869
Ealing	38,937
East Cambridgeshire	37,027
East Devon	34,822
East Hampshire	37,088
East Hertfordshire	37,144
East Lindsey	34,597
East Riding of Yorkshire	744,763
East Staffordshire	36,378
East Suffolk	35,344
East Sussex	1,388,723
Eastbourne	35,670
Eastleigh ¹⁰	36,868
Elmbridge	39,112

Enfield	38,167
Epping Forest	38,692
Epsom And Ewell	37,273
Erewash	34,123
Essex	3,589,059
Exeter	36,218
Fareham	37,704
Fenland	34,664
Folkestone and Hythe	35,389
Forest of Dean	34,593
Fylde	36,171
Gateshead	596,920
Gedling	34,807
Gloucester	35,564
Gloucestershire	1,435,985
Gosport	34,418
Gravesham	36,056
Great Yarmouth	35,265
Greater London Authority	26,868,976
Greenwich	38,244
Guildford	40,239
Hackney	40,866
Halton	424,665
Hammersmith And Fulham	43,130
Hampshire	2,987,428
Harborough	36,554
Haringey	38,850
Harlow	37,416
Harrow	38,355
Hart	37,799

Hartlepool	307,898
Hastings	34,697
Havant	36,326
Havering	38,209
Herefordshire	470,033
Hertfordshire	2,615,252
Hertsmere	38,503
High Peak	34,853
Hillingdon	40,523
Hinckley And Bosworth	35,662
Horsham	37,052
Hounslow	41,446
Huntingdonshire	35,851
Hyndburn	33,631
Ipswich	35,646
Isle of Wight	379,288
Isles of Scilly	63,000
Islington	44,717
Kensington And Chelsea	47,731
Kent	4,031,222
King's Lynn And West Norfolk	35,808
Kingston upon Hull	951,785
Kingston upon Thames	39,357
Kirklees	1,193,456
Knowsley	597,125
Lambeth	41,753
Lancashire	3,238,483
Lancaster	34,154
Leeds	2,397,656
Leicester	1,113,507

Leicestershire	1,463,965
Lewes	35,782
Lewisham	38,795
Lichfield	35,528
Lincoln	35,106
Lincolnshire	1,888,565
Liverpool	1,958,200
Luton	652,889
Maidstone	36,320
Maldon	37,346
Malvern Hills	34,742
Manchester	2,146,839
Mansfield	34,038
Medway	769,027
Melton	35,235
Merton	38,890
Mid Devon	35,362
Mid Suffolk	34,684
Mid Sussex	36,645
Middlesbrough	512,834
Milton Keynes	695,080
Mole Valley	39,219
New Forest	36,213
Newark And Sherwood	33,838
Newcastle upon Tyne	955,453
Newcastle-under-Lyme	35,102
Newham	39,276
Norfolk	2,345,784
North Devon	35,562
North East Derbyshire	34,302

North East Lincolnshire	485,625
North Hertfordshire	36,489
North Kesteven	35,540
North Lincolnshire	444,974
North Norfolk	35,018
North Northamptonshire	862,756
North Somerset	491,323
North Tyneside	546,156
North Warwickshire	37,991
North West Leicestershire	35,489
North Yorkshire	1,660,022
Northumberland	832,696
Norwich	35,607
Nottingham	1,131,513
Nottinghamshire	2,000,203
Nuneaton And Bedworth	34,806
Oadby And Wigston	35,195
Oldham	751,350
Oxford	40,084
Oxfordshire	1,482,077
Pendle	34,315
Peterborough	619,992
Plymouth	766,037
Portsmouth	645,233
Preston	35,653
Reading	444,156
Redbridge	36,341
Redcar And Cleveland	409,773
Redditch	35,697
Reigate And Banstead	37,876

Ribble Valley	36,339
Richmond upon Thames	40,497
Rochdale	734,625
Rochford	35,565
Rossendale	33,942
Rother	35,357
Rotherham	802,591
Rugby	37,308
Runnymede	40,373
Rushcliffe	35,116
Rushmoor	38,726
Rutland	78,514
Salford	880,038
Sandwell	1,093,309
Sefton	786,519
Sevenoaks	37,314
Sheffield	1,721,980
Shropshire	751,393
Slough	442,591
Solihull	548,616
Somerset	1,525,570
South Cambridgeshire	39,881
South Derbyshire	35,687
South Gloucestershire	607,780
South Hams	35,152
South Holland	34,908
South Kesteven	34,781
South Norfolk	36,322
South Oxfordshire	36,545
South Ribble	34,738

South Staffordshire	35,557
South Tyneside	460,436
Southampton	762,385
Southend-on-Sea	483,254
Southwark	43,096
Spelthorne	39,320
St Albans	37,869
St. Helens	566,939
Stafford	35,720
Staffordshire	2,018,747
Staffordshire Moorlands	34,102
Stevenage	37,663
Stockport	748,648
Stockton-on-Tees	548,848
Stoke-on-Trent	841,021
Stratford-on-Avon	37,499
Stroud	35,347
Suffolk	1,833,641
Sunderland	866,106
Surrey	2,489,668
Surrey Heath	37,355
Sutton	37,110
Swale	35,640
Swindon	558,888
Tameside	711,234
Tamworth	35,645
Tandridge	36,952
Teignbridge	35,155
Telford And Wrekin	505,907
Tendring	34,523

Test Valley	36,280
Tewkesbury	37,935
Thanet	34,880
Three Rivers	39,444
Thurrock	476,033
Tonbridge And Malling	37,310
Torbay	400,719
Torridge	34,983
Tower Hamlets	45,702
Trafford	561,966
Tunbridge Wells	36,351
Uttlesford	37,980
Vale of White Horse	38,318
Wakefield	1,038,831
Walsall	896,337
Waltham Forest	37,671
Wandsworth	40,162
Warrington	519,445
Warwick	37,589
Warwickshire	1,350,878
Watford	37,000
Waverley	38,036
Wealden	35,254
Welwyn Hatfield	38,936
West Berkshire	324,820
West Devon	34,958
West Lancashire	35,866
West Lindsey	34,634
Westmorland and Furness	717,940
West Northamptonshire	993,650

West Oxfordshire	36,416
West Suffolk	35,771
West Sussex	1,945,763
Westminster	52,268
Wigan	929,631
Wiltshire	1,078,032
Winchester	37,467
Windsor And Maidenhead	312,195
Wirral	973,833
Woking	40,307
Wokingham	321,280
Wolverhampton	845,362
Worcester	35,865
Worcestershire	1,419,155
Worthing	35,684
Wychavon	34,855
Wyre	34,079
Wyre Forest	33,835
York	434,440