

Item No	Referred from:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
6A	Date:	8 September 2026
	Title of item:	Allocation of MHCLG Homelessness Grant
To be considered alongside agenda item:		Agenda Item 12

The report considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the meeting held on 8 September 2026 can be found here: [Agenda for Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday, 8th September, 2026, 7.30 pm | North Herts Council](#)

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET: That Cabinet approves the funding proposals for the allocation of Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant received from MHCLG as outlined in Table 1 in paragraph 8.13 of the report.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

- (1) There is a need to secure housing services for homeless households in the district, including key existing services on the single homeless pathway. Adopting the recommendation at 2.1 secures the provision of high-quality local services to help those in need and provides stability into the first year of the new unitary authority.
- (2) The recommendation at 2.1 is consistent with the priorities set out in the Council's Housing Strategy (2024 – 2029) and the Council Plan.

Audio recording – 01 hours 16 minutes 10 seconds

Councillor Mick Debenham, as Executive Member for Regulatory, presented the report entitled 'Allocation of MHCLG Homelessness Grant' and advised that:

- The Council had received multi-year ringfenced funding of £2.88M from MHCLG to help it meet its homelessness duties.
- Cabinet had approved the first allocation of the grant funding on 16 June.
- A 3-year settlement for all but £426K of the remaining grant funding was proposed to ensure service continuity, regardless of the outcome of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).
- Significant amounts were proposed to be allocated to One YMCA and Lets4U, with smaller amounts proposed for other organisations as detailed in paragraph 8.13 of the report.
- A document detailing the achievements of the housing service over the last two years had been published in the Members Information Bulletin recently.
- The grant allocation would enable the Council to best meet its Housing Strategy.

The following Members asked questions:

- Councillor Ralph Muncer
- Councillor Daniel Wright-Mason
- Councillor Claire Winchester

In response to questions, Councillor Mick Debenham advised that the Government decision to pause LGR in Hertfordshire would have no impact on the allocation of grant funding proposed.

In response to questions, the Strategic Housing Manager advised that:

- The Council inevitably had to compete with other authorities for properties to house residents both in and outside the district, but the £4-5K detailed in paragraph 8.8 of the report was one of the benchmark figures used for their spending, while also considering value for money against individual household circumstances.
- The unallocated funding for the 28/29 financial year was less as there was likely to be underspending in the first two years, and further funding such as the Rough Sleeper Grant announced by the Government after the report had been published may become available.
- Individuals from North Herts were prioritised over individuals from outside the district, except where the Council had legal responsibilities to look after specific individuals.

Councillor Claire Winchester proposed and Councillor Nigel Mason seconded and, following a vote, it was:

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