



**EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW &
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:
21 November 2019**

CABINET: 14 January 2020

Report of: Corporate Director of Place and Community

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor Kevin Wright

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**SUBJECT: HOMELESSNESS & ROUGH SLEEPER STRATEGY 2019-2024
(CONSULTATION DRAFT)**

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To consider and agree the draft Homelessness & Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019-2024.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS TO EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

2.1 That the draft Homelessness & Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019-2024; attached as Appendix 1; be put before Cabinet to be approved as a consultation draft to be made available to the public and stakeholders for a period of consultation.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET

3.1 That the draft Homelessness & Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019-2024 be made available to the public and stakeholders for a period of consultation.

3.2 That the Corporate Director of Place and Community be authorised to make any minor changes to the strategy following the consultation period.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The Homelessness Act 2002 introduced a duty on local authorities to regularly review homelessness in their area and to produce a Homelessness Strategy. Although the current strategy was only approved in 2017, the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2018 made significant changes to homelessness legislation therefore a further review has taken place to assess the impact of the new Act.

5.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 5.1 The Homelessness Strategy 2019-2024, as attached at Appendix 1, provides an updated picture of homelessness in the Borough and outlines the key objectives that will be addressed.
- 5.2 The Action Plan contained in the report outlines the actions that will be taken to meet the key objectives in order to reduce the number of homeless households in the Borough.

6.0 HOMELESSNESS REVIEW FINDINGS

- 6.1 The homelessness review found that in line with national trends, homelessness in the Borough is increasing.
- 6.2 Single males aged 25-44 and lone female parents are more likely to present as homeless, reflecting the national trend whilst the main cause of homelessness has consistently been the ending of an assured shorthold tenancy, again reflecting the national trend.
- 6.3 The use of temporary accommodation is minimal compared to national figures; however, its use has increased over the last 12 months. No households were placed in Bed and Breakfast or hostel accommodation.

7.0 PROPOSED ACTIONS

- 7.1 The key objectives of the strategy are:

Objective 1: Reduce homelessness by increasing prevention and early intervention

Objective 2: Enhance the housing offer available for both temporary and longer term accommodation

Objective 3: Improving health and wellbeing

- 7.2 In order to meet the key objectives, an Action Plan has been devised that will focus on improving the depth and range of housing advice services and the accommodation offer, to ensure more homeless cases are prevented.

8.0 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 As part of the process of updating the strategy, a period of public consultation is required to allow stakeholders and the public to provide feedback or suggested improvements. To facilitate this, a copy of the draft strategy will be circulated for consultation once approved by Cabinet.

9.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The actions contained in the strategy will help to improve the housing advice offer to all who are faced with homelessness which in turn will reduce the number of

households becoming homeless. The strategy also links to the sustainable living key objective.

10.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are some financial/ resource implications arising from this report in respect of certain actions. Where possible, these will be met using existing resources including the homelessness prevention grant received from Government.

11.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

11.1 The actions referred to in this report are covered by the scheme of delegation to officers and any necessary changes have been made in the relevant risk registers.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

There is a direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders; therefore an Equality Impact Assessment is required. A formal equality impact assessment is attached as an Appendix to this report, the results of which have been taken into account in the Recommendations contained within this report

Appendices

1. Homelessness Strategy 2019-2024 (Consultation Draft)
2. Homelessness Review 2019
3. Equality Impact Assessment
4. Minute of Executive Overview & Scrutiny Committee 21 November 2019 (Cabinet only-to follow)