

<b>ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	AGENDA ITEM No. 6
<b>13 MARCH 2018</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	<b>TASK AND FINISH GROUP TO ASSIST THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW HOMELESSNESS REDUCTION STRATEGY</b>	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Growth, Planning, Housing and Economic Development	
Contact Officer(s):	Sarah Ferguson, Assistant Director, Housing, Communities and Youth Sean Evans, Housing Needs Manager	Tel. 01733 864083

**REPORT OF THE TASK AND FINISH GROUP TO ASSIST THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY**

<b>R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S</b>	
<b>FROM:</b> Task And Finish Group To Assist The Development Of A New Homelessness Reduction Strategy	<b>Deadline date:</b> 13 March 2018
<p>It is recommended that the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consider and comment on the Task and Finish Group Report attached at Appendix 1, and</li> <li>2. Endorse the report and recommendations for submission to Cabinet.</li> </ol>	

**1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 This report is submitted to the Committee following the development of a new Homelessness Strategy by a cross party Scrutiny Task and Finish Group.

**2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 At its meeting on 12 September 2017 the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee recommended that a cross-party Task and Finish Group be established to work alongside officers to develop a new draft Homelessness Strategy. The strategy would then be presented back to the Committee for endorsement before being presented to Cabinet for endorsement prior to approval at Full Council.

2.2 This report is for the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No.2.1, Functions determined by Council,

3. Housing need (including homelessness, housing options and selective licensing);

2.3 This report links to the following corporate priorities:

- Keeping our communities safe, cohesive and healthy
- Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults

2.4 How does this report link to the Children in care Pledge?  
N/A

### 3. **TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>YES</b>	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	TBC
---	------------	----------------------------------	-----

### 4. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 The attached report of the task and finish group details the background, findings and objectives which have informed the final proposed strategy.

#### **The Proposed Strategy**

The Council's previous Homelessness Strategy had 4 strategic aims. These will remain of value throughout the lifetime of this strategy with all success and learning acquired being maintained for its duration. These aims are:

Strategic Aim 1 – Preventing and relieving homelessness through a robust partnership approach

Strategic Aim 2 - Increasing access to accommodation

Strategic Aim 3 – Reduce and prevent rough sleeping

Strategic Aim 4 – Promoting settled lifestyles and sustainable communities

Homelessness can be complex and not every case is the same. The situation is affected by national and local circumstances that are always changing, but this does not prevent the Council from aiming to achieve the best for its citizens. It must strive to prevent homelessness and break the cycle.

The actions the Council and its partner agencies will take to help deliver these aims are set out in these ten key objectives:

**Objective 1:** Eliminating the use of Travelodge type accommodation and reducing / eliminating the use of B&B type accommodation for temporary accommodation

**Objective 2:** Ensuring the effective implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act and embracing the culture change this will bring

**Objective 3:** Creating a suite of prevention tools which will give the Housing Needs team improved chances of success in preventing homelessness

**Objective 4:** Support landlords and tenants to support them to overcome landlord/tenant issues which may lead to eviction action

**Objective 5:** Bringing together services to work holistically in ensuring financial inclusion, income maximisation and debt advice are accessible and prioritised in order to support preventative work

**Objective 6:** Increase the supply of self-contained temporary accommodation options in order to support the reduction of B&B use

**Objective 7:** Explore the potential of a Social Lettings Agency/Guaranteed Rent Scheme for private landlords

**Objective 8:** Ensure that information and advice on housing and homelessness prevention is widely available and that our customers are seen at the earliest possible opportunity

**Objective 9:** Maintain services and create an effective supported accommodation pathway for single homeless and rough sleepers

**Objective 10:** Increase the focus on performance supported by clearer data

## **5. CONSULTATION**

5.1 The strategy has been developed through the cross party Task & Finish group. The group has had input and gathered evidence from a number of key partners and witnesses. A representative from Cross Keys Homes has been a co-opted member of the group and has fed in the views of the partner housing associations who form the Peterborough Homes Partnership.

## **6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

6.1 It is recommended that the Draft Homelessness Strategy be approved to be taken to Cabinet and Full Council for adoption.

## **7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

7.1 The statutory requirement to conduct a review of homelessness and have a current homelessness strategy in readiness for the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017

## **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

8.1 No Alternative options were considered

## **9. IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial Implications**

9.1 It is not expected that there will be any additional financial implications, which have not already been accounted and budgeted for.

### **Legal Implications**

9.2 *N/A*

### **Equalities Implications**

9.3 *N/A*

### **Rural Implications**

9.4 *N/A*

## **10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

10.1 Housing Act 1996 (as amended by Homelessness Act 2002)  
Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities  
Homelessness Reduction Act 2017

## **11. APPENDICES**

11.1 *Appendix 1 - Task and Finish Group Report*  
*Appendix 2 - Draft Homeless Reduction Strategy*

This page is intentionally left blank