

Agenda Item 11(a) – For Information Only

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 5
26 MARCH 2018	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Growth, Planning, Housing and Economic Development	
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Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Hiller, Cabinet Member for Growth, Planning, Housing and Economic Development	

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

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Task And Finish Group To Assist The Development Of A New Homelessness Reduction Strategy	Deadline date: N/A
<p>It is recommended that Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider and comment on the Task and Finish Group Report attached at Appendix 1, and 2. Recommend that Council approve the report and recommendations contained within. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet 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,

1. 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

3. **TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	YES	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	26/03/2018
Date for relevant Council meeting	18/04/2018	Date for submission to Government Dept.	N/A

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

- 4.1 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

- 4.3 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.

- 4.4 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 have 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 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 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Equalities Implications

9.3 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

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

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