

DECISION TITLE: Approval of Housing Related Support Strategy
Councillor Steve Allen, Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Recreation
November 2020
Deadline date: <i>N/A</i>

Cabinet portfolio holder: Responsible Director:	Councillor Steve Allen, Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Recreation Wendi Ogle Welbourn, Executive Director People and Communities Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
Is this a Key Decision?	NO
Is this decision eligible for call-in?	NO
Does this Public report have any annex that contains exempt information?	NO
Is this a project and if so has it been registered on Verto?	NO

RECOMMENDATIONS
The Cabinet Member is recommended to:
1. Approve and adopt the new Housing Related Support Strategy

1. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

- 1.1 A review of Housing Related Support (HRS) services was completed in 2018. One of the key recommendations from this was the development of a new Housing Related Support Strategy for Peterborough and Cambridgeshire.
- 1.2 The report is seeking approval from the Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Recreation to approve the new Strategy so that it can be adopted jointly across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire.

2. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	
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3. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The draft strategy was completed in early June and has been through an extensive consultation process with a wide range of providers, partners and stakeholders. This included existing HRS providers, local Housing Authorities, statutory services and local voluntary and charitable organisations.
- 3.2 The draft strategy for HRS sets out our vision for HRS services, identifies the commissioning priorities for 2020 – 2022 and outlines the commissioning approach and principles that will underpin delivery.
- 3.3 The Strategy takes account of the national and local strategic context and has been informed by the findings of the 2018 Review of HRS services and research undertaken by Arc4 in 2019/20.
- 3.4 The overarching vision of the strategy is *'To provide accessible, good quality and cost effective housing-related support for people that promotes independence, social inclusion, complements other services and reduces or prevents the need for access to crisis and high cost statutory services.'*
- 3.5 The key HRS commissioning priorities identified for 2020 to 2022 are focussed on ensuring that services commissioned to support homeless adults, rough sleepers, offenders and young people at risk of homelessness are able to evolve to enable them to continue to effectively meet the needs of current and future customers.
- 3.6 The intention is to move away from a model of support which is predominantly hostel focussed approach, towards more flexible commissioning of a mix of provision that is better able to meet a range of support needs, is reflective of other established models of good practice and will enable us to meet some of the gaps in provision that have been identified.
- 3.7 In delivering the strategy our commissioning approach will be;
- Transparent – *evidence based decisions, shared and consistent processes*
 - Collaborative – *partnership working, joint commissioning, strong communication*
 - Outcomes focussed – *service effectiveness based on outcomes achieved*
 - Innovative – *incorporating best practice, open to new ideas, adaptable services*
 - Strategically aligned – *contributing to local strategies, priorities and approaches*
- 3.8 The Strategy makes a commitment to commission services that are;
- client led and allow individuals to have choice and control over the support they receive
 - focussed on an individual's strengths and the goals that are important to them
 - providing people with the tools and confidence they need to live independently and manage in their own accommodation
 - helping people to avoid access to crisis or higher need statutory services for as long as possible
 - innovative and responsive to changing needs and demands
 - delivered in partnership with providers to ensure that the best outcomes can be achieved for vulnerable people in our communities
 - contributing positively to the priorities of Cambridgeshire County Council, Peterborough City Council and their partners
 - providing value for money and delivering added social value

4. **CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 The consultation period ran from 23rd July until 28th August. Consultation feedback has been incorporated into the final draft of the Strategy, which is appended at Appendix A. A summary of the consultation feedback can also be found at Appendix B.
- 4.2 The feedback received on the Draft Strategy was generally positive and the identified priorities and approach were supported by all respondents. The main themes that came out of the consultation were around;
- collaborative working and joint commissioning / delivery
 - increase in needs, complex needs & dual diagnosis
 - impact of savings being sought
 - increased focus on prevention
 - assurance that the Housing First is developed and implemented properly
 - meeting the specific needs of protected groups (LGBTQ+, females) and those with no Recourse to Public Funds
 - Impact of Covid 19 on homelessness, including people new to homelessness
 - innovation/ learning from Covid-19 and working differently e.g. use of technology
 - need greater reference to Domestic Abuse and the new Domestic Abuse Bill

The Strategy aims to address all of these themes.

5. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 5.1 *Having a Strategy for Housing Related Support will ensure a strategic approach to future commissioning of Housing Related Support services.*

6. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 *The Strategy has been through a robust consultation process. Having the Strategy in place will provide a clear direction for future commissioning of Housing Related Support services.*

7. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 *Separate strategies for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough were considered, but this would have resulted in duplication across Council and Provider services. A single strategy also maximises opportunities for joint commissioning and shared learning.*

8. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 8.1 *The commitment to move from 1 year grants to contracts would require a longer term financial commitment in line with the agreed contract period. This will be addressed in any future procurement planning and will be subject to further governance and approvals.*

Legal Implications

- 8.2 *There are no legal implications related to this item.*

Equalities Implications

- 8.3 *The strategy acknowledges the need for services to be redesigned to address some of the current gaps, including access to services for those with complex needs. Provision of accommodation other than hostels will also seek to ensure that there are alternatives available for those who struggle to manage within a hostel environment. Longer contract periods will enable providers to invest time and resources in service improvement and redesign.*

Carbon Impact Assessment

- 8.5 *Impact of the decision is neutral as the majority of the work carried out in relation to the implementation of the strategy will be 'business as usual' and full use will be made of virtual online meeting options.*

9. DECLARATIONS / CONFLICTS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS GRANTED

- 9.1 *None*

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985) and The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

- 10.1 N/A

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix A – Copy of final draft Strategy, which is appended at Appendix
Appendix B - A summary of the consultation feedback

Please see below for a link to the arc 4 report also referenced

<https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/cambs-homeless-transformation-main-report-final-v2.docx>