

**INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
19 MARCH 2019**

**PART I – DELEGATED**

**7. HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY  
(DCES)**

**1 Summary**

- 1.1 The Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2017-22, developed through consultation with partners, stakeholders and residents, sets out the key issues, challenges and priorities relating to the delivery of housing and housing-related services in the district over the five year period.
- 1.2 For the first time we have combined the housing and homelessness strategy into a single document to provide clear direction for all housing-related services. Following the publication of the Government's new Rough Sleeping Strategy, we have also added rough sleeping as a priority within the homelessness key priority area.
- 1.3 This report outlines the consultation responses and recommends adoption of the final strategy.

**2 Details**

- 2.1 The draft strategy was circulated to and discussed with the partners that attend the Council's Homelessness Forum but no comments or amendments were proposed. An online survey was also placed on the Council's website for partners and members of the public to complete, with posts being made on social media to advertise it.
- 2.2 A total of 11 responses were received from the online survey from members of the public, with all supporting the desired outcome targets of the strategy.
- 2.3 Some of the responders also made comments as part of the consultation. However, some of the comments received indicate that people did not read the full strategy and action plan as there appears to be a lack of understanding on some points.
- 2.4 One comment suggested that the strategy should include how many empty homes are within the district. This comment has been taken on-board and added to the final strategy attached at appendix A. However, the request to bring all empty homes into use within one year is not feasible given the process to be followed and the limited resources of the team. Therefore, the target to focus on two properties per year has remained in the final strategy.
- 2.5 One responder requested that there should be a grievance procedure for tenants of Thrive Homes which should be reported to Council committee meetings. This is not possible as Thrive Homes are not directly accountable to the Council, being a separate organisation. Thrive Homes have their own complaint process which tenants should follow if they are unhappy with the service received.
- 2.6 Other comments received relate to the Council's Housing Allocations Policy which is in the process of being reviewed so will be taken into account as part of that review. There will also be a public consultation on the new policy to gain opinion.

2.7 It should be noted that the strategy must cover the period from 2017-2022 as our previous strategy covered until 2017. It should be borne in mind that the strategy largely reflects the ongoing work being carried out within the Housing team and does not herald a marked change in direction. It provides a clear focus on those specific objectives which will make a real contribution towards preventing and relieving homelessness in the district and is underpinned by a detailed action plan which is designed to ensure that the three strategic objectives are delivered. This allocates tasks to specific officers and partners and will be regularly used to monitor and review progress.

**3 Options and Reasons for Recommendations**

3.1 It is recommended the Committee agree the updated strategy to ensure the Council responds to current housing needs and priorities.

**4 Policy/Budget Reference and Implications**

4.1 The recommendations in this report are within the Council’s agreed policy and budgets. The relevant policy is entitled the Council’s Strategic Plan.

4.2 The recommendations in this report relate to the achievement of the following performance indicators.

4.2.1 HN01- Maximum number of households living in temporary accommodation on the last day of the quarter (snapshot)

4.2.2 HN02- Maximum number of families in Bed & Breakfast for more than six weeks

4.2.3 HN03- Maximum number of households in temporary accommodation throughout the year

4.2.4 HN06- Promote access to private sector lettings through RDGS

4.2.5 HN10- Number of households prevented from becoming homeless

**5 Financial, Legal, Staffing, Environmental, Community Safety, Public Health, Customer Services Centre, Communications & Website, Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications**

5.1 None specific.

**6 Equal Opportunities Implications**

6.1 Relevance Test

Has a relevance test been completed for Equality Impact?	Yes
Did the relevance test conclude a full impact assessment was required?	Yes

6.2 Impact Assessment

Our strategy is fully inclusive of all individuals and provides a fair and equal service to all service users. Following analysis of the evidence we would deduce that there

is no impact on any of the groups that come under the umbrella of the protected characteristics.

**7 Recommendation**

7.1 That the Committee agree the updated strategy to ensure the Council responds to current housing needs and priorities.

Report prepared by: Kimberley Grout, Head of Housing Services

**Data Quality**

Data sources:

Consultation document

Data checked by:

Alison Mirpuri, Consultation Officer

Data rating:

<b>1</b>	<b>Poor</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Sufficient</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>High</b>	

**APPENDICES / ATTACHMENTS**

Appendix one: Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2017-2022