

REPORT TO:	HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES	AGENDA ITEM: 8
DATE OF MEETING:	30th JANUARY 2020	CATEGORY:
REPORT FROM:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR, SERVICE DELIVERY	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	paul.whittingham@southderbys.gov.uk	DOC:
SUBJECT:	HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY	
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: (See Notes)

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the content of the Homelessness Strategy Statement submitted to the Ministry of Community Housing and Local Government is noted.
- 1.2 That the Committee approves the procurement of an external provider to carry out a comprehensive review of homelessness services and produce a Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Temporary Accommodation Strategy.

2.0 Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 To inform the Committee of the Homelessness Strategy Statement submitted to the Ministry of Communities Housing and Local Government (MCHLG)
- 2.2 To seek Committee approval for the completion of a comprehensive review of homelessness and services to prevent homelessness in South Derbyshire.
- 2.3 To seek Committee approval for the procurement of external consultancy services to carry out this review and produce a Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Temporary Accommodation Strategy Document.

3.0 Executive Summary

- 3.1 The Council's previous Homelessness Prevention Strategy and Action Plan was published in 2013. The Council was required to submit a Homelessness Rough Sleeping and Temporary Accommodation strategy to MCHLG by 31st of December 2019.
- 3.2 In advance of preparing the Strategy, the South Derbyshire Homelessness Conference, which took place in October 2019 considered the potential content and nature of a revised strategy and the actions that it could contain. Advice was also subsequently sought from national housing experts and an external consultant was appointed to advise the Council about the current position.

- 3.3 After carrying out a desk top review of the previous strategy and current performance and best practice information, the consultant produced a Strategy Statement Document (Appendix A) which was submitted by the deadline of 31st December 2019. This contains proposals for the completion of a fundamental review of services for the Homeless in South Derbyshire.

4.0 Detail

- 4.1 Current local and national homelessness statistics and the previous strategy documents were assessed against the recently published Local Government Association (LGA), 'Making Homelessness Strategies Happen: Ensuring Accountability and Deliverability.' Considering this, the Council was advised to submit the attached Strategy Statement Document (Appendix A) to MCHLG by the 31st of December deadline. The statement includes a timetable for a fundamental review of Homelessness Services in South Derbyshire.
- 4.2 The objectives of the review will be to:
1. Carry out a Homelessness Review
 2. Formulate and publish a Homelessness Strategy
 3. Ensure accountability and deliverability of the Homelessness Strategy
 4. Promote opportunities to co-operate tackle homelessness.
- 4.3 All forms of homelessness will be considered when carrying out the Homelessness Review including those who:
- are street homelessness,
 - are hidden homelessness,
 - have been illegally evicted,
 - are living in accommodation that is unaffordable, unfit, overcrowded, are experiencing domestic abuse or threats of domestic abuse, and other exceptional circumstances,
 - are at threatened with becoming homeless due to parents/family/other no longer willing or able to accommodate, leaving care, prison the armed forces or escaping domestic abuse), and
 - have been served a notice to quit their tenancy by private or social landlord.
- 4.4 This review will culminate in the production of a Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Temporary Accommodation document by June 2020.
- 4.5 The desk-top work completed thus far has identified that dedicated resources are required to complete a fundamental review which complies with recently published LGA best practice guidance, which is attached at Appendix B. The Housing Service and Housing Strategy Team do not currently have enough capacity to dedicate to a comprehensive independent District-wide and partnership-based review.
- 4.6 Consequently, it will be necessary to procure external support for the completion of this work through an existing framework of approved and suitably qualified providers.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 From discussions with other Councils and consultancy providers It is estimated that the procurement of external services to review Homelessness Provision and produce a strategy document will cost around £24,000. This can be met from existing Homelessness funding provision.

6.0 Corporate Implications

Employment Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct employment implications contained within this report.

Legal Implications

- 6.2 There are no direct legal implications contained within this report

Corporate Plan Implications

- 6.3 This report will make a direct contribution to the Council's Corporate Plan objective for Supporting and safeguarding the most vulnerable, through:
- a. With partners encourage independent living and keep residents healthy and happy in their homes.
 - b. Promote health and wellbeing across the District.

Risk Impact

- 6.4 This report contributes directly to mitigating the risk identified in the Service Delivery Risk Register: SD7 - Insufficient supply of affordable homes to meet Council needs relating to allocations and homelessness

7.0 Community Impact

Consultation

- 7.1 Consultation with stakeholder groups has already been carried out through the South Derbyshire Homelessness Conference. Further public and stakeholder consultation will be carried out within the review process itself.

Equality and Diversity Impact

- 7.2 The review will consider all aspects of homelessness including homelessness amongst excluded and or protected groups.

Social Value Impact

- 7.3 Identifying causes and actions to resolve homelessness and rough sleeping will positively impact on the social value of Council Services for the people of South Derbyshire.

Environmental Sustainability

- 7.4 There are no direct issues regarding environmental sustainability within this report.

8.0 Conclusions

- 8.1 That a comprehensive review of services is necessary to meet the needs of people in the district and the expectation of Government.
- 8.2 That dedicated resource is required to complete the review and a new strategy document within the timescales required.
- 8.3 This resource will need to be procured externally.

9.0 Background Papers

- 9.1 South Derbyshire District Council Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2013.

Notes:

- * Category – Please see the Committee Terms Of Reference in [Responsibility for Functions - Committees](#). This shows which committee is responsible for each function and whether it has delegated authority to make a decision, or needs to refer it elsewhere with a recommendation.
- ** Open/Exempt - All reports should be considered in the open section of the meeting, unless it is likely that exempt information would be disclosed. Please see the [Access to Information Procedure Rules](#) for more guidance.
- *** Committee Terms Of Reference in [Responsibility for Functions - Committees](#).