

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM: 8</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> JUNE 2021</b>	<b>CATEGORY: (See Notes) DELEGATED or RECOMMENDED</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>STRATEGIC DIRECTOR SERVICE DELIVERY</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
<b>MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:</b>	<b>PAUL WHITTINGHAM <a href="mailto:Paul.whittingham@southderbyshire.gov.uk">Paul.whittingham@southderbyshire.gov.uk</a></b>	<b>DOC:</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY</b>	
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE: (See Notes)</b>

## **1.0 Recommendations**

- 1.1 That the Committee approves the draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and Action Plan for publication
- 1.2 That progress on the Action Plan is reported back to a future Housing and Community Services Committee.

## **2.0 Purpose of the Report**

- 2.1 The Draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy was approved by the Committee for further public consultation on 28 January 2021. The consultation has concluded and the final version of the Strategy and Action Plan is attached for final approval and subsequent publication. The final version of the Strategy is attached at Appendix A, the final version of the Action plan is attached at Appendix B. A summary of the outcome of the Consultation Process is attached at Appendix C and the Equality Impact Assessment is attached at Appendix D.

## **3.0 Executive Summary**

- 3.1 The strategic review of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Services was commissioned by the Council and approved at the Housing and Community Services Committee meeting on 30 January 2020.
- 3.2 A Draft Strategy and Action Plan was presented to the Housing and Community Services Committee on 28 January 2021. The Draft Strategy was subject to a period of stakeholder, partner and public consultation which has recently concluded. Consultees was completed "on line" with telephone consultation available where necessary.
- 3.3 Approval is now sought for the draft strategy and Action Plan to be and published..

## 4.0 Detail

4.1 As reported to the Housing and Community Services Committee on 28 January 2021, consultation on the Draft Strategy and Action Plan was carried out via the Council's website. The consultation took the form of a questionnaire which asked the following questions:

- a. Do you think South Derbyshire District Council's Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy identifies the key issues facing households in our District?
- b. After considering the feedback from our stakeholders and households we have five priorities. Do you agree these should be our priorities?
- c. Which actions in our action plan do you think we should focus on to help reduce homelessness and rough sleeping.
- d. If you have any suggestions for specific actions that should be included in the Strategy or any further comments, please provide details below:

4.2 A total of nine responses to the Consultation were received. This is possibly due to the fact that, customers, stakeholder and partner agencies had already been involved in the consultation during the review process itself and through their involvement in the Homelessness Forum.

4.3 A breakdown of responses is in the table below.

1. Which of the follow applies to you:→			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Local authority employee or member		33.33%	3
2	Other statutory organisation		11.11%	1
3	Voluntary sector organisation		11.11%	1
4	Service user		0.00%	0
5	Member of the public		44.44%	4
6	Landlord		0.00%	0
			answered	9
			skipped	0

4.4 The majority of responses to the questionnaire agreed that the review and Strategy had identified the key issues with regards to homelessness and rough sleeping in South Derbyshire.

4.5 Respondents were also asked to rank in order of importance the actions suggested within the Strategy and Action plan. The outcome of this ranking is:

1. Develop a joined-up approach to homeless prevention and early intervention;

2. Ensure an adequate supply of temporary accommodation to meet the needs of customers and reduce the use of bed and breakfast;
3. Meet the housing and support needs of clients with multiple and complex needs;
4. Deliver an effective Housing Solutions Service designed to meet the needs of customers;
5. Develop and improve access to a wide range of settled and supported accommodation solutions.

4.6 Comments received from the respondents also highlighted the fact that the causes of and solutions to homelessness and rough sleeping are often complex and multi faceted. The Strategy and Action Plan reflects this and aims to build and improve on the existing multi agency approach to preventing homelessness and also managing those affected by it.

## **5.0 Financial Implications**

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications within this report. Homelessness services are funded through the General Fund with support from central government Homeless Prevention Funding. This has recently been increased by around £40,000 to £206,311. The Housing and Community Services Committee meeting on 1 October 2020 agreed to increase the budget for permanent dedicated resource for managing homelessness within the Housing Service as part of the Housing Service Review.
- 5.2 Any further project proposals that require funding, identified through the implementation of the Strategy will be reported to the Housing and Community Services Committee at a future date.

## **6.0 Corporate Implications**

### **Employment Implications**

- 6.1 There are no direct employment implications 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, the Derbyshire Homeless Officer Group, other housing providers and the Housing Service's staff team. This was followed by the public consultation outlined in the report.

### **Equality and Diversity Impact**

- 7.2 A preliminary Equality Impact Assessment has been completed using the Council's draft guidelines. The Strategy and Action Plan have been assessed as having a potentially positive impact on people in the community who may have "protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010. The assessment document is attached at Appendix D. The review itself has considered 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 The review of homelessness and rough sleeping and the subsequent production of the Strategy and Action Plan provides a clear path for the Council towards the greater prevention of homelessness in the District and also the delivery of more holistic services to support households that experience the trauma of having no settled home.
- 8.2 Existing partnerships formed across the County and also within the District provide a strong basis for achieving success in both aspects of this.

## **9.0 Background Papers**

- 9.1 Reports on the Homelessness and tough Sleeping Strategy Review and strategy presented to the Housing and Community Services Committee on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021

