

CABINET

DATE OF MEETING:	3 March 2022
TITLE OF REPORT:	Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-27
Report of:	Head of Community
Cabinet Portfolio:	Community
Key Decision	No
Confidentiality	Non Exempt

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval for the adoption of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-27.

2 OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy attached as **Appendix A** be recommended for adoption by Cabinet.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 It is a statutory requirement for the Council to publish a Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy that sets out its plans to prevent and tackle homelessness in the area.
- 3.2 Officers have conducted a review of homelessness, including a desktop review of data and carried out a wide range of consultation including a series of workshops with staff and stakeholders. A telephone survey of recent service users was conducted, and face to face interviews at Heathlands Court were carried out. An online survey was sent to a comprehensive range of organisations and individuals, including all Members.
- 3.3 Members of Overview and Scrutiny Committee were invited to join a Task and Finish Group, to assist in the review of services and in developing the priorities for the new strategy. Members of this Group have also been involved in reviewing the draft strategy before bringing it forward to this committee.
- 3.4 The review of homelessness and wide-ranging consultation carried out has helped to inform the strategy's delivery plan which has been developed with our key partners and reflects the views of consultees. The Delivery Plan will help the Council develop its approach to preventing and tackling homelessness over the next 5 years. The strategy document, including the delivery plan, is included with this report at **Appendix A**.

4 MAIN ISSUES

4.1 The review of local homelessness and rough sleeping and the associated consultation activity identified 4 key priority areas for the Council to focus on. These are in keeping with the Government's national priorities and the Council's Corporate Plan and Corporate Vision.

4.2 The four key priorities identified are:

- **Prevention** - having measures and initiatives in place to prevent homelessness from happening.
- **Intervention** - having targeted support in place for those in crisis, at the point of homelessness.
- **Recovery** - having support in place to help to rebuild lives.
- **Partnerships** - working together to find effective longer-term solutions and interventions.

4.3 In essence, the strategy sets out a range of activity over the short to medium term that will drive forward improvement in the delivery of the services that are provided to those who find themselves facing homelessness. As with the outgoing strategy, the focus is on preventing homelessness, by working as 'upstream' as possible, to resolve people's housing issues before they hit crisis point. The Council cannot achieve this in isolation and the delivery plan sets out workstreams and actions that will be delivered by a range of local partners.

5 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY DISCUSSION

5.1 Following a discussion at Overview and Scrutiny in January 2022, Members recommended that the Strategy be adopted by Cabinet. There were a number of minor revisions requested by the committee, such as improved numbering and version control. These have been taken on board in this final version of the strategy.

5.2 The draft strategy provided to committee has since also been improved through graphic design work.

5.3 Overall, the Strategy was well received, and the priorities identified were supported.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

6.1 It is a legal requirement to publish a Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and so there is no alternative to bringing this forward for adoption.

7 CORPORATE GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or The Hart Vision 2040

The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy links directly into the Corporate Plan priorities including "A Thriving Local Economy", specifically in supporting residents in becoming economically active, "Healthy Communities

and People”, specifically, supporting residents in taking control of their own health and wellbeing and ensure access to housing.

This Strategy also links directly to the Council’s Vision 2040. “The place to live” priority identifies the need to improve affordability so families can stay close together and help our communities flourish.

7.2 Service Plan

Is the proposal identified in the Service Plan?	Yes
Is the proposal being funded from current budgets?	Yes
Have staffing resources already been identified and set aside for this proposal?	Yes

7.3 Legal and Constitutional Issues

It is a legal requirement that the Council publishes an up-to-date Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and Action Plan. This strategy also supports the Council’s statutory homelessness and rough sleeping duties and assists in guiding the work of the Council and its partner agencies.

7.4 Financial and Resource Implications

All the financial and resource implications associated with this Strategy will be met within existing resources, which includes the use of central Government Homelessness Prevention Grant.

7.5 Risk Management

The Council is required to publish this strategy. If it fails to do so, it is unlikely that it will be able to access any government funding in relation to tackling homelessness.

In addition, it is essential to have a strategic vision for the work of the homelessness service. The strategy and the delivery plan tie the council and its partners in to delivering an effective, efficient and continually improving cross sector provision for residents.

8 EQUALITIES

8.1 This Strategy has been evaluated using the Council Equality Impact Assessment which identified that the Strategy is likely to have a positive impact on the following groups -

8.2 Women, Men, Disability, Children and Young People, Older Adults, Pregnancy and Maternity, Low Income/ benefits/ Unemployed, Living in Rural Areas.

8.3 No negative impacts were identified in the EIA assessment.

9 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no direct carbon/environmental impacts arising from the recommendations.

10 ACTION

10.1 It is requested that Cabinet approves the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-27.

Contact Details: Kirsty Jenkins - Kirsty.Jenkins@Hart.gov.uk
 Nicola Harpham - Nicola.Harpham@Hart.gov.uk
 Kelly Watts – Kelly.Watts@Hart.gov.uk

Appendices

**Add rows as required to box below*

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-27							
B	Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy Action Plan 2022-27							

Background papers:

**Add rows as required to box below*

*Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are **unpublished** works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.*

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Equality Impact Assessment							
N/A							