



EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT COVER SHEET

Title of Report:	Homelessness Strategy Renewal	To be marked with an 'X' by Democratic Services after report has been presented
Meeting of:	Corporate Management Team – 15 November 2023	X
	Pre Cabinet – 23 November	X
	Leader's / Leader of the Opposition's Advisory Group – 30 November 2023 & 6 December 2023	X
	Cabinet – 18 December 2023	
	Audit Committee [DATE] / Scrutiny Regeneration, Development and Market Hall Committee [DATE] / Scrutiny Health and Well Being Committee [DATE] / Scrutiny Climate Change and Environment Committee / Scrutiny Value for Money Council Committee [DATE]	



Is this an Executive Decision:	YES	Is this a Key Decision:	NO
Is this in the Forward Plan:	YES	Is the Report Confidential: If so, please state relevant paragraph from Schedule 12A LGA 1972:	NO

Essential Signatories:

ALL REPORTS MUST BE IN THE NAME OF A HEAD OF SERVICE

Deputy Monitoring Officer: **Sherrie Grant**

Date ...7.11.2023..... Signature

Interim Chief Finance Officer: **Stephen Fitzgerald**

Date ...7.11.2023..... SignatureS. Fitzgerald.....

EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Cabinet

Date: 18th December 2023

REPORT TITLE: Homelessness Strategy Renewal
PORTFOLIO: Communities and Regulatory Services
CHIEF OFFICER: Thomas Deery
CONTACT OFFICER: Brett Atkinson Ext. No. x1123
WARD(S) AFFECTED: Multiple

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. To seek approval for the draft Homelessness Strategy (Appendix 1), which has been informed by the Homelessness Review (Appendix 2).

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The Homelessness Strategy is a strategy for avoiding homelessness, securing the availability of accommodation, and for providing support.¹

3. Background

- 3.1. The Council is required under the Homelessness Act 2002² to adopt a new Homelessness Strategy every 5 years, and our current strategy is now due for renewal.
- 3.2. The legislation requires that the Homelessness Strategy be based on the results of a Homelessness Review. The results of the Homelessness Review are set out in the document at Appendix 2.

¹ Homelessness Act 2002 S3(1)

² <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/7/section/1>

4. Contribution to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1. Standing up for our communities

5. The Homelessness Strategy 2023 - 2028

- 5.1. The draft strategy recommends that the Council maintain its commitment to delivering a high standard of homelessness service, for example by working closely with DLUHC's Specialist Advisor Team and focussing on the 'key themes' they have identified as being important. However there a number of points to highlight as follows:

- 5.1.1. The draft strategy is 15 pages long and is therefore concise, so it should be read in conjunction with the Homelessness Review which provides more detail on the activities listed in the strategy.

- 5.1.2. The issue of single homelessness and rough sleeping is given specific attention in the strategy, recognising the work that is being undertaken in this area.

- 5.1.3. An action plan for implementation is to be produced annually, in recognition of the changing landscape in homelessness.

- 5.2. Before adopting a homelessness strategy the Council is required to consult such public or local authorities, voluntary organisations or other persons as it considers appropriate. The Council consulted for 4 weeks in respect of the Review and the Strategy, with a few responses being received in each case. The responses have been used to further refine both documents.

- 5.3. The draft strategy also references the 631 units of affordable housing that have been delivered between 2017 and 2022, however the forthcoming Annual Monitoring Report also identifies a further 233 units for 2022/23, which is significantly in excess of the annual requirement of 112 units, demonstrating that the area is currently providing more affordable housing than is required.

6. Financial Considerations

This section has been approved by the following member of the Financial Management Unit: James Hopwood

- 6.1. The Council has a number of statutory duties to provide temporary accommodation for homeless residents and to help prevent homelessness.
- 6.2. The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping strategy sets out the method and criteria by which the Council will deliver its statutory duties around homelessness and the prevention of homelessness. Demand levels to deliver these statutory duties are mainly be driven by external factors, such as the economy, housing costs and demography. This means the level of demand in each financial year can be uncertain and volatile.

- 6.3. The cost of delivering the Council's statutory duties is funded from Council revenue budgets as well as a number of specific revenue grants from the Government.

7. Risk Assessment and Management

- 7.1. The main risks to this Report and the Council achieving its objectives are as follows:

7.2. **Positive** (Opportunities/Benefits):

7.2.1. The draft strategy is the product of consultation with partners and stakeholders, and they did not identify any concerns about the Council's services.

7.2.2. The strategy identifies ways in which the Council can intervene early to avoid or prevent homelessness.

7.3. **Negative** (Threats):

7.3.1. The draft strategy does not contain new spending commitments and it may be criticised for that.

- 7.4. The risks do not need to be entered in the Risk Register. Any financial implications to mitigate against these risks are considered above.

8. Legal Considerations

*This section has been approved by the following member of the Legal Team:
Glen McCusker – Locum Solicitor*

- 8.1. The main legal issues arising from this Report are as follows:

8.1.1. By s1 Homelessness Act 2002, all local housing authorities must formulate a homelessness strategy, at least every 5 years.

8.1.2. Under Section 2, the Authority must conduct a review of the levels and future levels of homelessness in its district, consider the activities to combat homelessness, and the resources available.

8.1.3. After completing the Review the results must be made available in the Council's principal office and copies made available for the public.

9. Equalities and Health

- 9.1. **Equality impacts:** The subject of this Report is a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised. An equality and health impact assessment is attached as Appendix 3.

- 9.2. **Health impacts:** The outcome of the health screening question does not require a full Health Impact Assessment to be completed. An equality and health impact assessment is attached as Appendix 3.

10. Data Protection Implications – Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)

10.1. A DPIA must be completed where there are plans to:

- use systematic and extensive profiling with significant effects;
- process special category or criminal offence data on a large scale; or
- systematically monitor publicly accessible places on a large scale
- use new technologies;
- use profiling or special category data to decide on access to services;
- profile individuals on a large scale;
- process biometric data;
- process genetic data;
- match data or combine datasets from different sources;
- collect personal data from a source other than the individual without providing them with a privacy notice ('invisible processing');
- track individuals' location or behaviour;
- profile children or target marketing or online services at them; or
- process data that might endanger the individual's physical health or safety in the event of a security breach

10.2 Following consideration of the above, there are no Data Protection implications arising from this report which would require a DPIA.

11. **Human Rights**

11.1. There are no Human Rights issues arising from this Report.

12. **Sustainability** (including climate change and change adaptation measures)

12.1. Does the proposal result in an overall positive effect in terms of sustainability (including climate change and change adaptation measures) N/A

13. **Recommendation(s)**

13.1. To adopt the draft Homelessness Strategy 2023 - 2028.

14. **Background Papers**

14.1. The Homelessness Strategy 2018 – 2023

15. **Appendices**

15.1. Appendix 1: Draft Homelessness Strategy 2023 – 2028

15.2. Appendix 2: Review of Homelessness 2018 – 2023

15.3. Appendix 3: Equality and Health Impact Assessment