

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> January 2020</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Executive Director of Housing, Neighbourhoods and Communities</b>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Justine Harris and Jenny Knight</b>	<b>Tel: 01273 293772</b>
	<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:Justine.harris@brighton-hove.gov.uk">Justine.harris@brighton-hove.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:Jenny.knight@brighton-hove.gov.uk">Jenny.knight@brighton-hove.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	<b>All</b>		

**FOR GENERAL RELEASE****1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEX**

- 1.1 This report summarises the development to date of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025.
- 1.2 The draft strategy identifies the key homelessness and rough sleeping issues in Brighton and Hove and action which will be taken to address these.
- 1.3 The draft strategy provides evidence to support related funding opportunities and collaborative working to meet a range of shared citywide priorities.
- 1.4 The draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025 reflects the national approach focusing on Prevention, Intervention and Sustainability. This approach was supported during citywide consultation.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 That Housing Committee note the consultation on the Homeless & Rough Sleeper Strategy undertaken to date, our response, and how this has shaped the development of the new draft strategy.
- 2.2 That Housing Committee approve the draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy for further consultation.

**3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 [Section 1\(1\) of the Homelessness Act](#) 2002 requires housing authorities to carry out a homelessness review for their district and formulate and publish a homelessness strategy based on the results of the review.
- 3.2 The draft strategy is consistent with other local plans and has been developed following citywide consultation with residents, people who are rough sleeping in

city, businesses, other council departments and statutory and non-statutory partners.

- 3.3 The Review of Homelessness, summarised in the strategy, brings together information on homelessness and housing issues including causes of homelessness and work done to prevent homelessness.
- 3.4 The values included in the draft strategy align with the thirteen areas outlined in Brighton and Hove Housing Coalition's Homeless Bill of Rights.
- 3.5 Following the adoption of a strategy, action plans will link to the identified values and priorities, taking into account legal and resource implications.
- 3.6 In order to achieve transparency and accountability, action plans reflecting work linked to the strategy will be produced annually. Housing Committee will receive an annual report in the summer of each year on the progress of the actions commencing 2021.
- 3.7 A final draft of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy will be presented to Housing Committee in March 2020 following further consultation.

#### **4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1 Homelessness Act 2002 Section 1(4) requires housing authorities to publish a Homelessness Strategy, based on the results of a homelessness review. This Review of Homelessness is summarised in the draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.

#### **5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 The themes of the strategy and priority actions have been developed through consultation with community groups, public sector service providers, residents, businesses and landlords.
- 5.2 179 people attended 19 consultation events, 57 organisations were represented.
- 5.3 There was also an open online consultation questionnaire which received 336 responses. The main findings are included in the consultation report and are summarised in the draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.
- 5.4 Before presenting a final draft to Housing Committee further consultation will take place to ensure that the strategy fully reflects the city's feedback and priorities.

#### **6. CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 Any resolution of much of the city's homelessness and rough sleeping is a citywide issue and requires a citywide response from statutory bodies and community groups, along with service user engagement.
- 6.2 The draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy looks to resolve the city's homelessness crisis by promoting effective partnerships, cross city collaboration,

and securing and sustaining people in good quality accommodation that meets their needs.

- 6.3 Under guidance issued by Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government, the council will have responsibility to produce an action plan published annually.
- 6.4 The development and delivery of the annual action plan will be the responsibility of a new Homeless Reduction Board. This will ensure accountability and transparency around the work done to date and the future planned actions that will be taken to resolve homelessness, and housing need. The first annual plan will be drafted by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020.

## **7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

### Financial Implications:

- 7.1 The costs associated with undertaking consultation to support this strategy will be met from existing resources within Housing General Fund budgets. Following the adoption of a strategy, action plans will link to the identified values and priorities. Any action plans requiring further financial resources will need to be reported to the relevant Committee(s) for approval.

*Finance Officer Consulted: Monica Brooks      Name Date: 06/01/2020*

### Legal Implications:

- 7.2 Section 1 of the Homelessness Act 2002 imposes a duty on the council as a local housing authority to carry out a homelessness review for their district; and to formulate and publish a homelessness strategy based on the results of that review. The new strategy must be published within 5 years of publication of the previous one. The proposals outlined in the report will assist the council in discharging its obligations under the Act.
- 7.3 As the proposal is for further consultation on this draft strategy, this should take place and then further legal advice can be given to any finalised version.

*Lawyer Consulted:                      Simon Court                                      Date: 06/01/2020*

### Equalities Implications:

- 7.4 Will be considered as part of the development of the final Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.

### Equalities Impact Assessment:

- 7.5 The Equalities Impact Assessment will be presented with the final draft of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.

### Sustainability Implications:

7.6 None identified at this time.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

7.7 Rough sleepers are known to be victims of crime in the city. Cases are reported of rough sleepers being verbally abused and physically attacked. A proportion of rough sleepers will be in the judicial system and leaving prison without somewhere to live is a driver to rough sleeping.

Public Health Implications:

7.8 Reducing and resolving homelessness should have a positive impact for public health. This will be kept under review in the development of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

7.9 The Homelessness Code of Guidance 2018 states "For a homelessness strategy to be effective, housing authorities should ensure that it is consistent with other local plans and is developed with, and has the support of, all relevant local authority departments and partners. Corporate and partnership involvement in identifying strategic objectives will help to ensure all relevant departments and agencies are committed to supporting their delivery". The action plans and the annual report will set out how the proposals affect other services and the city as a whole.

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

### **Draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025**

#### **Background Documents**

Background documents relating to the draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy are included in the Review of Homelessness in Brighton and Hove.

The following draft background documents have been made available in the Members Room and on line.

- Draft Homeless Review;
- Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy - Consultation Feedback Report December 2019.