

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING	Cabinet	
DATE	7 November 2019	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 3176
TITLE:	Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy (2019-2024) Update	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: None.		

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 The Homelessness Act 2002 requires the Council to carry out a review of homelessness to inform the production of a homelessness strategy every 5 years. The draft Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-24 meets this requirement.

2 RECOMMENDATION

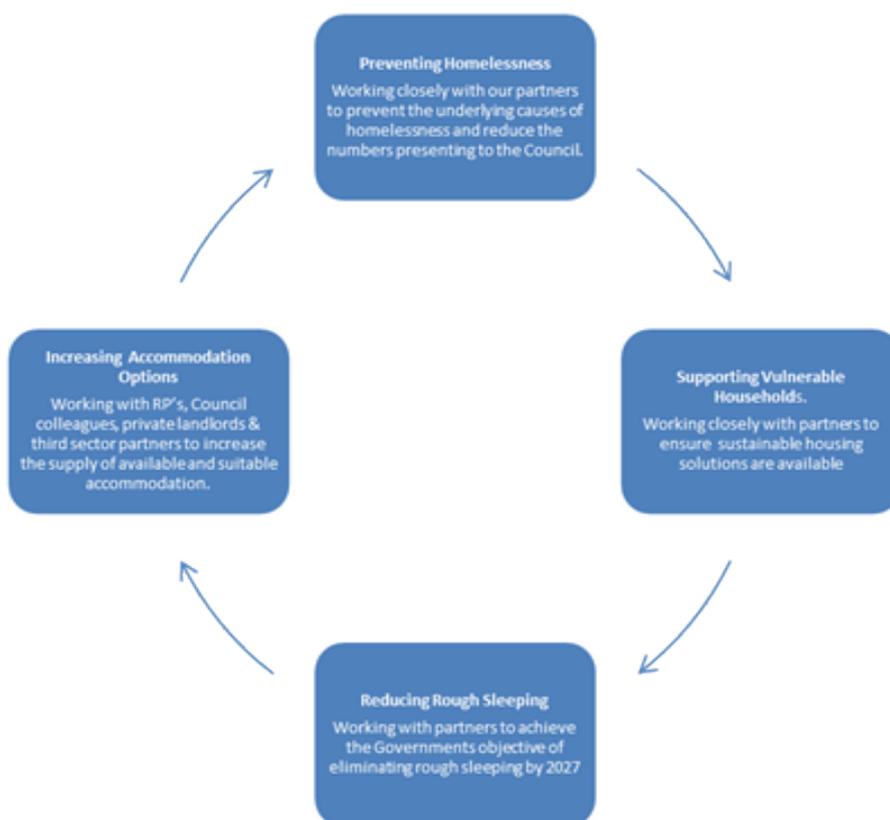
The Cabinet is asked to;

2.1 Note the current consultation exercise and approach in regard to tackling homelessness and the priorities set out in the draft document.

THE REPORT

2.2 The draft Strategy is currently out for consultation with the Homelessness Partnership with a deadline for responses of 23 October. It will also go to the Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel on 18th November. The full and final version, having regard to comments received, will come to Cabinet for decision in December.

2.3 The Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy proposes the following framework for tackling homelessness:



2.4 Working within the above framework, the following key priorities are proposed:

No.	What we will do	Why we are doing it	What needs to happen
1	Increase access to PRS	Move-on from all supported housing and TA has slowed down. Knock-on to rough sleeping levels and impact on Council budgets for TA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult with landlords to find out what would persuade them to work with us. Investigate and pilot an incentives scheme for estate/lettings agencies securing PRS accommodation. Use Payment by Results model. Investigate purchase of empty properties for lease

No.	What we will do	Why we are doing it	What needs to happen
			by Third Sector agency.
2	Improve the Temporary Accommodation offer and reduce duration of all stays, particularly B&B.	Use of all Temporary Accommodation and duration of stays is increasing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act on recommendations of the Review of Temporary Accommodation 2019. • Improve throughput – cut void times and move people on to long term housing more quickly. • Reduce use of out of area B&B placements. • Establish units of Dispersed accommodation outside Bath.
3	Improve likelihood of successful tenancies	Even with support some tenancies fail. We need to reduce the incidence of evictions from all tenures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure tenancy training is appropriate and current. Review with training providers. • Establish a pathway through training to long-term accommodation • Improve awareness of work & training opportunities – increase incomes.
4	Improve our understanding of the pathway into and through homelessness services.	There is little shared or common data on use of advice and support services around homelessness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a Task & Finish group to agree a data set for all Homelessness Partnership members. • Quarterly reports to Homelessness Partnership on trends and outcomes. • Drive service developments and improvements to housing pathways. • Improve the quality of funding bids through better data.
5	Identify new funding sources to ensure new rough sleeper provision continues	Pressures on LA budgets; RSI funding not guaranteed after March 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source new funding streams • Work more closely with the CCG and Public Health to identify common outcomes and funding opportunities. • Improve readiness to submit bids for funding.
6	Improve use of supported housing.	We have high rough sleeper numbers. We need to create capacity in accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providers to collaborate on moves between supported housing to create vacancies at Manvers St Hostel • Offer of additional support from floating support and

No.	What we will do	Why we are doing it	What needs to happen
		based services to enable move-on from Manvers Street hostel. There have been vacancies at some supported housing due to not enough people deemed ready/suitable or being too high-risk.	outreach services to ensure stability.
7	Agree a partnership approach to working with rough sleepers unable to access public funds (known as No Recourse to Public Funds – NRPF)	NRPF a thread through all RS work. It's an issue for providers, who provide support via voluntary donations. It also impacts on Safesleep provision/rough sleeping levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with regional/national/government bodies to identify best practice. This has already started and will be further developed. • Agree criteria for access to services that does not discriminate but that ensures best use of resources
8	Continue to develop affordable housing that meets the needs of homeless people.	Increasing numbers of households on housing register/in supported housing/TA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate purchase of empty properties for use as social housing.
9	Work with service users and providers to identify creative prevention approaches	To reduce repeat homelessness rates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish new service user feedback methods that enable real change • Improve early warning mechanisms that improve partnerships between accommodation and support providers – without compromising privacy • Support and accommodation providers to develop trauma-informed ways of working. • Look at options for specialist women's services. • Work with criminal justice partners to deliver on national policy for offenders on release.

3 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 It is a requirement of the Homelessness Act 2002 to review homelessness every five years and produce a strategy to address its causes and impacts.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

4.1 There are no direct resource implications arising from this report.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT

5.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

6 CLIMATE CHANGE

6.1 A small number of people approaching the Council because they are homeless are initially placed in B&B outside Bath & North East Somerset, principally in Bristol. By acting on the recommendations contained within the Review of Temporary Accommodation (referenced in the Strategy and priorities), this number will reduce. Provision within Bath & North East Somerset will reduce travel between the two cities. This will not only improve outcomes for those vulnerable individuals by making access to support easier, it will also contribute to the Council's targets around carbon neutrality and climate change.

6.2 Proposals within the same review to locate Dispersed Temporary accommodation units outside Bath would also contribute to carbon targets by reducing distances travelled to work and school for families accommodated in this type of accommodation.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 None.

8 CONSULTATION

8.1 Whilst there are no direct financial implications arising from this current consultation and development stage, the Strategy itself, due to return to Cabinet on 5 December will include financial implications. This report has been cleared by the s151 Officer and Monitoring Officer.

Contact person	Ann Robins, 01225 396288
Background papers	<i>None</i>
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	