

Crawley Borough Council

Report to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission 25th November 2019

Report to Cabinet 27th November 2019

Homelessness Review and Homelessness Strategy 2019 - 2024

Report of the Head of Strategic Housing – SHAP/76

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To request approval for the draft Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019 - 2024 (Appendix A) to be adopted to update the Council's Homelessness Strategy 2014 – 2019 which expires at the end of the year.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To the Overview and Scrutiny Commission:

That the Commission consider the Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019 – 2024 and decide what comments, if any, it wishes to submit to the Cabinet.

- 2.2 To the Cabinet

- a) The Cabinet is recommended to request Full Council to approve the Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019 – 2024 (Appendix A) for adoption and subsequent publication.
- b) Delegate authority to the Head of Strategic Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, to make minor amendments to the Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy and Action Plan as further changes to legislation and statutory guidance are introduced and following an annual review of the Action Plan. (Generic Delegation 7 will be used to enact this recommendation).

3. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 3.1 To fulfil the Council's legal duty to publish a Homelessness Strategy on expiry of the previous Homelessness Strategy, designed to demonstrate how the authority intends to prevent and address homelessness in the future.

4. Background

- 4.1 Section 1 of the Homelessness Act 2002 imposes a legal duty on all local authorities to conduct a review of homelessness within their area and to then formulate and publish a homelessness strategy based on the results of the review. Homelessness strategies must be renewed at least every five years.

- 4.2 In section 2 the legislation specifies what a homelessness review must cover, which includes a review of the following within the local authority's area:
- the levels, and likely future levels, of homelessness in the area;
 - the activities which are carried out for, or which contribute to the achievement of, preventing homelessness in the area, securing that accommodation is or will be available for people in the area who are or may become homeless and providing support for homeless people in the area; and
 - the resources available to the authority, the social services authority for their district, other public authorities, voluntary organisations and other persons for such activities.
- 4.3 In section 3 of the Homelessness Act 2002 a definition of a homelessness strategy is given, which is a strategy formulated by the local authority for specified purposes including the following:
- for preventing homelessness in the council's area;
 - for securing that sufficient accommodation is and will be available for people in their area who are or may become homeless; and
 - for securing the satisfactory provision of support for people in their area who are or may become homeless, or people who have been homeless and need support to prevent them becoming homeless again.
- 4.4 The Council must publish a new homelessness strategy to replace the previous one. The proposed Strategy and Action Plan are based on the findings of the Review.
- 4.5 In August 2018, a Cross-Government Rough Sleeping Strategy was published where Government committed to ensuring that all local authorities have an up to date homelessness strategy, incorporating how they intend to tackle rough sleeping, in place by 31st December 2019.

5. Description of Issue to be resolved

- 5.1 The Council must publish a new Homelessness Strategy to replace the Homelessness Strategy 2014 – 2019.
- 5.2 The draft Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019 – 2024, if adopted, will apply to all wards and all service users in Crawley.

6. Information & Analysis Supporting Recommendation

- 6.1 The Homelessness Review and consultation process identified the key areas that the Council needs to address in tackling homelessness and these have been drawn together in the five priorities set out in the draft Homelessness Strategy:
- Preventing and relieving homelessness
 - Tackling rough sleeping
 - Meeting the needs of vulnerable people
 - Accessing suitable and affordable accommodation
 - Preventing repeat homelessness
- 6.2 Within these priorities, the actions that the council will need to take to achieve them have been identified and can be found in the Action Plan.
- 6.3 The consultation process is outlined in Part One, section 1.14 of the Strategy.

7. Implications

- 7.1 Staffing – There are no direct staffing implications associated with implementing the Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019 – 2024.
- 7.2 Financial – There are no direct financial implications associated with implementing the Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019 – 2024.
- 7.3 Legal - Adoption of the Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019 - 2024 fulfils the Council's statutory obligations.
- 7.4 Equalities - An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out and does not identify any action that needs to be taken as a result of the strategy. This is attached as Appendix B.

8. Background Papers

[Homelessness Act 2002](#)

[Homelessness Code of Guidance](#)

[Homelessness Reduction Act 2017](#)

[s.153 Localism Act 2011](#)

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