

BRIEFING NOTE

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

13TH JANUARY 2020

DRAFT HOMELESSNESS REDUCTION & ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY 2019-2024

(Briefing note prepared by Peter Russell)

The draft Homelessness Reduction & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-2024 was approved to go out to public consultation by the Portfolio Holder for Housing on 17th December 2019. The consultation period will start the week beginning 6th January 2020 and will run for six weeks. As part of the consultation process, it has been suggested that the draft strategy be presented to the Community Leadership Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Section 1 Homelessness Act 2002 requires the Council to carry out a review of homelessness in the district and to formulate and publish a homelessness strategy based upon the conclusions in that review and predicted future levels of homelessness in the district. The Council is required to comply with the provisions of the Housing Act 1996 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011 and Homelessness Reduction Act 2017) in assessing, preventing and tackling homelessness in the District.

The Homelessness Reduction & Rough Sleeping Strategy has been drafted following the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. This has been the most significant change to homelessness administration and legislation since the first homelessness legislation was passed in 1977. This strategy has been developed to reduce homelessness and rough sleeping in the district at a time when homelessness is increasing locally and nationally with associated social and financial costs.

The strategy sets out the national and local strategic setting for homelessness and the causes and demographics of homelessness and rough sleeping in the District. It sets out the challenges the Council faces in tackling homelessness and rough sleeping locally and how homelessness is an issue that needs to be tackled in partnership with other agencies. The council, as a community leader, can facilitate earlier prevention and better partnership working.

The strategy identifies four key strategic priorities to reduce homelessness and rough sleeping in the district as follows:

- Earlier Intervention and Education
- Better Partnership and Holistic Working
- Increasing the Supply of Suitable Accommodation
- Exploring New Ways to Prevent and Tackle Rough Sleeping.

Once the consultation period has expired, the Council will produce an action plan to deliver the priorities identified in the strategy.

As part of the consultation process, it is felt that the Community Leadership Overview & Scrutiny Committee should have the opportunity to scrutinise the strategy and make any recommendations to the Portfolio Holder for Housing as necessary.

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