

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Housing Scrutiny Panel

Date **03 February 2022**

Report of: **Deputy Chief Executive Officer**

Subject: **Draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy - Adoption**

SUMMARY

The Homelessness Act 2002 requires all local housing authorities to review homelessness in their area and produce a new homelessness strategy based on the review findings. Following a comprehensive review of homelessness in Fareham, the resultant draft Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy has been subject to a period of public consultation. This report sets out the key findings of the consultation and asks the Panel to consider the strategy and delivery plan and recommend to Executive the approval of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022 – 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Housing Scrutiny Panel:

- (a) consider and comment on the Draft Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy attached at Appendix B to this report, and
- (b) consider and comment on the Draft Delivery Plan attached at Appendix C to this report, and,
- (c) recommend to the Executive that they adopt the Draft Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy and Delivery Plan at their forthcoming meeting on 7 March 2022.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Homelessness Act 2002 placed a range of duties on local housing authorities. Those duties include the duty to undertake periodic reviews of homelessness, and to develop strategies for preventing and tackling homelessness based on the outcomes of those reviews.
2. The Act requires the outcomes of homelessness reviews to be made available publicly for inspection, and that before adopting or modifying a homelessness strategy, the local authority must consult.
3. Public consultation on the Draft Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy and Delivery Plan was approved by the Executive at their meeting on 11 October 2021. Both documents were subsequently subject to an 8-week period of public consultation between 18 October 2021 and 13 December 2021. The responses and feedback from that process have been considered to inform the final versions which are included in Appendices B and C to this report. An Equalities Impact Assessment of the Strategy has also been undertaken and this is included as Appendix D.
4. The adoption of the new Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy and Delivery Plan will ensure Fareham Borough Council has a legally compliant strategy that meets our responsibility for tackling and preventing homelessness.

SUMMARY OF THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

5. A detailed Consultation Statement has been produced (included in Appendix A) which explains how the consultation process was undertaken and the responses received.
6. The Consultation Statement identifies that there were 62 responses received to the draft documents during the consultation period. The Consultation Statement provides an overview of all the matters raised and an officer response where appropriate. There were no matters that would require any changes to either document as the very valid points raised by consultees will be picked up through the Delivery Plan.
7. The Housing Scrutiny Panel were presented with the draft Strategy and Delivery Plan at their meeting on 16 September 2021, enabling Members to give their feedback. Following discussion and review, Members commented that it had been a very good idea to commission the independent review of homelessness services provided by the Council and were fully supportive of the draft documents and had no suggested amendments to make. Members requested that, once adopted, an annual review of the Strategy and Delivery Plan be added to the scrutiny priorities for the Panel.

RISK ASSESSMENT

8. An Equality Impact Assessment of the Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy has been undertaken and can be found at Appendix D to this report. The assessment has not identified any detrimental equality impacts as a result of the proposed Strategy.

Appendices:

A – Consultation Statement

B – Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-2025

C – Delivery Plan

D – Equality Impact Assessment

Background Papers: Corporate Strategy 2017-2023
Optimising Social Housing – Applications & Allocations Policy
Housing Scrutiny Panel Report 16 September 2021
Executive Report 11 October 2021

Reference Papers: Homelessness Act 2002, Sections 1-3
Homelessness Code of Guidance 2018 (DLUHC)
Making Homelessness Strategies Happen (LGA)

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Caroline Newman (Ext 4645)