

FAREHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Consultation Statement

**Draft Homelessness &
Rough Sleeping Strategy**

January 2022

Introduction

The following statement provides an overview of the consultation process and feedback received in relation to the Draft Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy and Delivery Plan.

When?

Public consultation on the Draft Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy took place between the 18th October and the 13th December 2021.

How?

A variety of methods were used to draw attention to the public consultation exercise. These included the following: -

- Notification via the Council's E-Panel & online survey
- Online on the Council's Consultation web-page and linked via the Housing web-pages
- Press release (18th October 2021)
- Paper copies of the Draft Strategy made available on request and in Borough libraries
- Social Media posts relating to the consultation exercise
- Letter or emails to key homelessness services partners in the Borough
- Letter or email to the Registered Providers/Housing Associations in the Borough
- Letter or email to voluntary and faith groups in the Borough
- Item at Housing Scrutiny Panel (16th September 2021)

Responses:

62 responses were received as part of the consultation exercise. A summary of the comments (grouped where common themes have emerged), together with a response when appropriate, is provided in Appendix 1.

The comments/points raised by the Housing Scrutiny Panel are outlined below.

Housing Scrutiny Panel:

At their meeting on 16th September 2021 the Councils' Housing Scrutiny Panel were provided with a copy of the Draft Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy and were invited to provide their comments. A summary of the key points raised are outlined below: -

- Members commented that it had been a very good idea to commission the independent review of homelessness services provided by the Council and commended the Housing Officers for the excellent service provided to residents
- Members were fully supportive of the draft Strategy and had no suggested amendments to make
- Members requested that, as this will be a long term, rolling strategy, an annual review of progress be added to the security priorities for the Panel

The above comments are also reflected in the Draft Minutes from that meeting which are available on the Council's website.

Proposed Changes:

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.

Summary of Responses

Comments relating to the Review of Homeless in Fareham: -	Type of Comment	Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The review looks to be comprehensive and well conducted. • Very comprehensive. • Summary covers the main findings. • Seems clear. • I am very pleased that this is being tackled by FBC and hope it is effective. • Thank you for all your efforts. • Interesting information. • I welcome this independent review. • I think FBC has carried out a very good review. 	Support	Noted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perhaps the 3 people who are still sleeping rough should have a proper mental health assessment? • There are definitely more than 3 people sleeping rough within Fareham. There are currently 2 in Portchester alone. • I think the estimate of rough sleepers is way under and a very rose-tinted view of the borough of Fareham. • The estimate of people sleeping rough in the Borough is vastly underestimated. Those who conducted it, seem to have reached their conclusion based on a quick walk around the town centre and have not visited sites where rough sleepers are well known to be camping, such as the riverside area at Cams, and car parks. • There may only be 3 people logged as sleeping rough but there are many more 'homeless' people sitting around outside shops on the pavement looking for money, coffee, etc. Not a good look. • We believe that the findings in the report underestimate the true extent of homelessness in the borough with many younger residents transiting between sleeping rough and various temporary arrangements such as sofa-surfing. • FBC's response in the past has been wholly inadequate. They have significantly downplayed the numbers of homelessness, they have colluded with the police to either segregate those on the streets or encouraged them to move to other areas. Many homeless find hostel provision to be a hostile environment. 	Comment	<p>Noted. Local authorities across England are required to take an autumn single night snapshot of people sleeping rough which takes place on a 'typical night' on a single date between 1 October and 30 November each year.</p> <p>The snapshot is collated by outreach workers, local charities and community groups and is independently verified by Homeless Link.</p> <p>The snapshot does not include everyone in a local authority with a history of sleeping rough. Nor does it include everyone sleeping rough across the area from the October to November period.</p> <p>The snapshot does not provide a definitive number of people affected homelessness as the term 'homelessness' is much broader than people sleeping rough.</p> <p>The snapshot methodology has been in place since 2010 and is a nationally recognised way to assess changes in the number of people sleeping rough over time and to compare local authorities and regions across England.</p> <p>The Delivery Plan sets out actions to increase the range of accommodation types available to rough sleepers.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These so-called homeless people are the same ones that sleep in St Julien and surrounding other council properties and early next day walk past our properties with their back packs on and sleeping bags and then squat around town begging. They are also involved with rising drug problem in the area as they get paid to deliver it. If you monitor the flats on the cctv you will get a clue but as it's been reported so many times you will probably just ignore it as you have a lot on your plate destroying the town centre. • Some appeared on the street to beg and claimed they were homeless but were topping up their benefits as they would go home at night. I have heard them comparing earnings while travelling on the bus to Gosport at night. 	<p>Comment</p>	<p>Noted. The StreetAid initiative as detailed in the Review of Homelessness document sets out the multi-agency approach to preventing and relieving homelessness as well as improving community safety.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 1000 applicants in housing need requiring social housing on Fareham Borough Council's Housing Register. With this in mind there is no mention of a target build or acquisition of properties to meet this need. • The plan to move 1000 people into social housing is unrealistic as planning is developer led. The lack of LA owned options limits FBC options who are largely dependent on private sector. • There is absolutely no mention of long-term provision of council housing by the council itself. All it talks about is temporary provision as a minimum under the 2017 act. Why is this? There is far too much reliance on the private sector. • I would like to see a return to building for rent social housing. We need to accept that not everyone can afford to pay market rents even if they have a job. The minimum wage still would not pay for rent of £800 a month. It would be an income stream for Fareham and receipts could be invested in new houses. • In the building plan for the area. Start building COUNCIL HOUSES. Or use the new wording ASSISTED HOUSING and then and only then will you solve the problem. Executive houses 4- beds are not what's needed in quantities as it only brings in people from outside the area. It's Council greed for more Council TAX that is driving the Building Programme. • What these results confirm to me is that more social house building is required in this Borough before we should even think about building new houses on the commercial market. • This indicates that there is a shortage of Social Housing. Fareham is embarking on a major house building era – Welbourne and between Stubbings and Fareham. A large number of social houses should be included in the schemes. Such housing is not envisioned by the developers and needs to be mandated. In this century we should 	<p>Comment</p>	<p>Noted. The Council's adopted Affordable Housing Strategy (2019) outlines the Council's objectives and actions to help facilitate the provision of more affordable homes in Fareham Borough. This includes direct delivery of new homes by the Council.</p> <p>In recent years the Council have begun to deliver more new affordable homes and look at regeneration opportunities of older stock that will provide further Council homes. During 2020-2021 the Council's new build affordable homes included 20 new Social Rent homes.</p> <p>The need for Social Rent (the most affordable of affordable homes) will be further supported through the Council's emerging Local Plan which includes a requirement for Social Rent affordable homes on housing developments of 10 or more homes.</p> <p>Housing need includes a variety of tenures and property sizes. The current Local Plan policy requires 30-40% of large new housing developments to be affordable homes. In all but a few cases this is achieved.</p> <p>Homes for affordable home ownership (this includes Shared Ownership and First Homes) are being provided in Fareham Borough. There is a planning requirement for affordable home ownership projects. Some of the Council's own new builds will include Shared Ownership.</p>

<p>build modern factory created homes of a variety of styles (1 to 4 bedroom) low rise specifically as Social Housing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Housing is far below what it should be. • Younger and increasing need for truly affordable accommodation options made worse by economy for many going the wrong way to those lucky enough to own their own home. • The direct link between the housing cost and people struggling with mental health and ultimately homeless speaks for itself. People struggle to get on the housing ladder and at the lower end struggle to maintain rent and council tax due to the amount charged. This needs addressing. 		<p>In recent years the Council have worked hard to ensure that the Affordable Rents charged on new affordable homes (i.e. those provided alongside new private homes) do not exceed the Local Housing Allowance. More Social Rent homes will be provided in the medium/long term.</p>
<p>Summary of findings are limited as consultation with service users and stakeholders was ineffective and should have been a real opportunity and priority. Impersonal emails was the worst option possible and this strategy review was a great opportunity for genuine in person (which includes telephone).</p>	<p>Comment</p>	<p>Noted. The Delivery Plan includes an action which will specifically seek service users' experiences and views to shape and inform policy and practice for tackling homelessness.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no stated and/or measurable "goal"/"objective" therefore the strategy can not be deemed a success. • Recommendation has many references to data gathering, reviews, analysis, monitoring, benchmarking etc but I don't see many solid actions 	<p>Comment</p>	<p>The Delivery Plan sets out a significant number of actions, progress against will be monitored annually and results publicly available.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would have thought that more could be said on the link to helping people who are homeless gain suitable work – even if just work experience as often lack of work/money is a root cause. Maybe recommend more interaction between the agencies that support homelessness and provision of appropriate work and where needed training to make the individual more able to gain work. There may also need to be linkage with mental health services. • Need to consider those with complex health conditions and the potential role of the Rowans hospice as a partner for specialist advice/support. Particularly those living with significant life limiting illness or recently bereaved. That not being just cancer but conditions such as liver, heart and kidney failure. Also respiratory conditions such as COPD. 	<p>Comment</p>	<p>The Delivery Plan includes actions relating to access to employment/training and welfare benefits.</p> <p>The Delivery Plan includes actions to improve/develop partnership arrangements with other public bodies, charities, faith and voluntary groups to improve outcomes for service users.</p>
<p>There has not been a single mention about any options of supporting those who have no recourse to public funds, which is a very real issue. Especially for those who are victims/survivors of domestic violence and may have been brought here on a spouse visa or through other immigration routes and their conditions include no recourse to public funds. By</p>	<p>Comment</p>	<p>The duties of the local authority towards people with no recourse to public funds and people experiencing domestic violence are set out in detail in the Review of Homelessness document.</p>

<p>not having any support options in place for this group of people you are putting some vulnerable people in a further vulnerable state.</p>		
<p>I'm 59 years old, work full time, single with no benefits. I spend over 80% of my income on rent and council tax yet I'm still not eligible to go on the housing register. I'm expecting to be homeless in the future due to costs and uncertainty of private renting.</p>	<p>Comment</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unfortunately with headlines like this – the data underpinning them is of more interest, it would be good to see data tables etc to show where these headline statements come from. • More detail would have been helpful – e.g. what were the main reasons parents/relatives were unable to continue providing accommodation? How many people struggle to pay their housing costs? This could provide the metrics that progress can be judged against. 	<p>Comment</p>	<p>The data and detail are contained within the Review of Homelessness document</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's shocking that the age group of 25-44 are approaching the council for advice & assistance & the age is increasing to under 25's. A need to tackle, educate & understand the reasons why this group are requesting help with housing. • Concerning increase in young or those with health problems. 	<p>Comment</p>	<p>Noted. The Delivery Plan includes actions to understand the issues facing this demographic and identify areas for improvement.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there any data gathered on the number of homeless people dying in the Fareham borough? You have mentioned the number of homeless households with physical or mental health problems has doubled – it would be helpful to present this number and whether/how many are known to physical health/mental health services. • Much of the people hanging about in town are difficult to house because of drug and alcohol issues. With closure of mental hospitals these people have nowhere to turn as they need more than a talking to. • There may also need to be linkages with mental health services 	<p>Comment</p>	<p>The data and detail are contained within the Review of Homelessness document.</p> <p>The Delivery Plan includes actions relating to mental health services provision in the Borough.</p>
<p>If a homeless person refuses accommodation, they should be banned from the town centre where they are intimidating and don't give the town a good impression.</p>	<p>Comment</p>	<p>The StreetAid initiative as detailed in the Review of Homelessness document sets out the multi-agency approach to preventing and relieving homelessness as well as improving community safety.</p>
<p>The advent of homes for pregnant girls who jump the list due to a baby on the way has affected couples who want to get on the housing ladder, with unwed pregnancy as common as it now is, I don't think so many girl's families do in fact kick them out but rather say they are as a means of jumping the queue.</p>	<p>Comment</p>	<p>Noted. Not relevant to the content of the Draft Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy.</p>

<p>Those who are disabled have reduced chances to find work and are more likely to be on benefits. Therefore, they are more likely to be at risk of homelessness as they cannot afford private accommodation.</p>	<p>Comment</p>	<p>The Council's Allocation Policy and Housing Register recognises the additional difficulties faced by those with disabilities.</p>
<p>As long as my council tax bill does not yet again increase to pay for this, any monkey can agree any policy and then as normal tax the hell out of people who work for a living, these people should just like most of us hard working normal people get off their backsides, stop taking drugs/drink and get a job, NO MORE TAX INCREASES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!</p>	<p>Comment</p>	<p>Noted. Not relevant to the content of the Draft Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy.</p>
<p>It would be interesting to understand what or how you plan to house those that do not wish to be.....</p>	<p>Comment</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The whole review is an expensive waste of money and does no more than wrap up known facts and policies in a dictionary of words. A precis version of this should have been produced by FBC as a working bible. • It took a long to read and quite a bit seemed to be consultant's waffle. • We should know the cost of this project including the cost of the outsourced provider. 	<p>Comment</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The cost of the project is available to the public on the Council's 'Transparency' webpage.</p>
<p>Anyone over the age of 18 should have the same rights and access to housing assistance.</p>	<p>Comment</p>	<p>The strategy sets out how the council will provide advice and assistance to everyone who is homeless or at risk of homelessness.</p>
<p>Some years ago now, I was just one step from being homeless due to the DWP failing to pay an agreed share of my mortgage plus the false premise in the work capability assessment that "depression is not a real illness or can 'cured' by work or looking for work". I was living in Havant at that time. It went to a repossession hearing and didn't happen in the end because at the last moment, the DWP admitted fault but was another brink in the wall that made mental state worse. I was not told that I was vulnerable because of my mental state or given any information about what housing might be offered had the action been successful. I was suicidal at the thought of losing my home and all my possessions. I can see nothing in the provisions that would have helped me or supported me because of my illness.</p>	<p>Comment</p>	<p>The introduction of the Duty to Refer legislation has improved the service provided to people with housing problems when dealing with external agencies.</p> <p>The Delivery Plan has a specific action relating to the Duty to Refer to ensure people who are at risk of homelessness are identified at the earliest opportunity.</p>
<p>Something about "Investing in the Individual" would be good – taking time to listen and understand may really help.</p>	<p>Comment</p>	<p>The 'Meeting Demand' priority confirms our commitment to tailor advice and assistance to the individual.</p>
<p>This linked to findings identifying the number of homeless with a physical or mental health problem has doubled. Also your strategy identifies a need to work more collaboratively with local NHS services and charities to support those who are homeless better.</p>	<p>Comment</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

Comments relating to the “Meeting Demand” priority	Type of Comment	Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seems sound. • Support this. • Fareham Housing does well to help those who are able to find a suitable home but because of circumstances cannot afford the deposit or first month’s rent. This is a good policy administered by caring people. Well done! • Looks good. • Like the speed, accuracy and tailored approach to this issue. • Seems to cover most things. • The principle seems to be correct 	Support	Noted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None of the Meeting Demand priorities actually provide more houses for those who cannot afford private rents and need to be able to rent a social housing rent level. We need more social housing. • The demand is to deliver housing. • Advice is just hot air. Homeless people need one bed flats or houses and sometimes room for pets. • What people need is council housing not endless waffle. • This seems a bit woolly – advice and information do not house people. • Ensure there is actual affordable housing, not run by unscrupulous landlords, that leave their tenants in difficult situations, unable to complain for fear of being evicted. • All they [homeless people] want is a safe home that they can afford. • For the strategy to be effective, it must focus on the availability of a supply of appropriate accommodation – both immediately available and for the longer term. 	Comment	<p>The Council’s adopted Affordable Housing Strategy (2019) outlines the Council’s objectives and actions to help facilitate the provision of more affordable homes in Fareham Borough. This includes direct delivery of new homes by the Council.</p> <p>In recent years the Council have begun to deliver more new affordable homes and look at regeneration opportunities of older stock that will provide further Council homes. During 2020-2021 the Council’s new build affordable homes included 20 new Social Rent homes.</p> <p>The need for Social Rent (the most affordable of affordable homes) will be further supported through the Council’s emerging Local Plan which includes a requirement for Social Rent affordable homes on housing developments of 10 or more homes.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three slightly woolly statements with no substance. These statements only address initial contact and advice, they don’t satisfy the demands. • Defined and measurable “goals”/“objectives” are needed. Meeting demand – none of the above items actually meet demand. • Continually improving staff training should be normal practice. This is fluff! • Waste of time until you monitor the problem and I don’t mean looking out of your office windows • What to do, but not how to do it. • What would be the measures of “improved capacity and capability”? 	Comment	This is a broad strategic document. The list of actions in the Delivery Plan set out how we will seek to achieve our aims.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are talking about homeless people here much of which the above would mean absolutely nothing to them or they would regard as the “same old flannel” • How are you going to do this – this strategy appears to make sweeping statements and no hard facts of what and how you are going to achieve this. Where are the stats of how many houses and staff members you have to back this up? What amount of hard cash are you going to throw at this? Enough I hope? Are you going to use our tax money wisely for this just cause or contract overpriced private companies to deliver a half job? • All talk and no action. • This is inadequate as it is all about information, advice is only useful if it leads to a positive outcome. 		
<p>Something about treating everyone as an individual not a case would be good.</p>	<p>Comment</p>	<p>The strategy provides for this.</p>
<p>Impossible to speak to any staff with any empathy always feel judged.</p>	<p>Comment</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People with mental health issues should have a local facility to properly cater for them. • Advice and information are fine however they must be linked to availability of services (mental health, addiction), accommodation ie adequate & flexible options, income in the form of employment & benefit. • There is inadequate provision offered to people who are homeless because of alcohol or drug addiction to help them get ‘clean’. They need immediate access to residential treatment that will achieve this. • Advice is ok but many with mental health/anxiety can’t act on advice they need someone to work through it with them. • Provision of support to people to enable a successful transition from homelessness to being housed. 		<p>The provision of services for those with mental health problems or drug/alcohol addiction is the responsibility of the County Council and Health Providers.</p> <p>The Delivery Plan includes actions to improve/develop partnership arrangements with other public bodies, charities, faith and voluntary groups to improve outcomes for service users.</p>
<p>There is nothing that states any help that could be offered to a person threatened with repossession of a mortgaged property.</p>	<p>Comment</p>	<p>The strategy sets out how the council will provide advice and assistance to everyone who is homeless or at risk of homelessness, regardless of tenure.</p>
<p>Try to encourage people to contact you earlier when there is a problem than leaving it till last minute.</p>	<p>Comment</p>	<p>The Delivery Plan includes actions to achieve this.</p>
<p>Need some “outstations” as not everyone can afford or able to get to the Civic Offices. For example those in Western Wards.</p>	<p>Comment</p>	<p>The Delivery Plan includes actions that will provide us with the data to determine how services are delivered.</p>

<p>Early support & intervention for youths that are in care situations & become adults to be supported to the next stage of their accommodation requirements.</p>	<p>Comment</p>	<p>The Delivery Plan has specific action relating to Care Leavers</p>
<p>Back in 2006 there was a move to get private landlords to buy properties to house tenants called the RAPS scheme. We in fact purchased a property to do this guided and encouraged at that time by Gosport Borough Council though I think Fareham had the same. Within a short space of time the rules restricting this changed and they became discouraging. Till now we have sold the property because it's too problematic. The council don't have the properties and haven't invested and the private landlords are now doing air BnB because its less worry and more money. The landlords no longer have any faith in letting to council tenants, I and friends who previously did this have given up.</p>	<p>Comment</p>	<p>Noted. The Delivery Plan includes actions relating to how the council will engage with landlords.</p>
<p>I would like to see a facility where family members and neighbours can alert the council to potential homelessness, where someone they know is going off the rails. Demand does not just come from the homeless person, but from those affected by the context in which they become homeless.</p>	<p>Comment</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>It is crucial that the FBC strategy recognises the importance of early intervention to deal with the issues in the immediate hours and days after a resident finds themselves homeless, as once someone or a household is homeless for a sustained period it is much more difficult to find solutions that work for the individual or family.</p>	<p>Comment</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Comments relating to the “Providing Solutions” priority</p>	<p>Type of Comment</p>	<p>Response</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sounds sensible. • Sounds fair. • Very good plan. • I think the collaborative approach outlined by this is great. • I agree with the Providing Solutions. • We agree that Bed and Breakfast accommodation should be an absolute last resort. • This seems good. • You seem to be doing all you can. • This seems a positive way forward. • This makes sense. • I fully agree that this is the only way forward for many councils at the moment. • Agree Bed & Breakfast should be avoided. 	<p>Support</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The only real solution is a large increase in the available social housing owned by FBC. The social allowance rent figures fall a long way short of the private rental figures and this is because there are too few houses to rent. The answer is to build more. • What about the provision of long-term council housing? There is too much reliance on the private sector. • Private sector is not the solution. Council/Govt provided accommodation is the way to do this for long term stability for these people to help them onto a better pathway of a more sustainable future. • These solutions are totally dependent on private sector support which are open to market forces. FBC needs to work with partners to 'build'/develop its own stock. With anticipated increase in demand plus higher commercial rents the risk of B&B is high and so the strategy needs to include an accommodation plan that FBC has greater control on without relying on private sector and market forces. • Social housing is needed not private sector landlords • I think Fareham should build or buy their own for homeless people. • Give priority to building council housing and taking over properties that have been empty for a long period. • Build more council houses. • The importance of affordable social housing, whether directly FBC owned or through a housing association should be a priority with measures to ensure a supply of properties at an affordable rent and secure tenancy. 	<p>Comment</p>	<p>The Council's adopted Affordable Housing Strategy (2019) outlines the Council's objectives and actions to help facilitate the provision of more affordable homes in Fareham Borough. This includes direct delivery of new homes by the Council.</p> <p>In recent years the Council have begun to deliver more new affordable homes and look at regeneration opportunities of older stock that will provide further Council homes. During 2020-2021 the Council's new build affordable homes included 20 new Social Rent homes.</p> <p>In recent years the Council have worked hard to ensure that the Affordable Rents charged on new affordable homes (i.e. those provided alongside new private homes) do not exceed the Local Housing Allowance. More Social Rent homes will be provided in the medium/long term.</p> <p>The need for Social Rent (the most affordable of affordable homes) will be further supported through the Council's emerging Local Plan which includes a requirement for Social Rent affordable homes on housing developments of 10 or more homes.</p> <p>The planning process ensures that an appropriate number of affordable homes are delivered alongside new private housing projects. This is a requirement on private developers. There is national planning guidance relating to this and the Council must ensure the affordable housing 'ask' does not make a private scheme unviable. In nearly all cases private developers are able and willing to provide the necessary number of affordable homes as required by the Council's Affordable Housing Policy in the Local Plan (30-40%).</p> <p>The Council continue to look at empty homes for appropriate opportunities to seek them being brought back into use. This can include working with the owners to consider the Council's Farelets scheme.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to look at slightly less conventional ideas sometimes too. • Use commercial and residential unused local building as flats. 	<p>Comment</p>	<p>The Delivery Plan sets out actions to increase the range of accommodation types available.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore other avenues in providing accommodation using the general public, not private landlords but people that would take a homeless person into their own home. This could work well with people that are living on their own, they have spare rooms & they themselves would enjoy the company & could help mentor the person in need. 		
<p>None of the above items provide a solution.</p>	<p>Comment.</p>	<p>This is a broad strategic document. The list of actions in the Delivery Plan set out how we will seek to achieve our aims.</p>
<p>There should always be some accommodation available for rough sleepers who have dogs.</p>	<p>Comment</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Cost effectiveness should be a key consideration.</p>	<p>Comment</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Include more support and options for those with no recourse to public funds, there are very little options even temporary ones in place for them and some have left very vulnerable situations of domestic violence.</p>	<p>Comment</p>	<p>The duties of the local authority towards people with no recourse to public funds and people experiencing domestic violence are set out in detail in the Review of Homelessness document.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure landlords meet an adequate level of accommodation and maintenance and are accountable. Better regulation of the private housing sector, to remove the unscrupulous landlords and ensure residences are fit to be lived in – no damp, up to code on fire regs etc. Private options need more inspections if the £ increases incentivises the wrong behaviours. 	<p>Comment</p>	<p>The council's Environmental Health department will take enforcement action where there are breaches of the Housing Act 2004.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of the problems I hear people encounter is that homeless will in most situations be placed in multiple occupancy housing and in lot of cases they will all be drug/alcohol users. Which means in lot of cases they all fall back into using. Bed & Breakfast should NEVER be offered to those suffering from alcohol or drug addiction. They should be immediately moved to residential facilities where their addictions can be addressed. Hostels seem to encourage certain groups to hang together in what can appear to be a threatening manner. It can mean the very vulnerable with nowhere to go that feels safe. 	<p>Comment</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The Delivery Plan sets out actions to increase the range of accommodation types available to homeless households.</p> <p>The provision of residential facilities for individuals with substance misuse problems sits with the County Council and Health Providers.</p> <p>The council will not use Bed & Breakfast accommodation for homeless applicants unless there is no other alternative. Where Bed & Breakfast is unavoidable, we ensure the accommodation is of a good standard and is used for the shortest period possible.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure neighbours are given assurances that any poor behaviour will be dealt with swiftly. 		<p>The FareLets scheme provides security and protection for landlords who are willing to let their properties via the council.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homelessness often means addiction. It is not acceptable to house addicts and the trouble they bring, in residential areas. • I think private rented sector are not interested in renting to the council because they are not given a fair deal. Poor tenant behaviour is treated far too leniently, and landlords have no power and no support. • What is the “offer” to landlords? It is not just improved rent that landlords require, but security in the event of their property being trashed, etc. • I can understand why some private landlords may be reluctant to take on homeless people. • How will access to the private rented sector be improved? • It presumes the private rental sector will remain stable or increase. 		
<p>Bed and Breakfast accommodation should NEVER be used for families with children.</p>	<p>Comment</p>	<p>Agree. Local authorities must not use Bed & Breakfast to accommodate families with children or pregnant women except where there is no alternative available, and then for a maximum period not exceeding 6 weeks.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide solutions and track whether this works out would be good. • Fluff! We need to see here concrete workable plans for how the council plans to improve these things, how it will be working with the private rented sector etc. 	<p>Comment</p>	<p>This is a broad strategic document. The list of actions in the Delivery Plan set out how we will seek to achieve our aims.</p>
<p>Try to make sure we don't house too many people from out of area.</p>	<p>Comment</p>	<p>The council's Allocation Policy sets out the local connection criteria for allocating social housing in the Borough.</p>
<p>Ensure that housing benefit and personal contributions to rent are paid to those supplying accommodation such as private landlords, hostels, etc.</p>	<p>Comment</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>The problem with temporary accommodation is the unknown on the next move for most people unknown a big problem house sharing or group homes can be very scary too.</p>	<p>Comment</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>I do wonder whether further links with health services would offer a holistic approach as we know physical and mental health issues play a major part of homelessness, and there is no mention anywhere of health provision for these homeless people so is there any data collected on the health needs of the homes in Fareham? I understand this is a council document so the focus is social, but wonder if this is an opportunity to demonstrate multi agency links including health.</p>	<p>Comment</p>	<p>The Delivery Plan includes actions to improve/develop partnership arrangements with other public bodies, charities, faith and voluntary groups to improve outcomes for service users.</p>

Comments relating to the “Preventing Homelessness & Supporting Tenancies” priority	Type of Comment	Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sounds ok. • Seems thorough. • These are good measures. • You seem to be doing all that can be expected. • Sounds pragmatic. • A true multi-agency approach is good. Prevention ahead of the curve where possible. • Seems okay. • This is good. • Good idea. Prevention is better than cure. • We agree that it is important to focus interventions on those likely to be at risk of homelessness such as those leaving care or institutions. • I think the collaborate approach outlined by this is great. • One common cause of homelessness is couple/marital breakdown where neither partner can afford the deposit to rent nor has the first month’s rent. Helping with these is a good way to solve the issue whilst each partner gets re-established (perhaps with Universal Credit or a job). • 	Support	Noted.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support needs to include bricks and mortar structures not just talking. The local authority should have housing, whether flats or dormitories, available for all those in difficulty. • Sadly, many people who are threatened with homelessness don’t expect the situation to arise – for example, due to relationship breakdown when both partners need lower cost accommodation after a breakup. They may have managed the private rent before but at least one partner may become dependent on benefits because they have young children. They then need access to social housing and joining a 1,000 person queue is not the answer. The answer is many more social houses. • Provide adequate number of council houses to meet demand. 	Comment	<p>The Council’s adopted Affordable Housing Strategy (2019) outlines the Council’s objectives and actions to help facilitate the provision of more affordable homes in Fareham Borough. This includes direct delivery of new homes by the Council.</p> <p>In recent years the Council have begun to deliver more new affordable homes and look at regeneration opportunities of older stock that will provide further Council homes. During 2020-2021 the Council’s new build affordable homes included 20 new Social Rent homes.</p> <p>Even with central grant opportunities there is a limit to what most Local Authorities can do in terms of building new affordable homes. However, Fareham Borough Council is continuing to grow its new build programme and aspirations.</p> <p>Most new affordable homes are currently delivered alongside private market housing schemes (as part of meeting their planning obligations)</p>

		and those affordable homes are normally transferred and then managed by a Registered Provider/Housing Association.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage local neighbourhood to enable a support network but also as observation as to what is happening locally. Look at other factors that will influence a person's situation like transport, access to a bike or public transport to get employment. Also consider internet accessibility to help with getting employment and other support services. Make the link to finding suitable employment opportunities, and training if needed. Give them an address so they can apply for jobs and assist them with getting back to work. 	Comment	The Delivery Plan sets out a range of actions to further support individuals.
Ensure priority is given to those leaving present accommodation through no fault of their own, eg. Landlord selling, service families on leaving the military, etc.	Comment	The Council's Allocation Policy sets out how applicants for social housing are prioritised.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mediation only works if both parties will work together sorting probs out. I have attended mediation with neighbour. Total waste of time and as neighbour owns their council flat council claim there's nothing they can do. Hence managed move. Neighbour who owns council flat is in win win situation. I'd not considered the mediation aspect. I have now and I'm not convinced it'll offer VFM. I strongly suspect some families orchestrate spurious, insurmountable disagreements with their juvenile offspring to enable them to access social services. It would be better to have mediation services together rather than dealing with many different agencies. We are concerned that when family relationships break down it may not be in the best interests of the young person that they are returned to the family without early intervention to ensure they are protected from harm. 	Comment	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The strategy states young people will only be returned to their family home where it is appropriate and safe to do so.</p>
For people affected by reforms to welfare services, stronger action is needed beyond the access to advice.	Comment	Noted. Not relevant to the content of the Draft Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "continue to improve our working relationships with key agencies such as Social Services and Mental Health teams, domestic violence agencies, probation and substance misuse services". This needs immediate and urgent attention. These relationships virtually don't exist at the moment and need establishment or re-establishment not merely "improvement". People are falling through the cracks and ending up on the street. The withdrawal of extra Universal Credit together with the 	Comment	The Delivery Plan includes actions to improve/develop partnership arrangements with other public bodies, charities, faith and voluntary groups to improve outcomes for service users.

<p>increase in energy and food prices is likely to create considerable additional strain on a currently disintegrating system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sorry more fluff – not too interested in you continuing to improve relations with outside agencies, would prefer to know areas where you are not able to work well with them and how you are going to make things happen better, everything else is also FLUFF. • I do wonder whether further links with health services would offer a holistic approach as we know physical and mental health issues play a major part of homelessness. • Need to have a wider remit when addressing improving working relationships with other services or those leaving care. • Help the social services, they are poorly staffed and massively overworked. 		
<p>Prevention is the key with mental health and drug and alcohol prevention needed locally. More of this would avoid some people becoming homeless.</p>	Comment	The provision of services for individuals with substance mis-use problems sits with the County Council and Health Providers.
<p>You need to help people manage their budgeting.</p>	Comment	Noted.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nice ideas but where are the facts? How are you going to do this? How many more staff will you employ and what time frame? • These are the right intentions, delivering on them is the challenge and this needs close performance management and regular review. • Lots of emphasis on “continuation” and no definition of “strengthening”. It doesn’t feel very ambitious. • Very laudable, but do you have the staff to do it and the money? 	Comment	This is a broad strategic document. The list of actions in the Delivery Plan set out how we will seek to achieve our aims.
<p>None of the above are actually preventing homelessness.</p>	Comment	This is a broad strategic document. The list of actions in the Delivery Plan set out how we will seek to achieve our aims.
<p>Ensure no discrimination to anyone when providing support.</p>	Comment	An Equality Impact Assessment of the Strategy has been undertaken and has not identified any detrimental equality impacts.
<p>No one wants to sleep on a street unless there is something not quite normal in their thinking, hence they probably need assessment.</p>	Comment	Noted. Not relevant to the content of the Draft Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy.
<p>Support for people with substance misuse is near non-existent with mental health hospitals closed. These people are difficult to reach when they don’t want to change their behaviour. They need to be taken off the streets to get them dried out, These people are known users and also perpetrate crime, they are passing drugs out in Fareham blatantly and do so in front of the museum regularly.</p>	Comment	The provision of services for individuals with substance mis-use problems sits with the County Council and Health Providers.

		The StreetAid initiative as detailed in the Review of Homelessness document sets out the multi-agency approach to preventing and relieving homelessness as well as improving community safety.
It sounds good but does not tackle underlying causes as mentioned previously of high rents in Fareham.	Comment	Noted. Not relevant to the content of the Draft Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy.
Charities and churches are also very active with the homeless and could help.	Comment	The Delivery Plan includes actions to improve/develop partnership arrangements with other public bodies, charities, faith and voluntary groups to improve outcomes for service users.
So much advice but people need to see action. Taking time to speak to those rough sleeping. Find out why it failed. The agencies aren't always the solution but can be the problem.	Comment	Noted
Comments relating to the "Ending Rough Sleeping" priority	Type of Comment	Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All good. • Good. Agree with this. • This feels a little bit more useful. • It sounds like numbers have decreased over time, it is not easy to engage everyone but it sounds like you are trying. • Looks good. • Seems comprehensive. • Seems okay. • We agree with these objectives. 	Support	Noted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spending money on such things as a mayor's limo is outlandish if you say there is no money to put a roof of some kind over everyone's head. Use all building that have been empty for a year or more, a sleeping bag on the floor of a warehouse, that has a toilet and a kettle, is better than a wet field. Make large developers pay towards these facilities if they have not completed all outdoor spaces on their plans within 12 months of the last building on their site being finished. • Do something with the eyesore that is the courthouse – either demolish it and make it properly affordable housing or make it into a social housing project with temporary 	Comment	<p>The planning process ensures that an appropriate number of affordable homes are delivered alongside new private housing projects. This is a requirement on private developers. There is national planning guidance relating to this and the Council must ensure the affordable housing 'ask' does not make a private scheme unviable. In nearly all cases private developers are able and willing to provide the necessary number of affordable homes as required by the Council's Affordable Housing Policy in the Local Plan (30-40%).</p> <p>Specific sites are often considered for affordable housing and, where it is appropriate (considering housing need and finances), this could be</p>

<p>accommodation and a food service for the homeless. Council property should never have been sold and still should not be – it is a false economy in the long run.</p>		<p>pursued. An example includes the Rose Court development on Highlands Road (completed in 2021), the land was purchased and assembled as two parcels of land originally in private ownership and the site is in a high need area for affordable homes.</p>
<p>If there were effective outreach services, the consultation wouldn't have been by email and received just 9 responses. There needs to be better public understanding of rough sleeping and begging as well as enforcement. No one in the borough would believe there were just 3 people rough sleeping through homelessness.</p>		<p>Noted. The Delivery Plan includes an action which will specifically seek service users' experiences and views to shape and inform policy and practice for tackling homelessness.</p> <p>Local authorities across England are required to take an autumn single night snapshot of people sleeping rough which takes place on a 'typical night' on a single date between 1 October and 30 November each year.</p> <p>The snapshot is collated by outreach workers, local charities and community groups and is independently verified by Homeless Link.</p> <p>The snapshot does not include everyone in a local authority with a history of sleeping rough. Nor does it include everyone sleeping rough across the area from the October to November period.</p> <p>The snapshot does not provide a definitive number of people affected homelessness as the term 'homelessness' is much broader than people sleeping rough.</p> <p>The snapshot methodology has been in place since 2010 and is a nationally recognised way to assess changes in the number of people sleeping rough over time and to compare local authorities and regions across England.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strategy of Housing First doesn't seem to be in line with staff views and so is either the wrong strategy or will fail due to lack of staff commitment. • The Housing First option works well if the tenancy is long and supported well. It seems unfair to others on the housing waiting list though. 		<p>Staff ranked personalised support as the most important thing people needed help with, followed by addressing financial problems and tackling behaviour. These are key elements of the Housing First model.</p> <p>The council's Allocation Policy ensures social housing is allocated appropriately.</p>

What options are there for those still suffering with addiction?		Noted. Not relevant to the content of the Draft Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maybe there are options with Church Halls in cold weather – this has been done in other parts of the country I believe. • Use empty shops as shelters. • Develop more ‘no recourse to public funds’ bed spaces. 	Comment	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The Delivery Plan sets out actions to increase the range of accommodation types available to homeless households.</p>
Multiple complex needs are very difficult and there is no one solution fits all. Also the fact that detoxes are now mostly home detoxes that don’t in all honesty work.	Comment	Noted. Not relevant to the content of the Draft Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy.
More outreach is definitely the first step – more feet on the ground making a more definitive impact. How will you measure this and what timescale are you talking? This is not a SMART target.	Comment	This is a broad strategic document. The list of actions in the Delivery Plan set out how we will seek to achieve our aims.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There always be people who will refuse accommodation, in which case how do we support them? I suspect that 100% will never be achieved. • You will never end rough sleeping, as most prefer it but the real Veteran rough sleepers, you, like the government, ignore. • Some prefer to live rough so do not want conventional rooms. Sheltered areas could be set up so those who wish can still live the life they have chosen. Fareham needs to be careful it does not attract other area’s rough sleepers. • Some people do not want to leave the streets as they have to be sober/not high to go in. • Not every rough sleeper wants a home or be back with their family. Might I suggest, if you haven’t already done so, liaise with the Salvation Army. • If the rough sleeper refuses accommodation, it suggests that the rough sleeping is self-inflicted. 	Comment	Noted.
None of these end rough sleeping.		This is a broad strategic document. The list of actions in the Delivery Plan set out how we will seek to achieve our aims.
Combining other services to ensure they don’t find themselves in the situation again. Wider education to communities to understand what is best to support the homeless.		The Delivery Plan includes actions to improve/develop partnership arrangements with other public bodies, charities, faith and voluntary groups to improve outcomes for service users.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hostels must not be in residential areas. Please learn the lessons from Two Saints and its impact on the neighbouring houses. We have many problems with anti-social behaviour nearly always coming from Two Saints or people waiting to get into Two Saints. • There is a care of duty to the residents of this town to remove them. I live in the town centre and have been verbally abused and intimidated by some of these people. Give the police powers to remove them unwillingly if necessary and put them somewhere they get help wanted or not. • The Council need to engage with rough sleepers more and also have greater regulation as to where they congregate/sleep/take drugs. • “Encouragement” needs to be robust in some cases. Rough sleeping can be something that deters people from using the town centre, especially at night. • The council and police have made it known to voluntary groups that the majority of people on the streets are drug addicts their needs are long term and complex. Corralled groups or moving them on is not the solution. 	Comment	The StreetAid initiative as detailed in the Review of Homelessness document sets out the multi-agency approach to preventing and relieving homelessness as well as improving community safety.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Ending rough sleeping” should not include the police or private security personnel literally kicking sleepers out of the only available shelter in bad weather. Council leader Sean Woodward is well known for stating that some rough sleepers have refused accommodation offered. If this has EVER happened, it is because what was offered did not include ANY support for substance or alcohol abuse when it was urgently needed by an individual. The instance of rough sleeping has been fundamentally understated. Numbers of people are known to be camping in the Cams and other areas of the borough and the estimate seems to be based on a brief walk around the town centre without even looking at the town centre car parks or industrial areas. • While a brilliant idea, trashing their street home or stuff is not the answer or in any way a solution, they are still human beings. 	Comment	Noted. Not relevant to the content of the Draft Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy.
<p>There is only one hostel in Fareham and Gosport and if someone has been evicted from there, there is no other option for them but the street. Can't blame Two Saints for not letting someone back in when not paying rent and ASB issues.</p>	Comment	Noted.
<p>Policies are not working as homeless people numbers getting larger and larger in Fareham. In the evenings they are bundled into shop doorways and grounds of Holy Trinity.</p>	Comment	Noted.
<p>Point 2 [Explore new ways of creating additional emergency bed spaces] could include some examples that you are prepared to introduce etc. That way we may have something measurable.</p>	Comment	This is a broad strategic document. The list of actions in the Delivery Plan set out how we will seek to achieve our aims.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported accommodation sounds good but is there money for this? How much will supported accommodation be expanded? 	Comment	This is a broad strategic document. The list of actions in the Delivery Plan set out how we will seek to achieve our aims.
Always make sure rough sleepers can be housed with their dogs – most would prefer to sleep outside with their dogs than in accommodation that bans dogs.	Comment	Noted.
Comments relating to the Delivery Plan	Type of Comment	Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I am impressed with FBC's report and monitoring. Looks very comprehensive & good to see it can be flexible. Very pleased with your action plan and glad you are tackling this so well. Thank you. Seems reasonable. It looks very detailed and thorough. Looks okay. 	Support	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doesn't mention council housing at all. Action not words please. More council or social housing needed in this area. 	Comment	<p>The Council's adopted Affordable Housing Strategy (2019) outlines the Council's objectives and actions to help facilitate the provision of more affordable homes in Fareham Borough. This includes direct delivery of new homes by the Council.</p> <p>In recent years the Council have begun to deliver more new affordable homes and look at regeneration opportunities of older stock that will provide further Council homes. During 2020-2021 the Council's new build affordable homes included 20 new Social Rent homes.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It looks like too much talking and not enough doing. Simplify your systems 1,2 and 4 can be 1 report. Shorten meetings and make them standing only. Tbh most of these are just box ticking exercises. Lack of action in the past or this plan would not be necessary, plenty of words and plenty of box ticking. It's a lot of words, but does it translate to actual useful action? The monitoring mechanisms need to be better defined – the above is essentially simply a list of meetings. You need to create a SMART target for this and penalise whichever department does not deliver the goods and get results. 	Comment	<p>Noted</p> <p>The Delivery Plan sets out a significant number of actions, progress against will be monitored annually and results publicly available.</p> <p>The Delivery Plan includes an action which will specifically seek service users' experiences and views to shape and inform policy and practice for tackling homelessness.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This strategy can not be described as a comprehensive review with the views of just 9 service users and 5 stakeholders. It is helpful internal document however as a priority someone needs to be meeting with people and actively listening. Solutions from around the country would have been important here to inform our 'strategy'. More public engagement, education and accountability may help create options and solutions. • No effort has been made to access the opinions and feelings of rough sleepers themselves in any part of the review and plans. This is fundamental to any successful outcome. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent monitoring. So I suggest you look for some worthy citizens in Fareham who are, or were, affected across the board by homelessness. • To help the council monitor the delivery plan we would urge that FBC involve those agencies which provide accommodation for homeless people such as housing associations and Two Saints. 	Comment	<p>The Delivery Plan includes an action which will specifically seek service users' experiences and views to shape and inform policy and practice for tackling homelessness.</p> <p>The Delivery Plan sets out a significant number of actions, progress against will be monitored annually and results publicly available.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the review extend to a revision of the plan rather than an update if the homelessness and rough sleeping situation worsens? • Please ensure any large economic impacts are adjusted over the three years. 	Comment	Tackling homelessness remains part of a constantly moving policy agenda, and the strategy and associated Delivery Plan will need to be adjusted accordingly to ensure they remain up to date and to reflect the Council's evolving approach to tackling emerging pressures and developing innovative solutions.
Your policies aren't diverse enough to encompass everyone in need.	Comment	An Equality Impact Assessment of the Strategy has been undertaken and has not identified any detrimental equality impacts.
Support and feedback from landlords to encourage them to keep renting.	Comment	Noted. The Delivery Plan includes actions relating to how the council will engage with landlords.
Easy to monitor. Walk through Fareham at 6am and you will see how well your policy is working.	Comment	Noted.