

## **Health, Housing and Adult Social Care Policy and Scrutiny Committee**

Report of the Assistant Director for Housing and Community Safety

### **Homeless Strategy 2018 - 2023**

#### **Summary**

1. To consult with Members about the content and implications of the Homeless Strategy 2018-23 prior to final publication

#### **Background**

2. Local Authorities are required under Homelessness Act 2002 to have a homeless strategy. The current strategy 'A City Partnership to Prevent Homelessness' is for the period 2013-18.
3. A homeless strategy is intended to give an overview of the current situation, identify trends and issues in relation to homelessness and recommends a 5 year action plan.

#### **Consultation**

4. There have been a series of consultation events for staff, partners and customers in 2017/18 to discuss future requirements. The information gathered has been incorporated into the draft strategy and action plan.
5. A supplementary health and homeless assessment, with customer and partner consultation has taken place for Health and Wellbeing Board and findings will feed into this strategy
6. A draft homeless strategy and action plan has been discussed at resettlement strategy group, young persons' strategy group, homeless forum.

7. The Homeless strategy and action plan will be signed off at Homeless Strategy Executive Group before being put to Executive.

### **Analysis**

8. A further motion was discussed at Executive on 23/1/18 which highlighted Members concerns about rough sleeping in York. The recommendations from this motion have been incorporated into the action plan (innovation bid to develop additional emergency beds and 1 year Private Rented Sector post)
9. The strategy has identified a number of issues
  - That whilst provisions within the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 the new duties placed on Local Authorities to prevent and relieve homelessness are widely supported some have expressed concern about the additional resources needed to deliver it. Full implementation of the new duties and responsibilities will add significant additional demand onto already squeezed budgets and resources.
  - There is general agreement that a key structural cause of homelessness is the lack of affordable accommodation. York's Local Plan holds the key to ensuring a sufficient supply of accommodation to meet future need, including homes that are affordable to those on a range of incomes. Failure to ensure sufficient accommodation will result in ongoing homelessness and rough sleeping that comes at a significant cost not only to those that experience it but to the city as a whole.
  - Rising poverty and the long standing squeeze on household incomes has been another key structural factor. Government has recently announced changes to its welfare reform package, such as the re-instating payment of housing costs for 18- 21 year olds, changes to funding for supported housing. Indications are that more changes may follow.
  - The local and national increase in rough sleeping is a concern and government has set local authorities new targets to address this (to reduce rough sleeping by 50% by 2020 and to end rough sleeping but 2027)

10. To address these issues the 5 strategic aims identified in the action plan are

- To Reduce Rough Sleeping by 50% by 2022 and eliminating rough sleeping by 2027
- To prevent homelessness by improving the information and services that we provide in particular around Homeless Reduction Act 2017
- To ensure that there is accommodation available to people who are homeless
- To ensure that there is support available to people that are homeless
- To maintain and develop partnership working and strategic direction

### **Council Plan**

11. The development, publication and undertaking of relevant strategic actions contribute to the Council Plan to ensure

- a prosperous city for all - where local businesses can thrive and residents have good quality jobs, housing and opportunities and to
- focus on frontline services - to ensure all residents, particularly the least advantaged, can access reliable services and community facilities

### **Implications**

#### **Financial:**

12. There is no financial implication of developing this strategy but there may be individual schemes in the future that need resourcing

#### **Human Resources (HR):**

13. There is no staffing implication associated with this strategy but there may be individual schemes in the future that need resourcing

### **Equalities**

14. No Community Impact Assessment has been completed at this point but will be with the final report to the Executive.

## **Legal**

15. Legal challenge if CYC do not publish a strategy.

## **Crime and Disorder**

16. None

## **Information Technology (IT)**

17. None

## **Property**

18. None

## **Other**

19. None

## **Risk Management**

20. The provision of a strategy and action plan focuses the work of the Local Authority and partner agencies and to meet statutory requirements.
21. That the quality of services and numbers of homeless applicants and rough sleeping will increase if no strategy / co-coordinated approach.
22. There is a significant risk that there will be an increase in legal challenges.

## **Recommendation**

23. That Members note the contents of the report so they are involved in the development of the Homeless Strategy 2018-23 by commenting on the draft strategy and action plan. The strategy is due for publication summer 2018.

Reason: To inform members of the ongoing development of the draft strategy and action plan

## Contact Details

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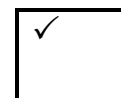
**Report  
Approved**



**Date** 12/04/2018

**Wards Affected:**

**All**



**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Annexes:**

**Annex 1 – Draft Homeless Strategy 2018-23**

**Annex 2 – Draft action plan**