

Housing and Health Committee	
Meeting Date	8 th November 2022
Report Title	Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023 – 2027 – Consultation Draft
EMT Lead	Emma Wiggins, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Head of Service	Charlotte Hudson, Head of Housing and Communities
Lead Officer	Charlotte Hudson, Head of Housing and Communities
Classification	Open
Recommendations	<p>The committee is recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To approve the draft Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023 – 2027 to go out for consultation. 2. That a consultation is undertaken for 12 weeks.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report asks the Housing and Health committee to consider the draft Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023 – 27.

2 Background

- 2.1 The current Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy was adopted in 2019. The full strategy can be found at [Housing-and-Homelessness-Strategy-2019-2023.pdf \(swale.gov.uk\)](https://www.swale.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2019-12/2019-2023%20Housing%20and%20Homelessness%20Strategy.pdf) the strategy has four strategic priorities which are:
1. Preventing homelessness
 2. Reduce the need for emergency and temporary accommodation
 3. Delivering the right homes in the right places
 4. Improve conditions in existing homes
- 2.2 The current strategy is coming to the end of its life and therefore a review of progress against the current strategy, analysis of service data has helped inform and shape a revised strategy. Under the Homelessness Act 2002, all housing authorities must carry out a review of homelessness in their area and publish a homelessness strategy which sets out what it plans to do to prevent homelessness and rough sleeping.
- 2.3 The draft strategy sets out the Council's priorities to tackle Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping in Swale between 2023 – 2027. It looks to build on the foundations set out in the previous strategy and looks to address the changing and more complex needs of residents in our borough who need to access housing services.

- 2.4 The Strategy sets out our aims to run a strong housing service, that is the safety net for those most vulnerable in society and enables us to meet our statutory obligations set out in housing legislation. It recognises the need to work with our partner agencies across all sectors to ensure we provide an appropriate service for our residents.
- 2.5 The revised proposed priorities are:
- Delivering Affordable Homes
 - Preventing Homelessness
 - Developing a more efficient housing options service
 - Improve conditions in existing homes
- 2.6 It is now proposed that the draft strategy goes out to public consultation for 12 weeks, to ensure that partner agencies, the voluntary sector and our residents have an opportunity to provide feedback.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 To approve the draft Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023 – 2027 to go out for consultation.
- 3.2 To agree that the draft Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy is consulted on for 12 weeks.

4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 That the strategy is not consulted on and adopted now, this is not recommended as there may be other views and information which can inform the strategy and should be considered.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 This report is proposing to carry out a 12-week consultation.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	<p>Priority 1: Building the right homes in the right places and supporting quality jobs for all</p> <p>Priority 3: Tackling deprivation and creating equal opportunities for everyone</p>
Financial, Resource and Property	<p>The current revenue budget for Housing Services is £361,010 (Private Sector Housing), £2,124,030 (Housing Options) and £67,230 (Affordable Housing). Currently, there is a significant projected overspend in year for temporary accommodation c. £1m.</p> <p>In addition to the Council net revenue budget. A range of grants are received by the Council.</p> <p>Housing Prevention Grant = £662,077 in 2022/23 RSI Grant = £1,937,632 in 2022/25 (3-year settlement). Staying Put Grant = £57k</p> <p>In addition, the Council also receives a Capital Grant to provide Disable Facilities Grants through the Better Care Fund £2,917,102 in 2022/23.</p>
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	<p>Under the Homelessness Act 2002, all housing authorities must carry out a review of homelessness in their area and publish a homelessness strategy which sets out what it plans to do to prevent homelessness and rough sleeping.</p>
Crime and Disorder	<p>The housing service works closely with the Community Safety Partnership in managing clients that have an offending background. Having stable and affordable housing, can assist in breaking the re-offending cycle.</p>
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	<p>Grants promoted by the Private Sector Housing Scheme can assist with improvements with EPC ratings.</p>
Health and Wellbeing	<p>Housing is a wider determinant of health and having secure and decent homes significantly improves the health and wellbeing on residents.</p>
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	<p>The housing service undertakes the most Safeguarding referrals than any other department in the Council, the nature and circumstances of some of the clients mean they are very vulnerable and therefore support is required from partner agencies.</p>

Risk Management and Health and Safety	The provision and affordability of Temporary Accommodation continues to be a corporate risk.
Equality and Diversity	An initial Community Impact Assessment has been conducted. The consultation will also seek feedback from those groups with protected characteristics and review any data to ensure the service is compliant with its Equality Duties. CIA document.
Privacy and Data Protection	No implications identified at this stage.

7 Appendices

7.1 None

8 Background Papers

8.1 There are no background papers.