

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

AGENDA
ITEM NO

HOUSING COMMITTEE

11 JUNE 2019

9

Report Title	DRAFT HOMELESS PREVENTION STRATEGY
Purpose of Report	To approve the draft Homeless Prevention Strategy for consultation and to authorise officers to commence consultation.
Decision(s)	The Committee RESOLVES to approve the draft Homeless Prevention Strategy for consultation and authorises officers to carry out consultation for a period of 12 weeks.
Consultation and Feedback	Consultation to take place for 12 weeks from endorsement. Members Information Evening to be arranged.
Financial Implications and Risk Assessment	There are no direct financial implications from this report. Lucy Clothier, Principal Accountant Tel: 01453 754343 Email: lucy.clothier@stroud.gov.uk
Legal Implications	By the Homelessness Act 2002 s.1 , all local housing authorities are required to carry out a homelessness review and formulate and publish a strategy based on that review. Before adopting or modifying a homelessness strategy the authority must carry out a consultation of such public or local authorities, voluntary organisations or other persons it considers appropriate. The authority must follow the Gunning Principles which are that for a consultation to be effective; proposals should still be at a formative stage; there should be sufficient information for the consultees to give intelligent consideration; there should adequate time for consideration and response; conscientious consideration must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is made. A further report will be brought to the Housing Committee outlining any responses to the consultation and making any recommendations in relation to amendments if necessary prior to adoption of the Strategy.

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Performance Management Follow Up	Strategy to go to September Housing Committee for approval following consultation period.
Background Papers/ Appendices	Draft strategy.

1. INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

Section 1 of the Homelessness Act 2002 placed a duty on housing authorities to formulate a homelessness strategy. Every five years housing authorities have to carry out a further homelessness review and publish a new strategy.

The previous strategy was initially developed with members of the Stroud Homelessness Forum. Since then the Forum has been relaunched as the Stroud Homelessness Working Group this includes external partners and organisations. The previous strategy was reviewed with consultation and feedback from the Working Group in November 2017. This draft strategy has also had input from the Working Group which last met on 5th September 2018 with the primary aim of identifying trends and particular problems relating to homelessness in the District which included rough sleeping, financial hardship, older people and support for physical and mental health problems. By initially consulting with Working Group members the draft strategy reflects the input of the Homelessness Working Group partners and is based on an understanding of front line services as well as strategic drivers for change, and meeting the challenges brought about by changes in legislation, particularly welfare reform and the Homelessness Reduction Act.

In considering feedback from the Working Group and changes in legislation, the Housing Advice Team will undertake work on establishing targets, responsibilities and time frames for the actions. The draft strategy is very much a partnership document and, as it reflects the views and aspirations of Working Group members, the intention is that all partners will be involved in its delivery. The Working Group will also be encouraged to feed back during the 12 week consultation period. Implementation of the strategy will be monitored through the Working Group and its success will be reviewed annually.

2. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- 2.1 The draft Homeless Prevention Strategy is attached for members consideration. If approved, there is a requirement to enter into a period of consultation. At the end of that period a further report will be provided which will provide the Committee with a summary of the consultation responses.

3. CONCLUSION / RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Officer recommend that members approve this draft strategy and to authorise officers to commence formal consultation.