

New Homelessness Strategy: Consultation

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Council's duty towards the homeless is a statutory duty which is set out in the Housing Acts 1996 (as amended by the homelessness Order 2002). This requires local authorities to ensure advice and assistance to those threatened with homelessness is provided free of charge. The Homelessness Order 2002 states that all local housing authorities must have a strategy for preventing homelessness in their area.
- 1.2 Derby's last Homelessness Strategy was written in 2010 and is now ready for renewal and review. As part of the process, we need to consult widely to ensure that the views of all stakeholders are taken into account.
- 1.3 The objectives of the consultation are to:
 - a) Disseminate information about changes since the last strategy to the extent of homelessness and the demand for and resourcing of homelessness services.
 - b) Consult on the development of our strategic priorities for the period 2015-2019 and how these can be achieved.
- 1.4 The proposed consultation process is provided in full at supporting paper 1.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To consent to the consultation and approve the consultation process.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To enable the consultation process to proceed, thereby ensuring that the strategy takes into account the views of key stakeholders.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Rationale

- 4.1 Having a robust strategy surrounding the prevention of homelessness is a legal requirement as set out in The Homelessness Order 2002. The last strategy was written in 2010 and will soon be out of date.
- 4.2 Tackling homelessness is a key priority for the Council. It is one of the most distressing and visible of social problems.

Key Factors

- 4.3 The Homelessness Review 2010 notes that since the inception of our first Homelessness Strategy (in 2003) there have been dramatic improvements in the city's response to homelessness; it notes that the key to these achievements has been successful partnership work in the prevention and relief of homelessness.
- 4.4 This partnership working has been built on since 2010 and an analysis of that work and how it can be continued will form a significant part of the new Strategy.
- 4.5 Given the wide range of factors that may impact on those who are or at risk of homelessness, a strategic approach is needed to respond effectively. Consultation is necessary to ensure the strategy reflects the views of stakeholders involved.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 There are no other realistic options.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer	N/A
Financial officer	N/A
Human Resources officer	N/A
Estates/Property officer	N/A
Service Director(s)	N/A
Other(s)	N/A

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Background papers:	Consultation Plan
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 None as this is a proposal for consultation only. Should any future actions arising out of the finalised strategy result in a recommendation to incur additional costs in the future, a separate report will be presented which will detail the costs and funding arrangements.

Legal

- 2.1 The Housing Act 1996 (as amended by the homelessness Order 2002) requires local authorities to develop and implement a strategy for preventing homelessness.

Personnel

- 3.1 None directly arising

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 The strategy is intended to assist all those who are or at risk of homelessness.

Health and Safety

- 5.1 None directly arising

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.1 None directly arising

Property and Asset Management

- 7.1 None directly arising

Risk Management

- 8.1 None directly arising

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 9.1 Reduce homelessness and increase the housing supply.

Fewer homelessness acceptances and a reduction in the number of households living in temporary accommodation. (Derby City Council Plan 2014/15)

Supporting Paper 1

New Homelessness Strategy 2015 - 2019

Consultation Plan

1. *Overview and purpose*

A broad-based consultation of key stakeholders on the key issues surrounding preventing and tackling homelessness. The objectives are to:

- a) Disseminate information about changes in the extent of homelessness and the demand and resourcing of homelessness services since the last strategy
- b) Consult on the development of our strategic priorities for the period 2015-2019 and how these can be achieved

2. *Consultees*

- a) Housing associations
- b) Charities & support providers
- c) Third sector organisations
- d) Health and Social Care providers
- e) Council departments including Adult Social Care, Housing, CYP (Youth Offending, Leaving Care)
- f) Elected Members
- g) Advocacy groups
- h) Members of the public

3. *Council Approval – timescale*

The Strategy will be taken to Cabinet post-consultation in December 2014. Chief Officer and directorate level approval will therefore take place in late October – early November 2014.

4. *Consultation Timescale and Major Elements*

The consultation will last for approximately three months. In order to meet the timescale above it should commence in mid-June and run until mid-September.

Major elements will include:

- a) Use of e-media such as council web site (Your City, Your Say'), In Touch, Derby

- b) EIA
- c) Equalities forum(s)
- d) Consultation event with provider stakeholders
- e) Consultation workshop with people who have experience of homelessness and homeless services

Review of the consultation feedback will be on going with the majority of it being completed mid-late September.

5. *Delivery*

Work will be led by the Housing Strategy Team in close liaison with Housing Options & Advice. Support and assistance from other teams such as Policy, Research & Engagement, Communications and Business Support will be sought where appropriate. An indicative time scale for most elements is tabulated below:

Action / Activity	Lead Team	Support	Timescale
Posting on 'Your City Your Say'	Housing Strategy	Policy, Research & Engagement	June
Consultation events / Workshops	Housing Options	Housing Strategy	June
EIA	Housing Strategy	PRE / Equality & Diversity Task Group	Sept
Equalities forum (s)	Housing Strategy	PRE / Equality & Diversity Task Group	TBC
Correspondence with stakeholders	Housing Options /Housing Strategy	Business Support	Jun - Aug
Correspondence with members of the public	Housing Options & Advice	Business Support	June
Press release	Housing Strategy	Communications	TBC
e- publicity	Housing Strategy	Communications	Jun - Aug
Review & Summary/Feedback	Housing Strategy	Housing Options	Aug-Sep