

## **Development of Derby's New Homelessness Strategy**

### **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report aims to inform members of the Cost of Living Board of the Council's intention to develop and consult on a new Homelessness Strategy for the city. Following the Homelessness Topic Review carried out by the Planning, Housing and Leisure Board in 2013, the Cabinet Member for Housing, Finance and Welfare and Strategic Director of Adults, Health and Housing are both keen to ensure that the Board with responsibility for housing is kept informed and that members have an opportunity to input into the developing strategy.
- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 Following the consultation process a draft version of the new Homelessness Strategy will be brought back to the September meeting of the Cost of Living Board for further comment.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 To note the update to the Board and make any comments and appropriate recommendations in relation to the consultation process.
- 2.2 To agree the process for consultation on the content of the draft Homelessness Strategy with the Cost of Living Board members.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 To ensure that Board members are kept updated on the development of the new Homelessness Strategy and the proposed consultation process.
- 3.2 To ensure that the Board has sufficient opportunity to be involved in the draft Homelessness Strategy consultation and to have an input into the development of the strategy.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 4.1 The Council's duty towards the homeless is a statutory duty which is set out in the Housing Act 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.
- 4.2 Consultation on the development of a new strategy will commence in July 2014. 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.

The proposed consultation process is provided in full at Appendix 2 of this report.

### **Rationale**

- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 Tackling homelessness is a key priority for the Council. It is one of the most distressing and visible of social problems.

### **Key Factors**

- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 This partnership working has been built on since 2010 and continued effective partnership working is essential in the development and implementation of the new Strategy.
- 4.7 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 None.

**This report has been approved by the following officers:**

<b>Legal officer</b> <b>Financial officer</b> <b>Human Resources officer</b> <b>Estates/Property officer</b> <b>Service Director(s)</b> <b>Other(s)</b>	Olu Idowu   Perveez Sadiq Ian Fullagar
<b>For more information contact:</b> <b>Background papers:</b> <b>List of appendices:</b>	Jeremy Mason 01332 640329 <a href="mailto:Jeremy.Mason@derby.gov.uk">Jeremy.Mason@derby.gov.uk</a> None Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – New Homelessness Strategy 2015 – 2019 Consultation Plan

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial and Value for Money**

- 1.1 None arising directly from this report. 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. Being policy, it is prudent to ensure that the policy is subject to a regular process to ensure that it remains relevant, lawful and fit for purpose. The review addresses that need. The proposal to consult and the process for doing so are necessary processes, securing compliance with our corporate consultation policy.

**Personnel**

- 3.1 None arising directly from this report.

**IT**

- 4.1 None arising directly from this report.

**Equalities Impact**

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

**Health and Safety**

- 6.1 None arising directly from this report.

**Environmental Sustainability**

- 7.1 None arising directly from this report.

**Property and Asset Management**

- 8.1 None arising directly from this report.

**Risk Management**

- 9.1 None arising directly from this report.

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

- 10.1 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).

## Appendix 2

### **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) Members of the public
- b) Elected Members
- c) Overview & Scrutiny Board
- d) Housing associations and Derby Homes
- e) Charities & support providers including Derby City Mission
- f) Third sector and voluntary organisations
- g) Health and Social Care providers
- h) Council departments including Adult Social Care, Housing, CYP (Youth Offending, Leaving Care)

#### *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 – November 2014.

#### *4. Consultation Timescale and Major Elements*

The consultation will last for just over three months. In order to meet the timescale above it should commence in July and run until October

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 by September / October.

## 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	July
Consultation events / Workshops	Housing Options	Housing Strategy	July - Aug
Equalities fora	Housing Strategy	PRE / Equality & Diversity Task Group	July
e- publicity	Housing Strategy	Communications	July - Sept
Press release	Housing Strategy	Communications	TBC
EIA	Housing Strategy	PRE / Equality & Diversity Task Group	Sept
Review & Summary/Feedback	Housing Strategy	Housing Options	Sept -Oct.
Directorate level sign-off	Housing Strategy	Housing Options	Nov
Chief Officer sign-off			Dec
Cabinet Adoption			Dec - Jan