

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Cabinet **DATE:** 17th June 2019
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Cabinet Member for Housing & Community Safety

PART I KEY DECISION

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION STRATEGY

1 Purpose of Report

This report presents the homelessness prevention strategy along with all supplementary documents for approval.

2 Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

The Cabinet is requested to resolve that the homelessness prevention strategy and the rough sleeping and single homeless reduction plan be approved.

3. The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan

Housing is one of the key priorities of Slough's Joint Wellbeing Strategy (SJWS). Mitigating homelessness contributes to reducing inequalities in health through access to housing. There are clear links between good housing and the JSNA priorities around improving health conditions, particularly mental health and protecting vulnerable children. This homelessness prevention strategy aims to address these inequalities to

3a. Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities

The homelessness prevention strategy seeks to implement the goals of The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy (SJWS) in improving the life of residents through joint working. The overall aim of the homelessness reduction strategy is to improve the housing situation of slough. Moving residents into settled good quality housing is known to have a positive impact on the education, health and economic activities of residents. This strategy seeks to address not only street homelessness but also the length of time people stay in temporary accommodation.

3b Five Year Plan Outcomes

The Homelessness Reduction Strategy delivers on outcome four of the Five year plan which is:

- *Our residents will live in good quality homes*

4 **Other Implications**

(a) Financial

There is currently a financial pressure due to the number of households in temporary accommodation. This is reported to members regularly.

(b) Risk Management

Recommendation from section 2 above	Risks/Threats/ Opportunities	Current Controls	Using the Risk Management Matrix Score the risk	Future Controls
Approve the homelessness prevention strategy	The risk of more households becoming homeless.	The use of developed pathways helping households into settled housing thorough partnership working	Low	Using the tools available to help homeless household into affordable settled private sector housing

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

The area of homelessness has the potential, depending upon the circumstances, to engage the right to respect for private and family life in Article 8 and the right to marry and found a family in Article 12 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. In an extreme case it also has the potential to engage the right to life in Article 2.

Under the Homelessness Act 2002 the Council have the power from time to time to carry out a homelessness review for their district and to formulate and publish a homelessness strategy based on the results of that survey. The Council also have the duty to ensure that a new homelessness strategy for their district is published within the period of 5 years beginning with the day when their last homelessness strategy was published and they must take their homelessness strategy into account in carrying out their functions.

The Council must after completing a homelessness review arrange for the results to be available for inspection by members of the public and they must keep their homelessness strategy under review and may modify it from time to time. If they modify the strategy they must publish the modifications or the strategy as modified.

Before adopting or modifying a homelessness strategy the Council must consult such public or local authorities, voluntary organisations or other persons as they consider appropriate.

In formulating a homelessness strategy they must consider (among other things) the extent to which the objectives of preventing homelessness in their district and securing that sufficient accommodation is and will be available for people in their district who are or may become homeless can be achieved through action involving

two or more public authorities having other functions and any voluntary organisation or other person whose activities are capable of contributing to the achievement of those objectives.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

An equalities impact assessment was carried out to make the homelessness prevention strategy compliant.

5 Supporting Information

- 5.1 The Homelessness Act 2002 requires that Local Authorities publish a Homelessness Strategy at least every 5 years. All local authorities in England are also by law required to carry out a homelessness review for their district; formulate and publish a homelessness strategy based on the results of that review. We have developed this homelessness reduction strategy to make sure Slough is compliant with the Act.
- 5.2 The Slough 5 year plan has good housing as one of its key objectives. The homelessness reduction strategy to reduce homelessness and the associated issues will improve the quality of life in Slough.
- 5.3 The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy (SJWS) advocates collaborative working to improve the life of local residents. This homelessness reduction strategy aims to put this into action by having an action plan focused on collaborative working for positive outcomes.
- 5.4 Homelessness and rough sleeping reduction are key central government policy, of which Slough is a key contributor.
- 5.5 The homelessness reduction strategy will have a positive impact on the lives of Slough residents. Creating clear pathways out of homelessness for Slough residents
- 5.6 It is therefore recommended that the Homelessness Reduction Strategy be approved.

6 Comments of Other Committees

A draft of the homelessness prevention strategy was presented to the Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel on November 1 2018

7 Conclusion

The continued increase in homelessness numbers nationally and in Slough means a concerted plan is needed to remedy the situation. All types of homelessness have negative effects on many aspects of life including health, social, economic educational and criminal justice. This documents seeks to address these impacts through collaboration and better resource allocation .

The Cabinet is requested to approve the homelessness prevention strategy and the attached action plans for approval. As a failure to approve the Homelessness Reduction Strategy will have a negative impact on the lives of the residents.

8 **Appendices**

- A – Homelessness Prevention Strategy
- B – Rough Sleeping Action Plan

8 **Background Papers**

- '1' Slough Homelessness Reduction Strategy 2019 – 2024 (and appendices)