

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel  
**DATE:** 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020  
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**WARD(S):** All

### **PART I** **FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION**

#### **HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING TASK AND FINISH GROUP UPDATE**

1. **Purpose of Report**

For the Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel to review and approve the final version of the terms of reference for the Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Task & Finish Group.

2. **Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

2.1 That the Panel

1. Review the proposed terms of reference for the Task and Finish Group; and
2. Agree the final version of the terms of reference under which the Task and Finish Group will operate.

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

3a. **Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

The proposed areas of activity for the Task & Finish Group will support the following priorities:

- Integration (relating to Health & Social Care)
- Strong, healthy and attractive neighbourhoods

3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

The review will support the following outcomes:

- Outcome 2: Our people will be healthier and manage their own care needs;
- Outcome 3: Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and stay.

- Outcome 4: Our residents will live in good quality homes
- Outcome 5: Slough will attract, retain and grow businesses and investment to provide opportunities for our residents

#### 4. **Other Implications**

##### (a) Financial

The work to be undertaken by the Task & Finish Group will be covered within existing staff budgets. Any financial implications of the review's recommendations will be reported back in the final report to be taken by the Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel in 2021.

##### (b) Risk Management

There are no corporate risks associated with the adoption of the Terms of Reference included as Appendix A. Any risks associated with the final recommendations will be reported to the Panel at the review's conclusion.

##### (c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights or other Legal implications arising from this report.

##### (d) Equalities Impact Assessment

The adoption of the terms of reference does not require an Equalities Impact Assessment. Should the final recommendations necessitate such an exercise, it will be carried out as required.

#### 5. **Supporting Information**

- 5.1 In the summer of 2020, the NCS Scrutiny Panel decided to investigate the issue of homelessness and rough sleeping in the borough. This was mainly driven by concerns over the persistent nature of the problem in Slough and the potential increase in numbers as more people are expected to lose their jobs because of COVID and the winding down of the furlough scheme in October 2020.
- 5.2 The Task & Finish Group have had a preliminary meeting with SBC's Outreach Team Leader that helped define the initial scope of the problem and shape the Group's Terms of Reference.

##### **Membership**

- 5.3 The Task & Finish Group will be chaired by Cllr Ajaib and will also include the following Councillors:
- Cllr Hulme
  - Cllr Minhas
  - Cllr Sabah

## **Timeframes and Work Programme**

- 5.4 When the final report with recommendations is presented to the Panel, members will be asked to approve and adopt the recommendations. Following this, the Panel will then assume responsibility for monitoring the progress of these recommendations. Officers will update the Panel on this as appropriate.
- 5.5 In order to compile its final report, the Task & Finish Group will hold meetings with officers from relevant services, including the housing, public health, parks, and mental health teams. They will also conduct a series of evidence sessions with various stakeholders, including homeless/rough sleeping residents and representatives from Turning Point, DWP, Shoc, Slough Outreach, Slough BID, throughout October and November 2020.
- 5.6 The group will aim to hold its meetings and evidence sessions between October and November 2020 and submit their final report to the NCS scrutiny meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

## **6. Comments of Other Committees**

- 6.1 This report has not been taken by any other committees at Slough Borough Council.

## **7. Conclusion**

- 7.1 This report is intended to provide the Panel with information and guidance on the work to be undertaken by the Task and Finish Group. There will be flexibility for the Task and Finish Group to arrange meetings to suit its work; however, its focus on the work it has been commissioned to complete will remain resolute.

## **8. Background Papers**

Agenda papers and minutes of the Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel, 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020.

## **9. Appendices**

A - Proposed Terms of reference for the Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Task & Finish Group