

Chichester District Council

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2025-2030

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendation

To review the draft strategy and action plan (Appendices 1 and 2), provide feedback and recommend to Cabinet that the strategy go out for consultation prior to adoption by Council.

3. Background

3.1 A Task and Finish Group was formed to review and update the existing Housing Strategy which came into effect in April 2020 and runs until April 2025. The key aims of the Task and Finish Group included:

- Reviewing how affordable housing is currently delivered.
- Review of the current housing need and supporting data.
- Discuss possible solutions and review gaps in service provision.
- Agreeing core priorities for the strategy.
- Set out how best to consult with stakeholders, service providers, service users and the wider district.

3.2 The Task and Finish Group identified five core priorities:

- 1) Preventing Homelessness and Ending Rough Sleeping.
- 2) Meeting Housing Need.
- 3) Improve Housing Standards.
- 4) Work to deliver action on climate change.

5) Work in Partnership to deliver regeneration and create opportunities for our communities.

3.3 Under each priority a set of high-level actions have been identified and these will be expanded into a detailed service plan with outcomes for 2025-26 and the lifecycle of the strategy.

4. Outcomes to be Achieved.

4.1 The adoption of this strategy sets a clear vision for the next five years along with clear actions and outcomes expected to achieve this.

5. Proposal

5.1 Following approval by the Housing and Communities Panel, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet it is proposed that the strategy will be formally consulted on for a period of six weeks before going to Council for adoption. It is proposed that the new Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping strategy will be formally published in May 2025.

6. Alternatives Considered

6.1 The Council is legally obligated to have a Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and therefore no further alternatives have been considered.

7. Resource and Legal Implications

7.1 Resources to deliver the vision are set out in the strategy, which also includes a review of current funding streams.

7.2 Under the Homelessness Act 2002 it is a legal requirement for Local Authorities to have in place a homelessness strategy based on a review of all forms of homelessness in their district, this strategy must be reviewed every five years.

8. Consultation

8.1 In addition to the Task and Finish Group consultations have been held with Registered Providers, Developers, Service Providers, Service Users, officers both within the Housing Division and across the Council where appropriate. A range of consultation methods have been used including face to face meetings, interviews, surveys, forums, and round table discussions. Officers have received high levels of engagement from all consultees. The Housing and Communities Panel recommended the draft strategy on November 14th 2024.

9. Community Impact and Corporate Risks

9.1 The provision of decent homes and the prevention of homelessness has a significant impact on our communities and 'homes for all' is a key corporate objective. Failure to deliver on these priorities will have a significant impact on the Council's financial resources as it has a legal obligation to provide nightly paid accommodation to those presenting as homeless and to whom it owes a relief duty. By having a range of

provisions to prevent homelessness from occurring will have a positive impact on those experiencing potential homelessness as well as financial benefits to the Council.

10. Other Implications

	Yes	No
Crime and Disorder		√
Biodiversity and Climate Change Mitigation. The provision of new energy efficient homes and retrofitting of older stock has a positive impact on the environment and in reducing the running costs of a home.	√	
Human Rights and Equality Impact. The provision of a safe and secure home for those most vulnerable has a positive impact on all areas of their lives including health, education, and employment.	√	
Safeguarding and Early Help. Providing early support to prevent homelessness from occurring, preventing further harm from potential risks associated with rough sleeping.	√	
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)		√
Health and Wellbeing. The provision of secure, affordable homes which enable people to remain in their local communities, increasing a sense of belonging and reducing anxieties created through insecure tenancies and homelessness.	√	
Other (please specify)		

11. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Draft Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025
 Appendix 2 – Draft Action Plan
 Appendix 3 – Consultation summary report

12. Background Papers

12.1 None