

North Tyneside Council

Report to Cabinet

Date: 20 January 2020

Title: North Tyneside Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019 - 2021

Portfolio(s): Housing

Cabinet Member(s): Councillor Steve Cox

Report from Service

Area: Environment Housing and Leisure

Responsible Officer: Phil Scott, Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure Tel: (0191) 643 7295

Wards affected: All Wards

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

Cabinet approved the Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2019 – 2021 in June 2019. It is now a Government requirement that every Local Authority in England is to have an up to date Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, and that this strategy is submitted to Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and available online.

This report to Cabinet seeks approval for the revised Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2019 – 2021.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet approves the North Tyneside Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019 – 2021 at Appendix One of this report.

1.3 Forward Plan:

Twenty-eight days' notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 29 November 2019.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report relates to the following priorities in the 2018 - 2020 Our North Tyneside Plan

Our People will:

Be ready for work and life

Be cared for, protected and supported

Be healthy and well

Our Places will:

Offer a good choice of quality housing

Be great places to live

In addition to Our North Tyneside Plan 2018 – 2020 the current plans and strategies in the Framework are as follows:

North Tyneside Housing Strategy 2016 - 2021

This strategy has four strategic objectives, of which preventing homelessness sits within Priority 4: Better Homes, More Independence.

North Tyneside Tenancy Strategy 2013 – 2018

The strategy emphasises the need to make best use of the housing stock to meet local housing need, maintain and create successful, sustainable communities and prevent homelessness.

North Tyneside Lettings Policy 2017

This policy aims to help people access secure, suitable and affordable social sector homes within North Tyneside.

North Tyneside Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013 -2023

This strategy focuses on the health inequalities that exist within the borough and sets out the priorities to address this. The issues faced by many homeless and transient people cut across all five strategic priorities.

North Tyneside Children’s Workforce Development Strategy 2015 -2018

The partnership brings together public and voluntary sector organisations responsible for children’s services with the aim of improving life outcomes.

1.5 Information:

1.5.1 Background

The MHCLG published the Cross-Government Rough Sleeping Strategy, which committed to ensuring that all local authorities have an up to date homelessness strategy, which is available online by winter 2019. They also asked that strategies be rebadged as homelessness and rough sleeping strategies.

1.5.2 The Authority’s current Homelessness Strategy was approved by Cabinet in June 2019 and covers the period 2019 – 2021. Therefore, to adhere to the recent Government requirement the Authority has reviewed this strategy and updated it to include further focus on rough sleeping.

The main changes to the strategy include:

- Renaming the strategy to ‘Homelessness Prevention and Rough sleeping Strategy 2019-2021 and Delivery Plan’.
- Section 4.2.5 now includes further detail on the impacts of rough sleeping and costs to manage it.
- Section 5 ‘Our priorities’ now includes the challenges and issues rough sleepers present and how the Authority responds to rough sleeping in the borough.

1.6 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet.

Option 1

Cabinet may approve the revised Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy

Option 2

Cabinet may reject the revised Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy.

Option 3

Cabinet may request further information prior to approval of the revised Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy being received.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

To ensure that the Authority meets the Government requirement that every Local Authority in England must have an up to date Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.

To ensure that this strategy is submitted to MHCLG and available online.

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix 1: North Tyneside Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2019 - 2021

1.9 Contact officers:

Paul Worth, Senior Manager, Housing Operations, tel. (0191) 643 7554
Fiona Robson, Housing Policy and Development Manager, tel (0191) 643 6212
David Dunford, Senior Business Partner, tel: (0191) 643 7027

1.10 Background information:

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

North Tyneside Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2019 - 2021

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

The cost of compiling and publishing the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019 – 2021 will be managed within current budgets. It is intended to aim to deliver the outcomes described within the action plan within current resources and any other funding requirements subsequently identified to deliver specific priorities within the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019 - 2021 would be funded through external partnership funding or be subject to future Cabinet reports.

2.2 Legal

The Authority is obliged by section 1(4) of the Homelessness Act 2002, to review its Homelessness Strategy within 5 years from the date of publication of the last strategy.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

Internal consultation has taken place with the Cabinet Member for Housing, North Tyneside Housing Advice Team and Policy and Development Team on this revision.

2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

External consultation on the revision of the name of the strategy has taken place with the North Tyneside Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Partnership.

2.4 Human rights

There are no human rights implications directly arising from this report.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

There are no equalities and diversity implications directly arising from this report.

2.6 Risk management

Risks associated with the Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2018 – 2021 have been considered.

2.7 Crime and disorder

The Safer North Tyneside Partnership confirms support for partners to reduce crime and disorder in the borough. The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019 - 2021 aims to contribute to reducing crime through supporting offenders into settled accommodation and working with partners to reduce street based activity.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no environment and sustainability implications directly arising from this report.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive X
- Head(s) of Service X
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s) X
- Chief Finance Officer X
- Monitoring Officer X
- Head of Corporate Strategy and Customer Service X