

Cabinet



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Tuesday, 28 December 2021

A meeting of the **Cabinet** of North Norfolk District Council will be held in the Council Offices, Holt Road, Cromer, NR27 9EN on **Wednesday, 5 January 2022 at 10.00 am.**

At the discretion of the Chairman, a short break will be taken after the meeting has been running for approximately one and a half hours

Members of the public who wish to ask a question or speak on an agenda item are requested to arrive at least 15 minutes before the start of the meeting so that we can ensure compliance with current Covid regulations. Further information on the procedure for public speaking can be obtained from Democratic Services, Tel:01263 516010, Email:emma.denny@north-norfolk.gov.uk.

Please note that this meeting is livestreamed:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsShJeAVZMS0kSWcz-WyEzg>

Anyone attending this meeting may take photographs, film or audio-record the proceedings and report on the meeting. Anyone wishing to do so should inform the Chairman. If you are a member of the public and you wish to speak on an item on the agenda, please be aware that you may be filmed or photographed.

Emma Denny
Democratic Services Manager

To: Mrs W Fredericks, Mrs S Bütikofer, Mrs A Fitch-Tillett, Ms V Gay, Mr R Kershaw, Mr N Lloyd, Mr E Seward, Miss L Shires and Mr J Toye

All other Members of the Council for information.

Members of the Management Team, appropriate Officers, Press and Public



**If you have any special requirements in order
to attend this meeting, please let us know in advance**

If you would like any document in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact us

Chief Executive: Steve Blatch

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A G E N D A

1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. MINUTES

1 - 6

To approve, as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 29 November 2021

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

To receive questions and statements from the public, if any.

4. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

To determine any other items of business which the Chairman decides should be considered as a matter of urgency pursuant to Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

7 - 8

Members are asked at this stage to declare any interests that they may have in any of the following items on the agenda. The Code of Conduct for Members requires that declarations include the nature of the interest and whether it is a disclosable pecuniary interest (see attached guidance and flowchart)

6. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

To receive oral questions from Members, if any

7. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

There were no formal recommendations to Cabinet from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 08 December 2021.

8. SUPPORT IN SAFE ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY FOR NORFOLK 2021-2024

9 - 66

Summary:

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 includes new duties on tier 1 local authorities in England relating to the provision of support for victims and their children residing within *relevant safe accommodation* to assess the need for *safe accommodation and support* and develop a strategy to meet these needs.

Options considered:

Tier 2 local authorities have a duty to co-operate as a key stakeholder and partner in undertaking the needs assessment and developing and implementing the strategy.

No other options have been considered.

Conclusions:	This draft strategy is being presented to Cabinet to seek endorsement for this partnership strategy and to acknowledge our role in its continued development and implementation to reflect the importance the Council has placed on the need to support survivors of domestic abuse.
Recommendations:	To endorse the Support in Safe Accommodation Strategy for Norfolk 2021-2024.
Reasons for Recommendations:	Endorsing the strategy demonstrates acknowledgement of our role in developing and implementing the strategy and reflect the importance of the need to support survivors of domestic abuse.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS AS REQUIRED BY LAW

(Papers relied on to write the report, which do not contain exempt information and which are not published elsewhere)

none

Cabinet Member(s) Cllr W Fredericks	Ward(s) affected – all
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Contact Officer, telephone number and email:
Karen Hill, Assistant Director of People Services, 01263 516183,
karen.hill@north-norfolk.gov.uk

9. LEASE PROPOSAL AT D, E AND F HORNBEAM ROAD

67 - 78

Summary: The Council has received a lease proposal from a national operator to rent commercial premises at Hornbeam Road, North Walsham. The proposal represents a market rent/terms and initial due diligence indicate the tenant is of good covenant strength.

Options considered:

The alternative option would be not to accept the lease proposal from the national operator for all three units and continue to market the two remaining units. However, the property was acquired for investment purposes and the proposed offer would facilitate a strong financial return.

Conclusions:	<p>Having marketed the remaining units to let, Officers have gained a lease proposal to rent all three adjoining units, which would be for a trade counter facility with storage.</p> <p>The proposed tenant is of a good covenant strength and the rental terms negotiated, represents a good market rental offer. The proposal provides a good level of investment return in accordance with the Asset Management Plan.</p>
Recommendations:	<p>It is recommended that Cabinet should resolve:</p> <p>A. To withdraw from the current proposed lease, which is not yet legally completed</p> <p>B. To approve the lease terms as described in Appendix A</p>
Reasons for Recommendations:	<p>Principally to support the financial sustainability and growth of the Council by leasing the premises and generating rental income that is used to support Council services.</p>
Recommendations:	<p>To approve the lease terms as stated in the appendix to move forwards with the proposal.</p>

10. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

To pass the following resolution:

“That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to the Act.”

11. PRIVATE BUSINESS

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Monday, 29 November 2021 at the Council Chamber - Council Offices at 10.00 am

Committee

Members Present:

Mrs W Fredericks
Mrs A Fitch-Tillett
Mr R Kershaw
Mr E Seward

Mrs S Bütikofer (Chair)
Ms V Gay
Mr N Lloyd
Mr J Toye

Members also attending:

Mr A Brown
Mr C Cushing
Mr N Dixon
Dr V Holliday
Mrs E Withington

Officers in Attendance:

Chief Executive, Democratic Services Manager and Democratic Services and Governance Officer - Scrutiny

Apologies for Absence:

Miss L Shires

168 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 01 November were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

169 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

None received.

170 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None received.

171 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

172 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

The Chairman advised members that they could ask questions as matters arose throughout the meeting.

173 MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET WORKING PARTIES

RESOLVED

To receive the draft minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Working Party for Projects, held on 20th October 2021.

174 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Chairman invited Cllr N Dixon, Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, to introduce this item. He began by saying the Tree Planting Strategy had been considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 10th November. He said that the committee saw the strategy as the first step in a lengthy process, which included the ongoing maintenance of trees that were planted. The Committee had agreed that planting hedgerows was integral to the strategy and should therefore be reflected in the title.

Cllr Dixon said that the second recommendation reflected a wider discussion by the committee on building on and then broadening the ambitions of the tree planting strategy. It was felt that a biodiversity strategy could be developed in the future to reflect the importance and value of the ecosystems in the District which were dependent on peat, saltmarsh and seaweed.

The Portfolio Holder for Environment, Cllr N Lloyd, thanked Cllr Dixon for his comments. He said that the strategy was an overarching document under which a range of different methods and activities sat – including community orchards, mini forests and natural regeneration. He went on to say that it was unfortunate that the Climate & Environmental Policy Manager had not had the opportunity to present the strategy to the committee as she could have picked up on some of the points raised. He said that biodiversity was a key issue and that Cabinet supported its promotion but that wanted to focus on delivering the Corporate Plan objectives initially. He concluded by saying that the strategy covered all of the aspects raised by the committee, including hedgerows in some detail and he therefore did not feel that the title needed to specify this.

It was proposed by Cllr N Lloyd, seconded by Cllr R Kershaw and

RESOLVED

1. That the Strategy already reflected the key concerns raised by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and that there was no need to change the title to include hedgerows.
2. That consideration be given to developing a separate biodiversity strategy, with special reference to ecosystems dependent on peat, salt marsh and seaweed, at a future date.

175 LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENTS

Cllr J Toye, Portfolio Holder for Planning, introduced this item. He said that this was the third and final consultation on the Council's Local Plan. He explained that the process for consultation for this stage of the Plan was regulated and must also comply with an adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). He said that the report was coming straight to Cabinet for approval as officers wanted to ensure that the tight timescale was maintained. The Planning Policy & Built Heritage

Working Party would consider the proposals at their meeting on 6th December.

The Chairman of the Planning Policy & Built Heritage Working Party, Cllr A Brown, said that this was a public consultation and it was a limited legal process which allowed comment on soundness and compliance only. It was not another opportunity for the public to comment on wider issues such as the site allocations.

It was proposed by Cllr J Toye, seconded by Cllr V Gay and

RESOLVED

That subject to Working Party endorsement of Plan content in December, Cabinet resolves to agree the Communications & Engagement Plan as the basis for conducting Regulation 19 public consultation on the Draft Local Plan and supporting documents.

Reason for the decision:

To expedite the preparation and adoption of a new Local Plan for the District.

176 PUBLIC CONVENIENCE INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

Cllr E Seward, Portfolio Holder for Assets, introduced this item. He said that he wished to propose the following amendment to the third recommendation:

‘Request that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee undertake further work to develop and embed the draft strategy which will include evidence collection and engagement as outlined in the draft strategy. Further, that Cabinet be advised of the scope of the Committee’s work, progress and recommendations’

Cllr Seward explained that replacing ‘task’ with ‘request’ reflected that the role of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee was separate to the executive functions of the Council.

Cllr Seward said that the Council was committed to providing public toilets across the District. They played an important role in supporting tourism, local businesses and residents. He said that it had been reported that up to 14m people in the UK suffered from urinary problems and access to public toilets was crucial.

Cllr Seward explained that refurbishment and remodelling work had already been completed on toilets in Sheringham, Bacton and Walcott and a changing places facility had been installed at the North Norfolk Information Centre in Cromer with further facilities scheduled for Stearman’s Yard, Wells and Queen’s Road, Fakenham. He said that the cost to the Council of providing such a key provision was substantial, with the net overall budget for 2021/22 being £730k. To ensure that the Council’s ambitious programme could be achieved, a further £500k was required to refurbish the toilets at Sheringham Leas and to replace the toilets in Victoria Street car park in North Walsham. He added that the public consultation for the North Walsham Heritage Action Zone had shown that there was demand for better toilet provision in the town.

Cllr Seward said that the Corporate Plan set out the ambition of a ‘changing places’ facility in every town in the District. This was on track to be achieved – either by NNDC or in conjunction with a partner. He added that since 2018, £1.2m had been spent on the provision of new toilets in North Norfolk. He then referred members to

sections 4.5 and 4.6 of the report which highlighted that the Council had expressed an interest in the government programme for 'changing places'. At least £40k should be forthcoming from this application process.

Cllr Seward then explained that the government had become concerned that councils were having to pay business rates on public conveniences. Something which discouraged many local authorities from retaining their toilets. For the current financial year, the cost of business rates for NNDC's public toilets was £139k. Even when business rates relief was applied, £89K (64% of the total) was still payable as relief was only received where they were the main / only building on site and most of the toilets were located on car parks. In conclusion, Cllr Seward said that the Council was bucking the national trend. Since 2010, one in seven public toilets had been closed and there were 37 local authority areas where there was no public toilet provision.

The Chairman invited members to speak:

Cllr Gay said that it should be noted that the Council did not have a statutory obligation to provide public conveniences but chose to do so. Cllr Toye agreed, saying that many people did not understand this. He said that he was pleased that the Council was making North Norfolk more accessible.

Cllr E Withington said that as local member for Sheringham, she welcomed the strategy. The toilets in the town were old and it was hard to maintain standards. IT was time for a refresh and to improve accessibility.

Cllr J Rest. Local member for Fakenham, said that the town was fortunate to have three sets of public toilets and they were well used and valued. He said residents appreciated the investment in improving the existing provision.

Cllr V Holliday referred to the £30k of funding allocated for evidence gathering and asked for more information on this. She also asked for clarification on the Serco cost. She said that when she had approached them in relation to the public toilets in Cley, the costs had been prohibitive and she wondered whether alternative contractors had been considered. Cllr Seward replied that the £30k was allocated to support Overview & Scrutiny Committee in their evidence gathering and the undertaking of a comprehensive study. He said that there had been some previous data relating to 9 of the Council's toilets but it would be necessary to undertake a much wider piece of work. It would also be beneficial if research could be undertaken regarding what was being done in other parts of the country.

Cllr C Cushing said that he endorsed the proposals. It was human right to have access to toilet facilities and generated a cost benefit to the District regarding tourism. He asked when the outcome of the bid for government funding would be known. The Director of Resources replied that he had been advised that the Government would be considering the bids in the coming months. In response to Cllr Holliday's question regarding Serco, the Director of Resources said that as an authority there was a requirement to engage with contractors who could support provision across the whole of the District. In addition, such provision was also packaged with the wider waste contract to provide continuity of service.

Cllr N Dixon said that as Chairman of Overview & Scrutiny Committee, he welcomed the amended wording to the third recommendation as it better reflected the working relationship between the committee and the Executive. He added that the committee would want to engage in a constructive way. He then referred to the £30k of funding for evidence gathering and asked how this would be spent. Cllr Seward replied that it was up to the committee how they decided to approach this piece of work. It was to

ensure that there was financial support in place to assist, if required. As he mentioned previously, it could cover the cost of any surveys and data gathering. The Head of Resources added that there were a number of areas within the draft strategy which required additional information and officers were keen to ensure that a sound evidence base could be drawn upon. He said that the funding would enable this to be undertaken properly and support the aspirations set out in the strategy. Information that could be obtained about the Council's assets and a consultation with residents regarding what they wanted and needed from these facilities, would support better planning. Cllr Dixon thanked him for the clarification and said that he was supportive of an objective, evidence based approach.

It was proposed by Cllr E Seward, seconded by Cllr J Toye and

RESOLVED to

1. Adopt the principles contained within the draft Strategy document contained within Appendix A;
2. Approve a provisional budget of £30k to support with the evidence gathering recommended within the Strategy, to be funded from the Invest to Save reserve;
3. Request that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee undertake further work to develop and embed the draft strategy which will include evidence collection and engagement as outlined in the draft strategy. Further, that Cabinet be advised of the scope of the Committee's work, progress and recommendations and
4. Recommend to Full Council that further capital provision of £500,000 is allocated from capital receipts (to include any potential grant funding) to undertake improvements to facilities in Sheringham and North Walsham, to include provision of Changing Places facilities. These facilities will be delivered by the end of the 2022 calendar year.

Reasons for the decision:

To provide a more strategic approach to the management and investment off these important assets whilst continuing the capital investment improvement plan.

177 MANAGING PERFORMANCE QUARTER 2 2021/2022

The Leader, Cllr S Butikofer, introduced this item. She said that strong progress had been made and that things were now moving forwards at pace. She added that additional reporting information was now available to sit alongside the performance report and made it easier for Members to see exactly where progress was being made.

It was proposed by Cllr S Butikofer, seconded by Cllr R Kershaw and

RESOLVED

To approve the amendments to reporting as outlined in paragraph 3.3 of the report

178 TREASURY MANAGEMENT HALF YEARLY REPORT 2021/2022

Cllr E Seward, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Assets, introduced this item. He said that this was a standard, cyclical report that would be considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee before approval by Full Council. Cllr Seward said that the cost of

the Reef Leisure Centre and the waste vehicles had been paid for without long term borrowing being required. Short-term borrowing was also down too.

It was proposed by Cllr E Seward, seconded by Cllr W Fredericks and

RESOLVED

That the Council be asked to RESOLVE that The Treasury Management Half Yearly Report 2021/22 is approved

Reason for the decision

Approval by Council demonstrates compliance with the Codes.

179 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

180 PRIVATE BUSINESS

The meeting ended at 10.35am

Chairman

Declarations of Interest at Meetings

When declaring an interest at a meeting, Members are asked to indicate whether their interest in the matter is pecuniary, or if the matter relates to, or affects a pecuniary interest they have, or if it is another type of interest. Members are required to identify the nature of the interest and the agenda item to which it relates. In the case of other interests, the member may speak and vote. If it is a pecuniary interest, the member must withdraw from the meeting when it is discussed. If it affects or relates to a pecuniary interest the member has, they have the right to make representations to the meeting as a member of the public but must then withdraw from the meeting.

Have you declared the interest in the register of interests as a pecuniary interest? If Yes, you will need to withdraw from the room when it is discussed.

Does the interest directly:

1. Affect yours, or your spouse / partner's financial position?
2. Relate to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to you or your spouse / partner?
3. Relate to a contract you, or your spouse / partner have with the Council
4. Affect land you or your spouse / partner own
5. Affect a company that you or your partner own, or have a shareholding in

If the answer is "yes" to any of the above, it is likely to be pecuniary.

Please refer to the guidance given on declaring pecuniary interests in the register of interest forms. If you have a pecuniary interest, you will need to inform the meeting and then withdraw from the room when it is discussed. If it has not been previously declared, you will also need to notify the Monitoring Officer within 28 days.

Does the interest indirectly affect or relate to any pecuniary interest you have already declared, or an interest you have identified at 1-5 above?

If yes, you need to inform the meeting. When it is discussed, you will have the right to make representations to the meeting as a member of the public, but must then withdraw from the meeting.

Is the interest not related to any of the above? If so, it is likely to be another interest. You will need to declare the interest, but may participate in discussion and voting on the item.

Have you made any statements or undertaken any actions that would indicate that you have a closed mind on a matter under discussion? If so, you may be predetermined on the issue; you will need to inform the meeting and when it is discussed, you will have the right to make representations to the meeting as a member of the public, but must then withdraw from the meeting.

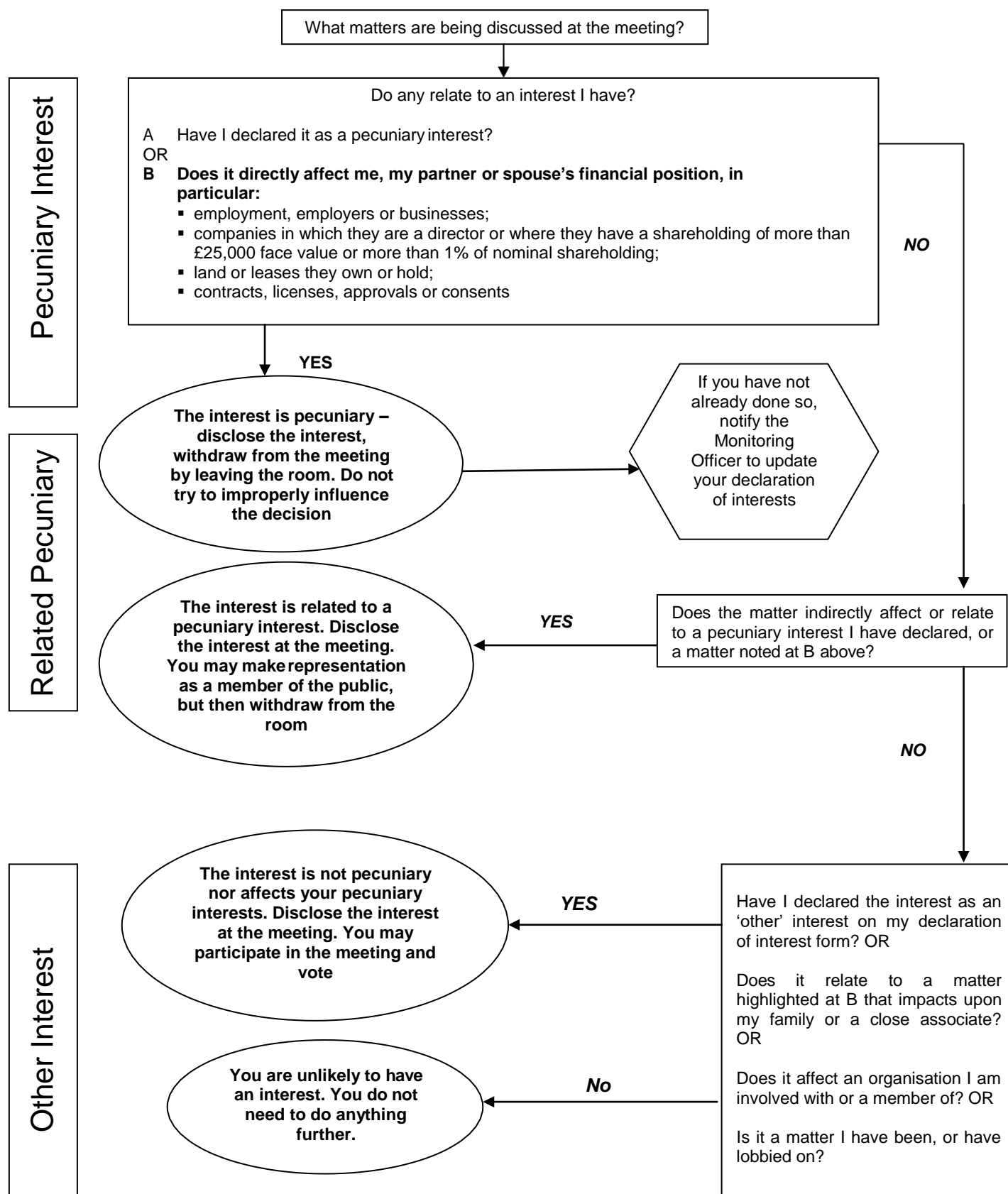
FOR GUIDANCE REFER TO THE FLOWCHART OVERLEAF

PLEASE REFER ANY QUERIES TO THE MONITORING OFFICER IN THE FIRST INSTANCE

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS SHOULD ALSO REFER TO THE PLANNING PROTOCOL

Declarations of Interest at Meetings

DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF



Support in Safe Accommodation Strategy for Norfolk 2021-2024

Summary:	<p>The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 includes new duties on tier 1 local authorities in England relating to the provision of support for victims and their children residing within <i>relevant safe accommodation</i> to assess the need for <i>safe accommodation and support</i> and develop a strategy to meet these needs.</p> <p>Tier 2 local authorities have a duty to co-operate as a key stakeholder and partner in undertaking the needs assessment and developing and implementing the strategy.</p>
Options considered:	No other options have been considered.
Conclusions:	This draft strategy is being presented to Cabinet to seek endorsement for this partnership strategy and to acknowledge our role in its continued development and implementation to reflect the importance the Council has placed on the need to support survivors of domestic abuse.
Recommendations:	To endorse the Support in Safe Accommodation Strategy for Norfolk 2021-2024.
Reasons for Recommendations:	Endorsing the strategy demonstrates acknowledgement of our role in developing and implementing the strategy and reflect the importance of the need to support survivors of domestic abuse.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS AS REQUIRED BY LAW

(Papers relied on to write the report, which do not contain exempt information and which are not published elsewhere)

none

Cabinet Member(s) Cllr W Fredericks	Ward(s) affected – all
Contact Officer, telephone number and email: Karen Hill, Assistant Director of People Services, 01263 516183, karen.hill@north-norfolk.gov.uk	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 On 29 April 2021, the Domestic Abuse Bill 2021 received Royal Assent. The Act includes new duties on tier 1 local authorities in England relating to the provision of support for victims and their children residing within *relevant safe accommodation*. Under these provisions tier 1 local authorities must;
 - Assess the need for accommodation-based Domestic Abuse support for survivors and their children in their area, including the need of those coming from outside the area
 - Based on the needs assessment develop and implement a strategy.
- 1.2 Tier 2 local authorities have a duty to co-operate as a key stakeholder and partner in undertaking the needs assessment and developing and implementing the strategy.
- 1.3 The draft strategy which includes a link to the needs assessment is attached (appendix 1).
- 1.4 Norfolk County Council has consulted with key stakeholders on the draft strategy and the draft strategy was considered by their Cabinet on 6 December 2021. It is likely that there will be some changes to this draft as a result. In addition a delivery plan will be developed.
- 1.5 The final version of the strategy has to be submitted to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities by 6 January 2022.
- 1.6 This draft strategy is being presented to Cabinet to seek endorsement for this partnership strategy and to acknowledge our role in its continued development and implementation to reflect the importance the Council has placed on the need to support survivors of domestic abuse.

2. Background

- 2.1 It is important to note that the remit of this strategy relates only to the provision of *support* for survivors of domestic abuse and their children and only to the support provided in *safe accommodation*. *Support* and *safe accommodation* are both defined in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and these are detailed in the strategy.
- 2.2 Norfolk County Council has been allocated new burdens funding of £1.8m for 2021/22. The tier 2 authorities have been awarded new burdens funding of £220k of which North Norfolk District Council has received £32,138. This funding is being utilised to fund the additional capacity as outlined in the People Services Restructure and will cover the cost of officers contributing to the development of the needs assessment and strategy development and implementation in addition to considering how we can improve the support to survivors of domestic abuse more generally.
- 2.3 The needs assessment has highlighted the need to improve data collection across partner organisations and to develop a framework for consultation with key groups with lived experience and in particular those with protected

characteristics which by nature mean that they can be harder to engage. Partners are also keen to develop a framework to enable the co-production of services with those with lived experience.

- 2.4 The needs assessment highlighted a lack of safe accommodation which needs to be addressed through the strategy. It also highlighted that much of the current provision is not able to accommodate some key groups and that these tend to be groups with protected characteristics who as a result suffer greater disadvantage. The strategy needs to develop a more flexible offer of safe accommodation in order to meet the needs of groups with protected characteristics.
- 2.5 The needs assessment identified that although there is refuge provision in all 7 districts in Norfolk and 2 safe houses, one of which is in North Norfolk, that there is a need for a further 26-36 units of accommodation.
- 2.6 The needs assessment will be refreshed annually and the strategy refreshed every 3 years.
- 2.7 The draft strategy includes 5 objectives;
 - Increase the amount and flexibility of safe accommodation
 - Improve engagement with victim survivors of domestic abuse
 - Improve the quality of support and of safe accommodation
 - Support children in safe accommodation through the provision of play based therapy
 - Improved intelligence.

3. Corporate Plan Objectives

- 3.1 Local Homes for local need – this strategy seeks to increase the availability of safe accommodation for victim survivors of domestic abuse and to improve the quality of such accommodation and the support provided within such accommodation. This strategy sits alongside the No Homelessness in Norfolk Strategy 2022-2025, the North Norfolk District Council Housing Strategy 2021-2024 and the Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019-2024.
- 3.2 Customer Focus – the Council has a legal responsibility under the Equality Act 2010 to ensure that people are treated fairly when using services. It will be important therefore to ensure a robust consideration of the needs of customers with protected characteristics in the design and delivery of services.
- 3.3 Quality of Life – equality, diversity and inclusion and community safety are key factors in health and wellbeing and quality of life.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 includes new duties on tier 1 local authorities in England relating to the provision of support for victims and their children residing within *relevant safe accommodation* to assess the need for safe accommodation and support and develop a strategy to meet these needs.

4.2 Tier 2 local authorities have a duty to co-operate as a key stakeholder and partner in undertaking the needs assessment and developing and implementing the strategy.

4.3 This draft strategy is being presented to Cabinet to seek endorsement for this partnership strategy and to acknowledge our role in its continued development and implementation to reflect the importance the Council has placed on the need to support survivors of domestic abuse.

5. Medium Term Financial Strategy

5.1 The Council received new burdens funding in 2021/22 to reflect the duty to co-operate.

6. Financial and Resource Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications.

7. Legal Implications

7.1 The Council has a legal duty to co-operate as outlined above.

8. Risks

8.1 Reputational risk and implications of not fulfilling statutory duties.

9. Sustainability

9.1 Supporting the more vulnerable members of our communities has a positive impact on sustainability.

10. Equality and Diversity

10.1 This strategy seeks to address gaps in provision of safe accommodation and support for victim survivors of domestic abuse and their children. The strategy seeks to engage with victim survivors to co-produce services. The needs assessment has highlighted the need to engage with the more marginalized groups which tend to have protected characteristics.

11. Section 17 Crime and Disorder considerations

11.1 Domestic Abuse is a crime and the need for support and safe accommodation is a direct consequence of the need of victim survivors to flee from the perpetrators of violence. The strategy acknowledges the need for partners to work with the Police and other agencies to tackle the wider issues and seek to prevent domestic abuse through education, advice and support and support programmes for perpetrators focused on changing behaviour.

Support in Safe Accommodation Strategy for Norfolk 2021-2024

In accordance with Part 4 of the Domestic
Abuse Act, 2021

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Foreword

No one should feel unsafe in their own home, yet the police recorded 844,955 cases of Domestic Abuse across the country in the year ending March 2021. All forms of Domestic Abuse are unacceptable in any situation, and the effects of it can be devastating for victim-survivors and their children.

Domestic Abuse is a leading cause of homelessness for adult and child victim-survivors. Norfolk has both a moral and statutory duty to help victim-survivors and this strategy sets out how we will do that.

We have recently undertaken a needs assessment in relation to the prevalence of Domestic Abuse in Norfolk and what services there are to support victim-survivors across Norfolk.

From this data analysis and working with both Domestic Abuse service providers and victim-survivors, we can present the Support in Safe Accommodation Strategy for Norfolk.

This strategy outlines how Norfolk County Council, as a Tier 1 authority, will work with Tier 2 authorities, and key stakeholders (including victim-survivors) to meet the new duties to provide support in safe accommodation for both adults and children in Norfolk. We will work to ensure that victim-survivors living in Norfolk are supported to remain safe in their own home if they wish, or access alternative safe accommodation and support.

Although Domestic Abuse is a gendered issue, mainly experienced by women, we recognise in Norfolk that men do experience it too, as the Needs Assessment has highlighted that 28% of all referrals to Domestic Abuse services are male. This figure is higher in national crime statistics, suggesting there is more work to be done to help men access the right support.



Cllr Bill Borrett, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

We know that in Norfolk, over the pandemic period in particular, the prevalence of Domestic Abuse has increased, and we need to better understand whether this is because victim-survivors are better able to report, feel safer to report, or indeed there is a substantive 19% increase in Domestic Abuse in 2020 compared to 2019.

From the survey we undertook with Victim-survivors who have experience of receiving support in safe accommodation they stated they felt they were listened to and most had a positive experience. One victim-survivor said, “It helped me realise (sadly) that I wasn’t alone, and it gave me that wider support network I needed”.

In Norfolk, we do not believe that homelessness, inappropriate and/or unsafe accommodation, or having to remain in a home where a person is experiencing Domestic Abuse is a choice, that any victim-survivor should be faced with. The Support in Safe Accommodation Strategy for Norfolk outlines how all agencies will work collaboratively to provide victim-survivors with a range of flexible options, that enable them to remain safe at home or access suitable alternative safe accommodation and support if that is what is needed and wanted.

This strategy will be vital in ensuring there is cross departmental and sector working about support in safe accommodation. This strategy will be part of a wider Domestic Abuse strategy framework that will work together to ensure there is preventative Domestic Abuse support measures that provide intervention within the community and that we listen and act to the voices and experiences of victim-survivors.

By doing this together, we will be able to improve our overall service offer and improve outcomes for victim-survivors including children, with the aim of breaking the cycle of Domestic Abuse.



Giles Orpen-Smellie – Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk

Executive Summary

The Support in Safe Accommodation Strategy for Norfolk 2021–2024 outlines how Norfolk County Council will implement the statutory duties associated with the provision of safe accommodation, as required by the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (“the Act”). The purpose of the Act is:

- To protect and support victim-survivors’ and their families; transform the justice process to prioritise victim-survivors’ safety and provide an effective response to perpetrators; and to drive consistency and better performance in the response to Domestic Abuse (DA) across all local areas, agencies, and sectors
- Recognising the devastating impact on victim-survivors of all genders, and children of DA - and introduces a statutory duty on Tier 1 authorities to assess and meet support needs in safe accommodation

We welcome the Act for its explicit recognition that the children of victim-survivors are also victim-survivors of DA. That is why Adults and Children’s Services in Norfolk are working jointly to provide a seamless response to victim-survivors.

This strategy demonstrates how support in safe accommodation for DA victim-survivors will be provided over the next three years and outlines five objectives identified because of the DA Accommodation Needs Assessment (“the Needs Assessment”). This will initially be the focus of delivery. These include:

1. Increase the amount and flexibility of safe accommodation: As identified by the Needs Assessment there is an unmet need for safe accommodation of 38 bedspaces in Norfolk. Flexible accommodation options with support that can meet the differing needs of male victim-survivors, children (including older male children) and those with protected characteristics and what are considered more complex needs are required.

2. Improve engagement with victim-survivors of DA: The Needs Assessment has identified a gap in relation to how Norfolk works to improve their DA services. It is vital that we hear an authentic voice from all members of our different communities who are victim-survivors of DA.

3. Improve the quality of support and safe accommodation: Ensure that DA safe accommodation and support is of the same quality and standard across Norfolk and what services there are, is driven by monitoring, review, and improvement.

4. Support children in safe accommodation: The Needs Assessment shows that therapeutic support etc., is not available in all safe accommodation and this needs to be levelled up across Norfolk.

5. Improved intelligence: The Needs Assessment identifies the data used is often aggregated and there is risk of duplication. Data needs to improve to better understand the level of prevalence and demand especially in relation to male victim-survivors, children, those who are 75+ and those with protected characteristics. There is also the need to better understand the demand from victim-survivors having their needs met outside of Norfolk, and who may wish to return, and those seeking refuge from outside of the County.

The Needs Assessment undertaken by the Norfolk Office of Data and Analytics (NODA) highlighted a 19% increase in Norfolk during 2020 of crimes relating to DA compared to those recorded in 2019. Although it is not entirely clear whether this is because data recording has improved, victim-survivors are more confident to report abuse or indeed there has been an overall increase, it is still an alarming statistic and behind these numbers are people who have suffered or maybe still suffering from DA.

This strategy looks to ensure we improve what we are doing and will complement existing work that is taking place across the County to address the health and wellbeing, community safety and housing needs of those who experience DA in Norfolk. It is part of a wider framework of strategy documents which include:

- Norfolk County Community Safety Plan
- Better Together, for Norfolk 2021-2025
- Greater Norwich Homelessness Strategy 2020-2025 (Broadland District Council, Norwich City Council & South Norfolk District Council).
- South Norfolk and Broadland Rough Sleeper Statement 2020-2022
- North Norfolk Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-2024
- Great Yarmouth Homelessness Strategy
- The Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk Homelessness Strategy 2015-19.
- Breckland Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025
- North Norfolk District Council Housing Strategy 2021-2025
- Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018-2022.

This strategy in addition to the strategies listed above, will underpin future strategies such as:

- Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Group (DASVG) - Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021-2024 (including delivery plan)
- Domestic Abuse Communications Strategy
- Norfolk Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Prevention Strategy
- No Homelessness in Norfolk Strategy.

The aim of this Support in Safe Accommodation Strategy is to support the lives of victim-survivors and their children by ensuring there are safe accommodation options and appropriate support when needed. Having the right kind of accommodation and support will provide opportunities for people and their children to start living their own, safe independent lives now and importantly for children, in the future.

This strategy has been produced by Norfolk County Council through the Norfolk Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (NDAPB) with oversight of its Council Members as well as the DASVG. The strategy has also received support from the Norfolk Community Safety Partnership Board whose remit is to create safer communities through the reduction of crime and the promotion of safety. The Terms of Reference in relation of NDAPB is included in Appendix 1 and membership of the Norfolk Community Safety Partnership Board is included in Appendix 2.

A structure of the framework in Norfolk that demonstrates how the different boards and groups relate and support each other is included in Appendix 3.

A delivery plan that includes budget commitments is part of the strategy and this will be monitored on a quarterly basis and monitored by NDAPB. Each year the strategy will be reviewed within the context of a refreshed Needs Assessment, and the delivery plan reflecting any changes will be provided to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). Both the Needs Assessment and the Strategy will be fully reviewed and may be altered or replaced every three years.

Why is a Support in Safe Accommodation strategy required?

1



1. Context – Purpose of this Strategy

1.1 The Scope of the Domestic Abuse Support in Safe Accommodation Strategy for Norfolk

The Support in Safe Accommodation Strategy for Norfolk 2021–2024 outlines how we will implement our statutory duties as outlined in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (Part 4: Safe Accommodation and Support).

The Act seeks to:

Raise the awareness and understanding of the devastating impact of domestic abuse on victims and their families.

Further improve the effectiveness of the justice system in providing protection for victims of domestic abuse and bringing perpetrators to justice.

Strengthen the support available to victims of abuse by statutory agencies.

The overarching aim across Norfolk in relation to DA will be:

- Early intervention and prevention
- Accessible services
- Appropriate safe accommodation
- A Multi-agency approach
- Support to safely return home or move on to alternative permanent accommodation.

In our aim to achieve these overarching objectives, the purpose of this Strategy will, as evidenced by the Needs Assessment, demonstrate how we will look to provide support in safe accommodation over the next three years.

Norfolk's DA and Sexual Violence Group (DASVG) will be developing a document over Autumn 2021 which will outline the holistic approach that all key agencies will be taking to improve our joint approach and support to those who are victim-survivors of DA and this Support in Safe Accommodation Strategy for Norfolk will help underpin that document. The DASVG strategy will articulate the broader partnership responses to DA support for victim-survivors (including carers) as well as accommodation support in the form of refuge supply and demand and flexible use of safe accommodation including sanctuary and target hardening measures in accommodation. In addition to this, the DASVG Strategy will include our collective response in relation to prevention and how we will end the cycle of DA in all its forms, including the rehabilitation and education of perpetrators of DA.

Whilst this Support in Safe Accommodation Strategy for Norfolk covers a three-year period, the Needs Assessment will be refreshed on an annual basis and the strategy will reflect any new demands or pressures being identified at that time and which Norfolk needs to respond in relation to the commissioning of new or improvement of services. Any identified changes in demand or trends that emerge on an annual basis will be reflected in the delivery plan. In addition to this the communications will be updated alongside the delivery plan over the three-year period.

The delivery plan is included in this strategy to demonstrate how solutions to the gaps in service delivery can be met and how our response looks to provide a seamless DA service

offer across the different sectors and organisations operating across the County.

1.2 The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (“the Act”)

The Domestic Abuse Bill was passed and became an Act in law on 29th April 2021. Additional information in relation to the Act can be found here: [Domestic Abuse Act 2021: Overarching factsheet](#).

The Act will help transform the response to DA, helping to prevent offending, protect victim-survivors and ensure they and their children have safe accommodation and support when they need it.

One of the key measures introduced by the Act is the new duties on Tier 1 and Tier 2 authorities in England found in Part 4. These authorities now must provide support to victim-survivors of DA and their children in safe accommodation.

This strategy is in response to this new duty on us as a Tier 1 authority and is in conjunction with other existing statutory requirements including (but not limited to) those set out below:

- [Equality Act 2010](#)
- [Human Rights Act 1998](#)
- [Housing Act 1996](#)
- [Homelessness Act 2002](#)
- [Crime and Disorder Act 1998](#).

The new duties on Tier 1 and Tier 2 authorities sit alongside the following existing list of guidance:

- [Improving access to social housing for victim-survivors of DA](#) in refuges or other types of temporary accommodations: statutory guidance on social housing allocations for local authorities in England
- [Homelessness Code of Guidance](#)
- [Keeping children safe in education 2021](#): Statutory guidance for schools and colleges
- [Working together to safeguard children](#): A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
- [Violence against women and girls](#) (including men and boys): national statement of expectations

Definition of Domestic Abuse

The Act has a cross-government definition of DA and is in two parts. Having a precise definition means we all understand what is meant and what is considered unacceptable in relation to DA. This means we can all actively challenge collectively, our behaviour and attitudes in relation to DA. The definition of DA can be found in Section 1 of the Act statutory guidance: [Section 1 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#).

The definition DA is:

- “(2) Behaviour of a person (“A”) towards another person (“B”) is “domestic abuse” if—
- (a) A and B are each aged 16 or over and are personally connected to each other, and
 - (b) the behaviour is abusive.
- (3) Behaviour is “abusive” if it consists of any of the following—
- (a) physical or sexual abuse
 - (b) violent or threatening behaviour
 - (c) controlling or coercive behaviour
 - (d) economic abuse...
 - (e) psychological, emotional, or other abuse

and it does not matter whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct “.

The definition also encompasses what is called ‘Honour’-Based Abuse (“HBA”), Female Genital Mutilation (“FGM”) and Forced Marriage and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender, ethnic group, or socio-economic group.

While the definition above applies to those aged 16 or above, ‘Adolescent to parent violence and abuse’ (“APVA”) can equally involve children under 16 as well as over 16.

There is currently no legal definition of adolescent to parent violence and abuse, however, it is recognised as a form of DA.

Further information on the new statutory definition of DA can be found in the Statutory Guidance - [Delivery of support to victims of domestic abuse in domestic abuse safe accommodation services - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

Definition of Safe Accommodation

Under Part 4, Tier 1 authorities must assess, or decide for the assessment of, the need for accommodation-based support in their area, prepare and publish a strategy for the provision of support in its area, and monitor and evaluate the strategy.

The duty requires that support is provided to victim-survivors who reside in “relevant accommodation”. The [Domestic Abuse Support \(Relevant Accommodation and Housing Benefit and Universal Credit Sanctuary Schemes\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#) sets out the definition of relevant accommodation.

“Relevant accommodation” is referred to as “safe accommodation throughout the statutory guidance and this is adopted in the Support in Safe Accommodation Strategy for Norfolk.

Accommodation which is considered safe accommodation is:

Refuge accommodation – a refuge offers accommodation and intensive support which is tied to that accommodation. Victims, including their children, must be refuge residents to access expert emotional and practical support.

Specialist safe accommodation – specialist refuges for ethnically diverse communities, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Questioning and other (“LGBTQ+”) communities, and disabled victims and their children. These may provide single sex or gender accommodation with dedicated specialist support to victims who share a protected characteristic(s). This includes services that are led by those that also share the protected characteristics and/or have complex needs.

Sanctuary Schemes – properties with local authority installed Sanctuary Schemes or other similar schemes, which provide enhanced physical security measures within a home. A Sanctuary Scheme is a survivor centred initiative which aims to make it possible for victim-survivors of DA to remain in their own homes, where it is safe for them to do so, where it is their choice, and where the perpetrator does not live in the accommodation.

Move-on and / or second stage accommodation – these are interchangeable terms for projects temporarily accommodating victim-survivors, including families who no longer need the intensive level of support provided in a refuge, but would still benefit from a lower level of DA specific support for a period before they move to fully independent and permanent accommodation. There is no expectation that every victim-survivor will require this. Many victim-survivors are ready to move straight to a permanent new home from refuge. However, move-on and/or second stage accommodation may be helpful in some cases. At the present time there are no reciprocal arrangements between districts across the county at the current time.

Dispersed accommodation:

- i. Safe (secure and dedicated to supporting victims of DA), self-contained accommodation with the same level of specialist DA support as provided within a refuge but which may be more suitable for victim-survivors who are unable to stay in a refuge with communal spaces due to complex support needs or for families with teenage sons for example.
- ii. Safe (secure and dedicated to supporting victim-survivors of DA), self-contained 'semi-independent' accommodation which is not within a refuge but with support for victim-survivors who may not require the intensive support offered through refuge and are still at risk of DA from their perpetrator(s).

Other accommodation (other housing authority, registered charity etc.) – i.e., a safe place with support. To give victim-survivors an opportunity to spend a temporary period to make decisions in an environment that is self-contained and safe. This would include access to wrap around support and specialist support for victims with complex needs (including mental health needs and substance misuse).

Definition of types of support in safe accommodation

The statutory guidance (which can be found here: [Delivery of support in safe accommodation statutory guidance](#)) describes DA Support within Safe/relevant accommodation:

- Overall management of services within relevant safe accommodation – including capacity building, support and supervision of staff, payroll, financial and day-to-day management of services and maintaining relationships with the local authority (such functions will often be undertaken by a service manager).
- Support with the day-to-day running of the service – for example scheduling times for counselling sessions, group activities (such functions may often be undertaken by administrative or office staff).
- Advocacy support – development of personal safety plans, liaison with other services (for example, GPs and social workers, welfare benefit providers).
- DA prevention advice – support to assist victim-survivors to recognise the signs of controlling and coercive behaviour for example and to help them remain safe (including online), and to prevent re-victimisation.
- Specialist support for victim-survivors designed specifically for victim-survivors with relevant protected characteristics (including 'by and for'), such as faith services, translators and interpreters, immigration advice, interpreters for victim-survivors

identifying as deaf and/or hard of hearing, and dedicated support for LGBTQ+ victim-survivors [not limited to].

- Services designed specifically for victim-survivors with additional and/or complex needs such as, mental health advice and support, drug and alcohol advice and support [not limited to], including sign posting accordingly.
- Children's support – including play therapy, child advocacy or a specialist children worker (for example, a young people's violence advisor, Independent Domestic Violence Advisor ("IDVA") or outreach worker specialised in working with children).
- Housing-related support – providing housing-related advice and support, for example, securing a permanent home, rights to existing accommodation and advice on how to live safely and independently.
- Advice service – including financial and legal support, including accessing benefits, support into work and establishing independent financial arrangements.
- Counselling and therapy – (including group support) for both adults and children, including emotional support.

1.3 New Burdens Funding

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) – now the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), committed a three-year settlement for the delivery of the Part 4 duty for both Tier 1 and Tier 2 authorities. Norfolk County Council and the district and borough councils across Norfolk each received additional funding and there may be the potential for this to be pooled in the future. For 2021/22 the amount is outlined in Table 1, along with details of how much each district and borough council has been allocated:

Table 1: MHCLG funding allocation to Local Authorities in Norfolk

LOCAL AUTHORITY	FUNDING ALLOCATION
Norfolk County Council	£1,806,177
Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk	£32,863
Broadland District Council	£33,077
Breckland District Council	£31,450
Great Yarmouth Borough Council	£32,365
North Norfolk District Council	£32,138
Norwich City Council	£32,679
South Norfolk District Council	£33,335
TOTAL	£2,034,084

It is not clear whether the financial allocation awarded in 2021/22 will be the same each year and/or whether there is the opportunity for funding to be rolled over from one year to the next. However, both years 2 and 3 are tied to a Central Government spending review. As such these points will be considered when looking at financial planning.

1.4 Needs Assessment

DLUHC published clear guidance on the scope of the Needs Assessment – it is comprehensive including:

- Local population make up, including DA prevalence
- Safe accommodation mapping

- Identification of victim-survivors and referrals, including understanding their journeys into safe accommodation.
- Demand for, and barriers in accessing support within DA safe accommodation
- Housing options
- Victim-survivor experiences.

NODA were commissioned by Norfolk County Council to undertake the needs assessment. They gathered data at a national and local level including:

- Crime Survey data
- Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (“MARAC”) data
- National police DA incident and crime data
- Local police crime data
- Housing/Homelessness Case Level Collection (“H-CLIC”) data
- Accommodation and support data
- Published research.

NODA identified the only data available is aggregated and recorded in isolation. Each piece of data can only be looked at independently of a service or organisation and there is a risk of duplication. **For data provided and analysed within the last three years, it is likely that Covid-19 has had an impact on services and service users.**

The DA Needs Assessment key findings:

- In the year ending March 2020 there were 11,498 recorded DA crimes in Norfolk (a 19% increase on the previous year). Male survivors make up approximately a quarter of recorded DA crimes across all Norfolk districts
- Not all support providers record Gender of victim-survivors. Where a gender breakdown is available (6 services), most referrals are for females with an average of 122 per week, but there is an average of 34 referrals per week for males. Males make up 28% of all referrals to DA services that data is available for
- Great Yarmouth and Norwich had a higher rate of DA crimes per 1000 population compared to the other five local authority areas
- Local Police data (where age is recorded), identified age groups 25-34 followed by 19-24 are the highest across Norfolk
- Referrals for all forms of accommodation-based services for year ending March 2021 averaged 92 referrals per month
- There is an average of 26 referrals to refuge each week (Female only) but on average there are only 13 spaces available; demand therefore outstrips supply by 50%
- Children in refuges are younger (a sample showed the majority are under five), however support providers reported that children are older
- The data shows that on average the stay in a refuge is approximately 5 months, but support providers have told us it is approximately one year
- From a sample of 134 victim-survivors entering refuge, 72% achieved independent living on leaving the accommodation
- From a sample of those entering refuge, 47% had self-reported mental health issues
- Of the survivors leaving refuge in Norfolk during the 2020/2021 financial year:
 - 20% took up Registered Social Landlord tenancy
 - 19% moved to another refuge
 - 19% returned to their previous home. It is unknown if this is the same location as the perpetrator
- Reason for declined referrals are often recorded as 'Other' (68%) indicating potential improvements could be made in data recording; 'No available room' was the second most common reason for declined referrals (15%)
- The outcomes of declined referrals are mostly unknown (52%)
- 28% of all referrals are out of County (but this was skewed due to the restrictions relating to COVID-19)

The Needs Assessment also identified the following in relation to the number of victim-survivors who presented themselves as homeless.

Table 2: Number of households owed a homelessness relief duty due to DA

District	2018/19			2019/2020			2020/2021		
	Prevention	Relief	Total	Prevention	Relief	Total	Prevention	Relief	Total
Breckland	17	25	42	23	43	66	18	83	101
Broadland	7	18	25	14	20	34	1	7	8
Great Yarmouth	10	20	30	12	19	31	5	29	34
KL & and W.Nfk	2	32	34	-	-	-	8	29	37
North Norfolk	4	29	33	1	31	32	3	27	30
Norwich	100	60	160	64	61	125	25	47	72
South Norfolk	11	22	33	5	29	34	2	22	24
Norfolk	151	206	357	119*	203*	322*	62	244	306

Source: H-CLIC homelessness statistics – most recent years are officially recorded

*Norfolk total excluded data from King's Lynn and West Norfolk

The DA Accommodation Needs Assessment estimates that the current shortfall in bedspaces is 38.

The final Needs Assessment can be found in Appendix 4.

There is known to be a cost nationally in relation to DA and this can be categorised into three areas:

- 1) Anticipation (expenditure on protective and preventative measures)
- 2) Consequence (property damage, physical and emotional harms, lost output, health, and victim-survivor services)
- 3) Response (police and criminal justice system)

Table 3: Total costs of DA in England and Wales for 2016/17 (£ millions)

Costs in Anticipation	Costs as a consequence				Costs in response				Total
	Physical and emotional harm	Lost output	Health services	Victim services	Police costs	Criminal legal	Civil legal	Other	
£6m	£47,287m	£14,098m	£2,333m	£724m	£1,257m	£336m	£140m	£11m	£66,192m

Table 4: Unit costs of domestic abuse in England and Wales for 2016/17¹

Costs in Anticipation	Costs as a consequence				Costs in response				Total
	Physical and emotional harm	Lost output	Health services	Victim services	Police costs	Criminal legal	Civil legal	Other	
£5	£24,300	£7,245	£1,200	£370	£645	£170	£70	£5	£34,015

However, at the present time it is not possible to give the same level of detail at a local level.

Gaps identified by the Needs Assessment

NODA have identified the following gaps in intelligence and/or provision in relation to DA and our ability to determine the types of services that may be needed:

- There is no specific safe accommodation provision for male survivors but as there is an under-recording of demand, either in terms of support or use of safe accommodation, we are unable to determine the amount of safe accommodation that may be required for male victim-survivors.
- LGBTQ+ groups are poorly represented in the data and it is recognised that many providers did not routinely collect the data. However, data provided by one refuge provider reports that 94% of survivors self-identify as heterosexual or straight.
- Complex needs including mental health and/or drug and alcohol dependency are recognised as being an issue in DA survivors and refuge service providers do not routinely collect this data. It is acknowledged that not all support providers of refuge accommodation are able to support those with high and complex needs and such referrals are declined on this basis. There is no data available to be able to say where these survivors are then supported.

¹ Rounded to the nearest £5. The total figure may not sum because of this rounding.

- There is little information available for child and adult victim-survivors of DA in relation to physical or mental health and learning disabilities both from local police data and accommodation service data. It is recognised that data is not routinely collected by service providers.
- Norfolk has an older population compared to England. National data from the crime survey only samples individuals up to the age of 75 so there is a potential that older age groups are under-reported in both local and national estimates.
- There is a lack of data and/or regular recording of the types and amount of support children receive because of DA, whether living in the community or within safe accommodation as often different services and/or providers can be involved. Data that is available is from ad hoc audits.
- There is a lack of data on support services offered to children that have had to enter refuge accommodation. Qualitatively, one provider reports the support needs of children can be varied and support provided can be limited and depends on the type of accommodation and its location.
- There is some understanding around the reason for repeat referrals to MARACs in Norfolk, but further research is required.
- Norfolk is a largely rural county. Current data is aggregated and varies in robustness; this being the case, it is not possible to determine if there is a high level of unmet need in terms of accommodation and support in rural areas compared to urban areas for example.
- It is recognised that many of the providers do not routinely collect some of the data that was requested as part of the Needs Assessment.
- Because data in relation to DA is not detailed enough, it is not possible to make any meaningful conclusions in relation to cost and evaluation either to the public purse and/or social return on investment.

It is also acknowledged in the Needs Assessment that the refuges are unlikely to meet the needs of all that may require safe accommodation including:

- Larger Families
- Males
- Families with several children (both male and female victim-survivors) including those with older male children
- Victim-survivors with specialist characteristics
- Victim-survivors with high complex needs e.g. mental health, drug and/or alcohol misuse
- Victim-survivors in recovery from addiction
- Not all the refuges can provide therapy or other forms of support for children (postcode lottery)
- Not all the refuges have self-contained units (some have shared facilities including bathrooms and kitchens for example).
- The cost of safe accommodation to a victim-survivor and whether this is a barrier in terms of accessibility.

Table 4: Key gaps in intelligence which will be improved in future:

Topic	Gap
Area	Parish/ward information is not available – if available it may show those where there is a prevalence and resources could be targeted. Such information would also provide urban/rural comparison Not enough is known about survivors seeking out of county refuge
Survivor info.	Improved data recording of LGBTQ+ as numbers are likely to be underrepresented Improved data recording of ethnically diverse communities as numbers are likely to be underrepresented Improved data recording of male victim-survivors Improved data recording of children as victim-survivors of DA Lack of data in relation to older people (75+) Lack of data in relation to MH/LD/PD (both adults and children) Lack of data in relation to outcomes for those unable to access a refuge place Lack of data in relation to those that have no recourse to public funds Consistent feedback on services from victim-survivors
Service Provision	Little is known about whether refuges are they fit for purpose (e.g. accessibility) Provision of services for older male children and children more generally Service provision is not just about those at high risk, we need to better understand how lower risk survivors are provided for (some people decide to stay with the perpetrator) Provision of support in refuge e.g., counselling, substance management support Provision of services for male victims – no specific refuges

In Summary:

- **Data around DA is limited and therefore the prevalence may be higher than that recorded.**
- **Because data is limited, we currently have little knowledge about:**
 - **Rural/urban divide or whether there is a postcode lottery where little support may be available**
 - **How accessible our support and accommodation are, including financial, those with protected characteristics, male victim-survivors and victim-survivors 75+**
 - **The pathway into support and/or safe accommodation including risk of homelessness and move-on accommodation**
 - **Perpetrator engagement and consideration of perpetrator housing options**
 - **The needs of children.**

The Needs Assessment highlighted several services available in Norfolk and Nationally that provide support in the community. However, data is not routinely collected or reported for all services to inform as to the quality of the services or how impactful. Support provided within safe accommodation is anecdotally well received by those that use it, but refuges are not audited and the level of data that is recorded is not in the detail that is sufficient to inform potential service improvements at the present time. The Needs Assessment has revealed what collectively we must do to improve the offer for victim-survivors and their families. It has also highlighted some inconsistencies in the way agencies collect and record demand for services and safe accommodation.

Voices of victim-survivors

As identified in the Needs Assessment, there is a gap in relation to hearing about what victim-survivors say about support in safe accommodation in Norfolk.

Although it is outlined in our delivery plan that we will be working on designing a future framework to improve our engagement with victim-survivors, we have undertaken a small survey to ensure that some voices are heard within this strategy.

A smart survey of 11 questions was made available on-line for a period of 3 weeks. 22 survey responses were received.

The survey questions and responses are included in Appendix 5.

Some victim-survivors said the following about their experiences:

"It helped me realise (sadly) that I wasn't alone and gave me that wider support network"

"I'd be lost without the help I've finally received. It's helped me manage life and realise that things are not my fault."

"just because the abuse wasn't physical it was still terrifying"

"You don't know who to trust, and sadly, you don't know if you will be believed due to the perpetrators gaslighting and abuse over the years. You're made to feel as if you are crazy and can't look after your children. I find lack of knowledge and education around domestic abuse from other professionals is a huge barrier in getting the support you need".

In relation to services in Norfolk some of the comments received highlight:

"I found it hard getting help because my life was in Norfolk and I didn't want to move to another area so stayed with my sister in Suffolk which then made it hard to get help and support. I also found it hard to get the help and support for my children, as when we did move back to Norfolk, we lived the wrong side to get them the help they needed."

"It would [have] been helpful for me to be accommodated in a local refuge rather than being advised this wasn't possible for safety reasons and that I needed to go out of county which I couldn't do because of the children's school."

This mirrors some of the findings in the Needs Assessment which shows there is an inconsistency in the services that are provided across Norfolk.

What will this Support in Safe Accommodation strategy achieve?

2



2.1 What services are there in Norfolk (including those from out of the County) for victim-survivors of DA?

22% of all crime reported to Norfolk Constabulary is DA related and reports have been increasing annually, including through the pandemic. During the pandemic DA support services experienced an increase in demand during the lockdown and that victim-survivors faced difficulties in safely seeking support under these conditions. A significant amount of DA remains unreported, with estimates suggesting 5.5% of adults in England and Wales aged 16 to 74 years experienced DA in the last year².

Norfolk has 7 refuges, one in each district. These refuges combined have 54 bed spaces but can only accommodate female victim-survivors. The accommodation is a mix of self-contained and communal accommodation and is available to all residents within Norfolk and out of the county. The refuges are owned by 4 housing associations/Registered Providers (RPs).

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Norfolk County Council has funded support in the refuges for many years and these are commissioned with 2 providers, Leeway and Orwell. These contracts are in the process of being extended until March 2023 (and as part of the ongoing improvement plan outlined in this strategy, any renewal will be based on our Needs Assessment at that time). Support can include:

- DA Advocacy
- Practical and emotional advice and support
- Housing options advice, re-settlement support including advice on how to live safely and independently (move-on)
- Counselling and therapy for adult and child victim-survivors (in some refuges)
- Dedicated specialist support for children (in some refuges).

Further details of the refuges including wheelchair accessibility is included in Appendix 6.

In addition to the seven refuges there are two safe houses (Norwich and North Norfolk) and one safe house due to be leased shortly in King's Lynn. These safe houses are leased by Leeway and rely on rental income, sometimes provided through the benefit system. The King's Lynn safe house has also received some funding for an additional support worker. Further information in relation to the safe houses can be found in Appendix 7.

Covid funding provided temporary spot accommodation provided by Leeway, but this funding ended in November 2021. The funding enabled 49 victim-survivors (including 1 male victim-survivor) and 54 children to be accommodated (July 2020 - August 2021). The type of accommodation being provided through this route are hotels, bed and breakfast accommodation, or self-contained or shared houses acquired by Leeway. Leeway can also provide short term emergency accommodation for victim-survivors with no recourse to public funds but the funding of this ends in February 2022.

DA support in the community is available to those not living in DA accommodation and can be accessed through several organisations across Norfolk. These are:

- **Leeway DA & Violence Service** – For women and children. Support includes refuges, community services, outreach services, power to change programmes, IDVAs.
- **The Pandora Project** – a women's centre (King's Lynn), children's services, group programmes, LGBTQ support.
- **South Norfolk Early Help/Orwell** – includes housing support, debt advice, mental health and support plans.

² [Domestic abuse in England and Wales overview - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/domesticabuse/articles/articles/2021-07-27-domestic-abuse-in-england-and-wales-overview)

- **Daisy Programme** – support men and women in the Breckland area with courses and counselling.
- **One Voice Traveller** – support Gypsy Traveller and Roma Communities across East Anglia.
- **Restitute** – specialist support service for those who care for survivors of sexual or violent crime.
- **Sue Lambert Trust** – support for victim-survivors of sexual and/or DA
- **Norfolk Community Law Services** – legal advice for victim-survivors.

The organisations listed above provide different services but can include:

- Support for females only, female, and male and some 3rd party (e.g., parents, grandparents) and child on parent violent programmes.
- Advice lines (some 24-hr support) and some are for Male advice lines staffed by specialist male workers.
- Women's outreach service
- Face to face support and counselling
- Residential services including emergency accommodation for females only, short term emergency accommodation for people with no recourse to public funds.
- Therapeutic support, peer mentoring, recovery groups and courses such as the Freedom Programme and My Confidence.

The DA Act classifies any child who “sees or hears, or experiences the effects of the abuse” as a victim of DA. Although specific support for children is not available in all safe accommodation currently, support can be sought for any child or young person in Norfolk through a dedicated emotional health pathway where they can receive low-level emotional health need support of around 6-8 sessions of resilience- based work; if needed the Team are able to refer on to more appropriate onward support. All referrals to the Emotional Health Pathway are made through [Just One Norfolk](#). There is also a plan to develop a one-single referral route for children and young people with mental health needs, but this is unlikely to begin until Autumn 2022.

Norfolk County Council also provides the Community, Information and Learning Service which offers the following within local communities:

- Help for both short- and long-term help in relation to financial support, rent support and referral to wider support services. The digital inclusion offer specifically references those fleeing DA to ensure victim-survivors are digitally included.
- The Digital Team in Customer Services provide web offer comprising information, advice and signposting online for those affected by or wanting to know more about DA.
- All staff in library settings are trained in safeguarding and part of the Early Help Hubs offer is to local refuges to promote family activities and ensure digital inclusion. Staff can identify need through open conversations and can refer to the Norfolk Community Advice Network (NCAN).

In addition to this there are national DA support services such as Mankind, GALOP, Age UK and many more.

If you need help in relation to DA please refer to Appendix 8.

In terms of DA training in Norfolk there is the DA Change Champions training (“The Champion Training”) that is currently administered by Norfolk County Council. The Champion Training is available to any organisation that wants to improve their response to DA, this course is in line with level 3 the Social Care learning pathway. There is also the opportunity to top this up with additional training such as DA, Stalking and Harassment (“DASH”) Refresher’ and a new course ‘Understanding the Domestic Abuse Act 2021’.

The Champion network aims to enhance knowledge in frontline organisation, therefore reducing risk of serious harm in the belief that such training will decrease the human and organisational cost

if risk is identified and managed early. Champions are supported by DA change coordinators who provide opportunities for Champions to network, increase good practice knowledge, be kept up to date with information to take back to their organisations and provide specialist advice to Champions. The Champion Training Network will shortly transfer to the new Norfolk Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (NIDAS).

Social workers have a critical role to play in not only identifying signs of DA but being confident in their response to it. Within Norfolk County Council practitioners have access to various training opportunities such as DASH Risk Assessment training, Safeguarding Courses and Safeguarding Development Sessions such as 'Domestic Abuse and Older People'.

There is also a shorter 'Understanding DA' course for organisations (including for internal staff), this is level 2 on the pathway. In development for all County Council staff is a level 1 course that will be available online.

Some DA support providers such as Leeway do offer training for a fee. Currently there are no districts or housing providers with DA Housing Alliance's accreditation (DAHA).

Since August 2021 two provider events have been held and another will be held in February 2022. These events highlight the work being undertaken to ensure providers of DA accommodation and support could assist in the shaping and onward delivery of this strategy as well as helping us to continue to engage with victim-survivors to help shape this strategy. An overview of the findings of the engagement is included in Appendix 9. But the following key points were made:

- A priority for providers was an increase in flexible accommodation
- It was generally agreed that the Needs Assessment was a good start, but there were significant gaps in relation to those with protected characteristics. It was noted there appeared to be a lack of emotional/psychological understanding and represented factual (quantitative) data – it was missing the voice of the victim-survivor.
- Most providers wished for further events to be held (perhaps quarterly)
- Greater consideration of victim-survivors with more complex needs and those that wished to remain at home close to support networks.
- More needed to be considered in relation to those who do not progress beyond a referral.
- The Needs Assessment does not capture what longer term support is required (outreach).
- Solutions to some points included:
 - A Norfolk wide pledge in relation to DA
 - Robust staff training
 - Raising awareness of DA in the community
 - DAHA accreditation
 - Satellite accommodation service
 - Mentor programme
 - Additional services for children in terms of specific therapeutic support
 - More bespoke services for victim-survivors with complex mental health needs.
 - Transitional support when moving on from safe accommodation
 - Different methods for victim-survivors to participate in engagement.

In terms of what can be accessed and used by residents of Norfolk in neighbouring authorities such as Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Lincolnshire these are as follows:

- Cambridge (with Peterborough) has 4 refuges all of which are for women and children
- Suffolk commission 3 separate refuge accommodation providers offering communal living in locations across the county (31 spaces in total). Suffolk also commissions several satellite units which provides flexible accommodation for victim-survivors who are male and/or those with mental health and/or substance dependency needs – where communal refuge is not always suitable.

- Lincolnshire – At this time it has not been possible to establish the level of safe accommodation provision in the Lincoln County Council’s area.

2.2 Service achievements in Norfolk

Norfolk now has a Single Point of Contact – NIDAS, so that those who need to can be offered advice and guidance in relation to their options – **Any victim-survivor or professional can call NIDAS to seek advice and support in Norfolk.**

The new service is commissioned by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner Norfolk (“OPCCN”) and is partly funded by Norfolk County Council (Adults and Children’s Services), Norwich City Council, Broadland District Council and South Norfolk District Council. means the following assistance is provided:

A range of support to all victim-survivors over the age of 16, at all levels of risk. NIDAS can support people living within their own home through:

- A helpline / single point of contact for anyone requiring advice and support
- Multi-agency partnership working
- Digital support
- Signposting to other community support networks
- Contact with trauma informed person centered, trained and skilled staff
- Specialist support around stalking
- Sanctuary support for high-risk victims
- Support to access safe accommodation including refuge and satellite accommodation
- Improved community response through dedicated coordinator.

NIDAS ensures that the referral pathway for victim-survivors of DA is improved as previously there have been many different routes to seek advice; Norfolk will now have a single point of access for all needs. NIDAS will also be able to provide a Norfolk-wide service for medium and high-risk victims, direct support for children (parent supported by IDVA), a dedicated IDVA resource in help hubs for districts who are funding partners, management and development of the Norfolk DA Champion network and enable direct access to recovery Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse (“APVA”) programme for funding partner districts only. NIDAS will also need to engage with Mental Health Social work and other Adult Social Service teams. NIDAS will ensure an improved service to male victim-survivors and those with protected characteristics. Through a single referral pathway, it will provide help and support that is more widely accessible across Norfolk ending the postcode lottery.

97% of Norfolk schools and colleges are currently signed up to the Operation Encompass scheme. Norwich has the highest proportion of notifications across the county. To find out more about Operation Encompass please click on this link: [Operation Encompass](#)

To ensure victim-survivors can move on from safe accommodation and have their housing needs highlighted as a priority, the districts have been drafting an Accommodation Protocol which will mean that all councils will be able to offer victim-survivors a homeless priority that is consistent across Norfolk and providing the ability for people to move-on from safe accommodation into permanent homes.

Multi Agency Delivery and Partnership Approach

Norfolk has strong partnership arrangements in place to share information and develop joint plans – For example the MARAC is an integral part of the Coordinated Community Response model to DA in Norfolk. It is linked to the Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy (IDVA) service and the Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC).

The main aim of the MARAC is to reduce the risk of serious harm or homicide for a victim and their families and to increase the safety, health, and wellbeing of victims. In a MARAC local agency will discuss the highest risk victims of DA in their area. Information about the risks faced by those victims and the actions needed to ensure safety. The resources available locally are shared and used to create a risk management plan involving all agencies.

Norfolk County Councils' Children's Services provide a range of support to families to recognise and respond to the early signs of DA and provide support to families in need. This includes support by the Early Help team to facilitate and respond to disclosures of DA. There is also the expansion of the DA Team in Children's Services and the development of multi-disciplinary teams (DA Social Workers, Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol services) to better support families where DA is occurring. These teams will need to draw on/in with Adult Mental Health Social work and other Adult services.

Norfolk County Council Adult Social Services – As part of the Homelessness and Capital Housing Team, the Service has a commitment to ensuring that alongside Children's Services there is a commitment to ensuring that victim-survivors of DA have the right accommodation and level of support that is needed. The Team has commissioned the Needs Assessment and recently appointed a DA Commissioning Manager to oversee the implementation of the Support in Safe Accommodation Strategy for Norfolk and the Tier 1 duties under the Act. The Team works closely with all partners of the DASVG and leads on the NDAPB.

Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Partnership Approach ("DAPPA") - is a new approach in Norfolk, led by Norfolk Constabulary and supported by OPCCN. DAPPA is a multi-agency approach to addressing DA within Norfolk, managing perpetrators of DA and thereby protecting the most vulnerable victims. DAPPA will identify perpetrators who present the most serious or repeated risk of harm and these cases are discussed at monthly partnership meetings for ongoing management. DAPPA will seek to develop robust multi-agency risk management plans around perpetrators using a problem-solving approach with a full menu of tactical options. It will feature two pathways – those that are adopted onto the diversion pathway, including intensive targeted support, and those that are adopted onto the pursue pathway.

Key agencies in Norfolk use existing duties and powers to hold perpetrators to account - Norfolk Police and other criminal justice agencies deploy a range of tools and powers, which includes but is not limited to DA Protection Orders and Notices, Non-Molestation Orders, Integrated Offender Management, and promotion of Clare's Law (DA Disclosure Scheme). By deploying these duties, victim- survivors can be supported to remain in their own homes.

Norfolk Safeguarding Adult Board and Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership are the formal arrangements which bring together statutory agencies such as Norfolk County Council, Police and Health and non-statutory organisations to actively promote effective working relationships between different organisations and professional groups to address the issues of abuse and harm.

Norfolk has strong partnership arrangements in place to share information and develop joint plans to protect victim-survivors and to manage and monitor perpetrators – MARACs are held regularly in Norfolk, to reduce the risk of serious harm or homicide for a victim and to increase safety, health and wellbeing of victims, both adults and children. In MARAC local agencies will meet to discuss the highest risk victims of DA in their area. Information about the risks faced by those victims, the actions needed to maximise safety, and the resources available locally are shared and used to create a risk management plan involving all agencies. Agreed actions can include a range of measures such as police surveillance, alarms/CCTV being fitted, Clare's Law disclosure, Children's services referral, child contact/care plans provision, management of perpetrator and joint visits to engage with victim. Agencies will report to the MARAC Co-ordinator when these are completed.

Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) - The DWP continues to work with local partnerships (such as NDAPB) and organisations across Norfolk to ensure vulnerable people are supported. The DWP can help victim-survivors of DA by providing safe spaces in Jobcentres, signpost to local experts and support networks. DWP can suspend any work-related requirements for 13 weeks and can extend this period if required. DWP can also support victim-survivors by helping them to open a new Universal Credit claim and provide guidance on eligibility for a DWP Universal Credit Advance for a new claim, benefit transfer or a change of circumstance.

2.3 What commissioning intentions will Norfolk make to meet the gaps identified and improve DA services?

Reflecting the outcome of the Needs Assessment the following key areas will address the gaps identified:

- 1. Increase the amount and flexibility of safe accommodation:** As identified by the Needs Assessment there is an unmet need for safe accommodation of 38 bedspaces in Norfolk. Flexible accommodation options with support that can meet the differing needs of all victim-survivors, those with children (including older male children) and those with protected characteristics and victim-survivors with more complex needs.
- 2. Improve engagement with victim-survivors of DA:** The Needs Assessment has identified a gap in relation to how Norfolk works to improve their DA services. It is vital that we hear an authentic voice from all members of our different communities who are victim-survivors of DA.

3. **Improve the quality of support and safe accommodation:** Ensure that accommodation and support in safe accommodation is of the same quality and standard across Norfolk and the monitoring and engagement with victim-survivors encourages quality improvement.

4. **Support children in safe accommodation:** The Needs Assessment shows that therapeutic support etc., is not available in all safe accommodation currently, and this needs to be levelled up across Norfolk. Any new safe accommodation will provide such support to children in the future.

5. **Improved intelligence:** The Needs Assessment identifies that the data used is often aggregated and there is risk of duplication. Data needs to be improved to better understand the level of prevalence and demand especially in relation to male victim-survivors, children, those who are 75+ and those with protected characteristics. There is also the need to better understand the demand from victim-survivors having their demands met outside of the County, and who may wish to return to Norfolk, and those seeking refuge from outside of the County. Other gaps include our understanding of affordability and whether this is a barrier to safe accommodation.

Our commissioning intentions to implement the above improvements are considered in the delivery plan on page 28.

The Needs Assessment identified and made recommendations that are not covered within this Support in Safe Accommodation Strategy for Norfolk as this is a specific response to Part 4 of the Act. It is the intention of Norfolk County Council to ensure that the DASVG Strategy encompasses the approach to:

- Prevention and Reduction of DA
- Responding to perpetrators
- Sanctuary accommodation
- Homelessness in relation to DA
- Use of temporary accommodation
- Move-on accommodation (permanent as a priority and step-down temporary accommodation if that is the best option for the victim-survivor).
- Increase referral rates from partner organisations to MARAC.

2.4 Delivery Plan – We Will

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Action No.	What we will do	How will we do it:	How will we monitor improvement (indicators of improvement)?	How much will it cost (New Burdens funding or otherwise)?	When are we planning to do it?	
Increase the amount of safe flexible accommodation with appropriate support						
1	Continue to support the provision of support in refuge accommodation and safe accommodation in Norfolk.	Extend existing contracts to align with priorities identified in this strategy.	Existing and improved KPIs.	£590,000	ongoing	
2	Work with RPs, Districts and Homes England to investigate opportunities to deliver more (flexible) accommodation and involving support providers. This could be through re-purposing of existing buildings, leases for spot-purchase or new-build refuges.	Work with partners to set up a strategic housing partnership group to consider DA accommodation and establish how that will be delivered.	38 ³ additional bedspaces required - ideas that result in more flexible approaches to DA accommodation to meet data demand led intelligence.	New Burden's funding cannot be used for capital. Work with RPs and Homes England and work with NCC. Estimate Support per unit c. £11k p.a. – this will increase as needs of young people and children are considered. Total approximately £418,000 (once 38 units + increase once inflation is known).	Year 1	Instigate Development group
					Year 2	16+ additional bedspaces
					Year 3	22+ additional bedspaces
3	Pilot a satellite accommodation offer.	Explore safe satellite accommodation in areas of demand and limited supply.	Flexible accommodation to meet all needs especially those of males and those with protected characteristics including older people	Leases to be paid by rental income –support through New Burdens funding, Considered £110,000 p.a.(once an additional 10 units achieved (+ this may increase once inflation is known)	Year 1	4 units
					Year 2	3
					Year 3	3
4	Approach the 4 RPs who own existing refuge a/c to look at whether modifications can be made to increase PD accessibility.	Support and champion the need for accessible accommodation.	Additional units accessible to those with a physical disability – meetings to be held quarterly with RPS	Work with districts and RPs in terms of a joint approach to funding adaptations that cannot be funded as DFGs.	It is envisaged 1-2 units of existing accommodation could be adapted to meet wheelchair compliance.	

³ Please note that in the draft copy of this strategy it cited 26-36 bedspaces, but the Needs Assessment was updated to reflect new data which identified a more accurate and slightly higher number – 38 bedspaces.

Action no.	What we will do (The points below are either in draft, in planning and not agreed or possibilities)	How will we do it:	How will we monitor improvement (indicators of improvement)?	How much will it cost (New Burdens funding or otherwise)?	When are we planning to do it?	
5	Accommodation and support for those who have no recourse to public fund.	Continue to work with Norfolk's People from Abroad Team, Childrens Services and Central Government to ensure that victims of DA can access and receive advice and support.	Implement monitoring of numbers approaching existing services including the People from Abroad Team.	N/A	Year 3 – Ambition To identify adequate funding for refuge/specialist accommodation provision to enable people with no recourse to public funds who are fleeing DA can access a place of safety where they can be supported to access legal advice and establish a sustainable outcome to their situation of destitution.	
6	Ensure that accommodation can meet needs that may arise from out of County.	Improve our engagement with bordering Tier 1 authorities through existing regional networks.	Out of county recording will be improved so that any requirement is demand driven.	Administrative in terms of engagement. Any additional capacity needing to be funded will be sought as part of a forward strategy or refresh of delivery plan.	Year 1	Networking/engage
					Year 2	Improved data
					Year 3	Strategic direction on need/response included in future strategy.
7	Employment of additional support workers to assist in linking move-on from refuge or other temporary accommodation with target hardening measures installed (Sanctuary schemes).	Fund specific posts across existing safe accommodation network to link with NIDAS service – through LHAs or DA providers.	Increase in throughput of victims in safe accommodation moving to secure, permanent accommodation.	£100,000	Year 2	
8	Where new provision is about to be provided enable the necessary support to be provided (e.g. new safe accommodation in King's Lynn).	Work with providers that are involved at a local level providing level of funding required is within procurement guidelines.	We will set-up as part of the contractual requirements and with input from NODA a data intelligence gathering framework with KPIs that clearly identify the impact of any pilot for example.	Planned £50,000 (Year 1 and 2) and further £25,000 for Year 3) currently for King's Lynn and West Norfolk if agreed.	Asap	Year 1

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Action no.	What we will do (The points below are either in draft, in planning and not agreed or possibilities)	How will we do it:	How will we monitor improvement (indicators of improvement)?	How much will it cost (New Burdens funding or otherwise)?	When are we planning to do it?	
9	Increase in refuge capacity by improving access to permanent accommodation.	Accommodation protocol that prioritises the need for move-on accommodation for victim-survivors of DA.	Endorsement by all districts and housing providers..	Resource intensive but unlikely to impact on funding as such.	Year 1	Draft protocol
					Year 2	Endorsement and implementation
					Year 3	Monitoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• decrease in length of stay• increase move-on specifically to social housing.
Improve engagement with victim-survivors of DA						
10	Raise awareness of DA across the county through sustained and consistent DA messaging.	Develop a comprehensive, targeted, rolling communications and marketing plan as part of the DASVG strategy.	Our community is aware of DA, its impact and where to seek help and rejects social acceptance of DA.	Zero cost – linkage and join up with OPCC, LHAs, Community providers and NCC.	Years 1-3.	
11	Better understand people's experience (inc. those with protected characteristics, NRPF, male & children as victim-survivors) of accessing/using DA support services & safe accommodation in Norfolk.	Develop a victim-survivor engagement framework that can help shape and co-produce new services, improve existing services and such engagement is sustained.	Commission an investigative piece of work that focused on hearing the voices of victim-survivors (Experts by Experience Group).	£30,000 New Burden's Funding.	Initial scoping exercise by 5.1.22 and Year 1. Framework designed and co-produced Year 2.	
Improve the quality of support and safe accommodation						
12	Housing providers and district housing teams to gain DAHA accreditation status.	Positive engagement and commitment to a grant agreement that supports partners to achieve affiliation/accreditation.	The Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance who undertakes the process monitoring improvements made.	New Burden's Funding approximately £91,000 to fund up to March 2024.	We are already working with Standing Together and ensuring that partners have the staff resourcing to commit to the process of working towards affiliation/accreditation.	

Action no.	What we will do (The points below are either in draft, in planning and not agreed or possibilities)	How will we do it:	How will we monitor improvement (indicators of improvement)?	How much will it cost (New Burdens funding or otherwise)?	When are we planning to do it?
13	Work with NCC Integrated Quality Service to develop a QA framework for Safe Accommodation.	NCC Integrated Quality lead developing QA Programme for Safe accommodation.	Quality indicators collated and reported to NDAPB – areas of concern acted upon (including any reference to children Action 17).	£43,800 (Year 1 – 2) approximation only and may be required for Year 3.	Year 1 design Year 2 – 3 – projection for a p/t post required.
14	Develop a set of measures that will be able to monitor the impact of this and the DASVG strategy.	Victim voice membership on the NDAPB – development of a countywide approach to victim-survivor feedback.	Annual survey and victim/survivor feedback – annual conference.	Existing staff resource.	Year 1 – on going.
15	There is a question as to whether refuge staff also require therapeutic support services.	Reinforce existing support measures in place in employment contracts.	Feedback from safe accommodation staff through QAF process.	Potential to include survey of providers to seek evidence of whether sufficient support to staff is currently being met. If not this may increase current funding of commissioned services within safe accommodation in the future.	Year 1 ongoing.
Improve support for children in safe accommodation					
16	Provide therapeutic play support in all refuges and the ability to access such support from other forms of safe accommodation. What may be needed is psychological trained mental health practitioners.	Build on support available to children and young people in existing, safe accommodation Develop specification with providers and victim/survivors and implement in all new safe accommodation.	Standard KPIs and QAF.	Number of young people/children in safe accommodation varies so commissioning model will need to be flexible – current estimates £130,000 p.a. (based on £5,000). Year 1 (January-March) = £34,000.	Year 1 ongoing – please note that the amount is for existing accommodation, however we are looking to increase our safe accommodation by 38 units and the number of children may vary of children than the current average may need be supported = a maximum of £95,000 pa additional to £130,000 pa = £225,000 approximation.
17	Improved understanding of those with children that have no recourse to public funds.	As part of the overarching work on NRPF (Action 5 above).	Refer to Action 5.	Refer to Action 5.	Refer to Action 5.

Action no.	What we will do (The points below are either in draft, in planning and not agreed or possibilities)	How will we do it:	How will we monitor improvement (indicators of improvement)?	How much will it cost (New Burdens funding or otherwise)?	When are we planning to do it?
18	Ensure that as part of the involvement of NCC Integrated Quality Service auditing that children as part of safeguarding are included within the PAMMs approach or any other method used.	As part of the overarching piece on quality assurance in safe accommodation (refer to Action 13).	Refer to Action 13..	Refer to Action 13	Refer to Action 13.
19	Bespoke support for young people aged 16+ fleeing DA in their own right.	Ensure safe accommodation specification encompasses those who are 16+.	Increase in intelligence as part of the ongoing requirement for NODA to refresh Needs Assessment.	Part of existing specification no additional cost.	Y1 – Y2 refresh
20	Legal assistance for those going through the court process.	Future ambition that may be identified as a requirement following engagement with victim-survivors.	To be evidenced.	Not known currently.	Not known currently.
Improved intelligence					
21	NODA to implement improvements to data capture and recording as included in Appendix 4 of the Accommodation Needs Assessment	Commission NODA to accomplish.	Evidence available	£4,000 p.a.	Y2 – Y3 (refresh and renewal of Needs Assessment)
22	NODA to work with Healthwatch to improve access to health data.	Commission NODA to accomplish.	Evidence available.	As above.	Y2 – Y3 (refresh and renewal of Needs Assessment).
Health					
23	Support the development of a contemporary dual diagnosis strategy.	Ensure involvement of Domestic Abuse Commissioning Manager	Overview only	Part of work under separate directorate	Planned but no fixed timescale as far as is currently known.
24	Links to homelessness.	Norfolk Strategic Housing Partnership is already established. LHAs are part of the NDAPB.	Ensure DA is included as part of Homelessness Action Planning.	Currently no implications, but Action Plan work may identify need for a gap to be met in this area.	May result in future priority.

Action no.	What we will do (The points below are either in draft, in planning and not agreed or possibilities)	How will we do it:	How will we monitor improvement (indicators of improvement)?	How much will it cost (New Burdens funding or otherwise)?	When are we planning to do it?
25	Drugs and Alcohol	Work with Public Health to ensure that service commissioning factors in the additional vulnerability and risk that accompanies DA	This will be part of the NODA refresh of Needs Analysis	Included in Action 20	Included in Action 20
26	Therapeutic support for those with MH illness (more bespoke service) for Adults (children included in Action 16)	Continued work with CCG and health colleagues to ensure synergy and join up with health provided services	Included in Action 16	Included in Action 16	Included in Action 16
27	Improved understanding of those with protected characteristics (e.g. Learning Difficulties, MH) and also older people	Improved intelligence of work being undertaken by NODA and engagement work being undertaken by NESTA	This will be part of the NODA refresh of Needs Analysis and improved engagement through framework design and co-production by NESTA.	Included in Action 11 and 20	Included in Action 11 and Action 20

2.5 Our ambition

Our future ambition will be determined by engagement with DA support and accommodation providers as well as engagement under our emerging framework with victim-survivors.

Norfolk develops a model of satellite refuge / safe accommodation across Norfolk to address current gaps which can be sustained and increased if needed over time. The accommodation will be:

- **Open to male and female, LGBTQ+ victim-survivors over the age of 16 and their children. Ensure accessibility to ethnically diverse communities.**
- **Open to Norfolk and non-Norfolk residents as per requirements of the Act**
- **Self-contained**
- **Single gender accommodation**
- **Of varying sizes to accommodate families with multiple children**
- **Accessible for individuals with a disability and/or for older victim-survivors**
- **Include pet friendly accommodation (a proportion of units will welcome pets)**
- **Compliant with minimum standards (include white goods, curtains, beds etc.)**
- **Accessible to amenities and public transport**
- **Accessible due to affordability**

Sanctuary Scheme provision is widened and victim-survivors where they wish can remain safely in their own home. At present we understand that adaptations are usually carried out by workmen and we would like to find a way to train victim-survivors of DA to become handy people that can assist in the Sanctuary Scheme but also provide paid help as handy person service in the future.

Victim-survivors of DA routinely present as homeless to district and borough housing teams and are housed in temporary accommodation. Victim-survivors of DA are considered a priority for accommodation and their need for temporary and / or permanent accommodation. The temporary accommodation provided would not meet the Act's definition of "Safe Accommodation". It is not dedicated to DA victim-survivors however, victim-survivors would be able to access DA support from NIDAS.

Norfolk residents can access refuge provision including out of county preferably via a single point of access. By doing so there is the ability to record data which is currently missing from our Assessment.

Norfolk will look to enhance the DA support available to victim-survivors with complex needs including high dependency on alcohol/substance misuse and those with complex mental health needs (both adult and children).

Norfolk will ensure that responsive and effective DA Support is delivered alongside safe accommodation, which will include:

Provision of specialist support to address specific needs, this includes but is not limited to:

- Male victim-survivors
- Female Genital Mutilation and/or modern-day slavery
- Victim-survivors who have No Recourse to Public Funds
- Victim-survivors who are older (over the age of 65)
- Victim-survivors with a disability
- Victim-survivors from the Gypsy and Traveller communities
- Victim-survivors who identify themselves as LGBTQ+
- Victim-survivors with LD (including children)
- Victim-survivors who are younger (16-21)
- Victim-survivors who have experienced honour-based violence, faith-based abuse, modern day slavery and exploitation, Forced Marriage and / or harmful practices.
- Victim-survivors who have drug and / or alcohol dependencies
- Victim-survivors with Mental Health needs
- Victim-survivors with experience of homelessness and rough sleeping
- Victim-survivors who are carers or the cared for
- Victim-survivors of child to parent DA.

Norfolk will ensure that all victim-survivors of DA in social housing - are provided with a secure lifetime tenancy as required under the Act (where tenancy has been granted). We will work close with RPs and Tier 2 authorities through the progression of the Accommodation Protocol.

Update/reinstate the Dual Diagnosis policy and strategy – Support the development of a Dual Diagnosis strategy and of more accessible Dual Diagnosis services. The lack of a contemporary strategy and services to support people who have serious mental health acuity and who may also be struggling with alcohol / substance dependency, is reported as a gap by several providers for people experiencing or perpetrating DA, plus wider needs cohorts including rough sleepers.

Specialist advice is gained to support victim-survivors in relation to No Recourse to Public Funds (NRFP), honour-based violence, FGM, modern slavery, forced marriage and faith- based abuse.

Norfolk will work with neighbouring local authorities to consider options to jointly commission safe accommodation and support Services where appropriate.

How will the Support in Safe Accommodation strategy be delivered?

3



3.1 Successful delivery of the Support in Safe Accommodation Strategy for Norfolk

The NDAPB will develop further a set of measures that will be able to monitor the impact of the strategy, and this is included as an action in the delivery plan. The Needs Assessment is refreshed annually, and any changes will be reflected in the strategy which will be reviewed quarterly by the Norfolk DASVG Board as the overseer of progress. By doing this Norfolk will be able to make changes based on the needs that have been identified and from the involvement and coproduction of victim-survivors of DA under the new engagement framework. This will ensure that our short-term and longer-term goals are reviewed and where still applicable, implemented.

A joint financial plan will be developed and agreed via the DASVG Board in relation to the New Burdens Funding across the County. This will be spent on “safe accommodation” and accompanying DA support. This will be annually refreshed and may include options to pool resources.

Norfolk will continue to raise awareness of DA and communicate the safe accommodation and the broader DA offer to residents of Norfolk. This will be published as part of the new communications plan that is included in the delivery plan objectives.

Norfolk will monitor progress of the delivery plan so that the strategy intentions can be report to DASVG on a quarterly basis and a more formalised set of measures will be agreed by the Board to measure the impact of the strategy.

3.2 Norfolk will know the strategy has made an impact when:

The following points would indicate that the commissioning intentions are achieving their objectives:

- Additional bedspaces are available, and capacity has increased
- Fewer victim-survivors are refused refuge
- There is more diversity and flexibility in the type of safe accommodation
- The safe accommodation is provided in areas of greatest need
- The length of stay in a refuge has decreased because there is greater access to social housing
- The ‘revolving door’ of DA reduces because the support provided to adults ensures victim-survivors recover and can live independently
- There is the right support available to children, so they are not exposed to witnessing violence which can impact their development and understanding of healthy relationships into adulthood⁴.
- The voices of victim-survivors are heard, and they know what they say will help improve DA services through actions
- Those that wish to stay in their own home are safe to do so

We do however acknowledge that along the way there could be barriers to our success such as:

- Lack of funding where Providers & victim-survivors believe priority should be made
- COVID-19 impacts
- Lack of support staff
- There are barriers to implementing the type of system changes required in relation to Data collation – perhaps because of GDPR for example.
- Government Policy changes.

⁴ Domestic violence and abuse – the impact on children and adolescents: Royal College of Psychiatrists [link to article](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

4



Acknowledgements

We would like to thank our partners, specifically the OPCCN, and our Tier 2 authorities: Breckland District Council; Broadland District Council; Great Yarmouth Borough Council; the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk; North Norfolk District Council; Norwich City Council and South Norfolk District Council. We are also most grateful for the advice and involvement of DA accommodation and support providers alongside the victim-survivors of DA across Norfolk who gave their time to add their voice to help shape the direction and content of this strategy. We also acknowledge the helpful advice from other Tier 1 authorities and also the Local Government Association.

We know Norfolk has more to do in hearing the voices of victim-survivors and their families – it is not just about them telling us their story, we must also act to improve their lives. We want to involve those who have lived experience of DA so that if there are areas of service delivery that fell short, we can start making those improvements.

We know that through improving our services, we can ensure that all sectors of our communities are reassured of the support available and where needed, there is accommodation that is safe and able to meet their needs.

We would like to thank members of the NDAPB and DASVG for their commitment and work to assist in the development of this strategy and to wider stakeholders within our Community Safety Partnership who provided their knowledge and expertise to help inform its objectives.

We would also like to thank both local and national advocate for victim-survivors of DA who took part in the Provider Engagement event and who will continue to be involved in the further implementation of this strategy.

List of acronyms

CYP	Children and Young People
DA	Domestic Abuse
DAHA	Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (and Accreditation)
DAPPA	Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Partnership Approach
DASH	Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment
DASVG	Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Group
DLUHC	Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FM	Forced Marriage
H-CLIC	Homelessness Case Level Collection
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advisor
LGBTQT+	Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, Questioning and any other sexuality
MARAC	Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conferences
MASH	Multi-Agency safeguarding hubs
MCHLG	ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
NCAN	Norfolk Community Advice Network
NDAPB	Norfolk Domestic Abuse Partnership Board
NIDAS	Norfolk Integrated Domestic Abuse Service
NODA	Norfolk Office of Data and Analytics
NRPF	No Recourse to Public Funds
ONS	Office of National Statistics
OPCCN	The Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Norfolk
SV	Sexual Violence
VAWG	Violence against women and girls

Appendix 1 – NDAPB Terms of Reference



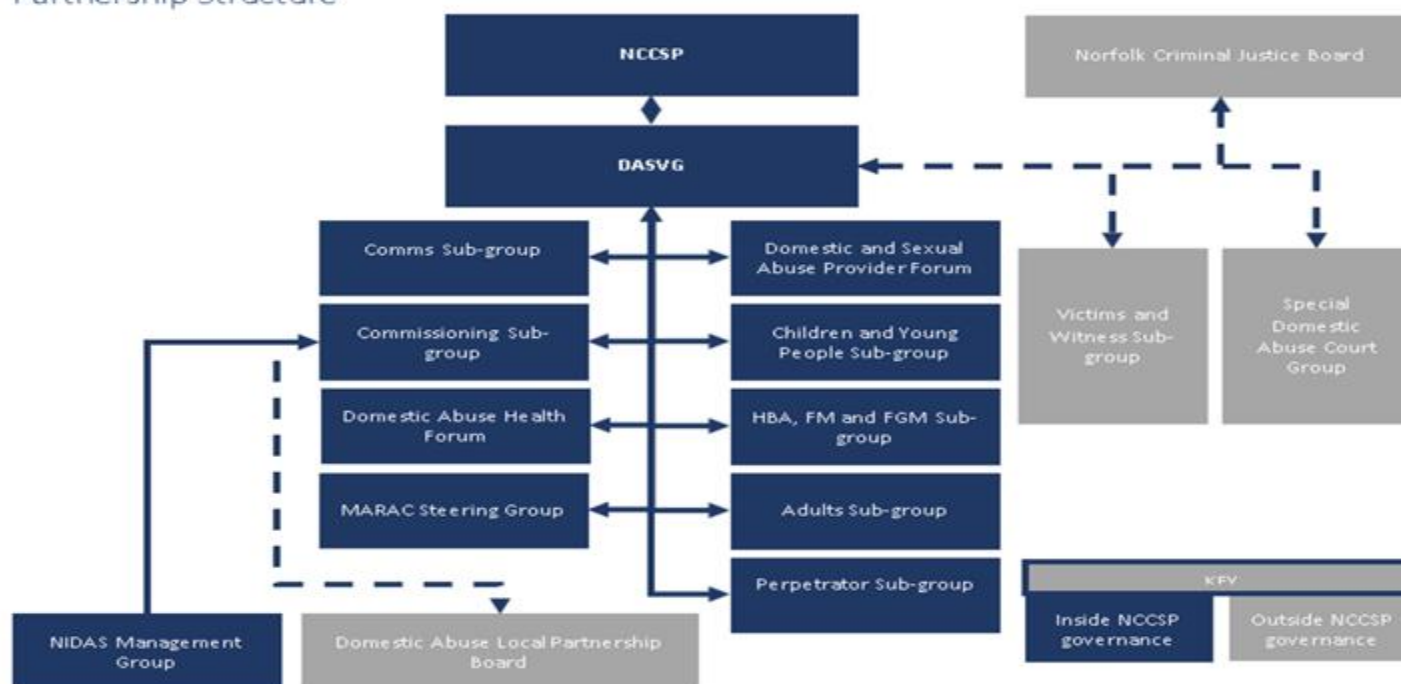
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Appendix 2 – Community Safety Partnership membership

- ☐ Norfolk County Council
- ☐ Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service
- ☐ Norfolk Police
- ☐ The Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
- ☐ Breckland District Council
- ☐ Broadland District Council
- ☐ Great Yarmouth Borough Council
- ☐ King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council
- ☐ North Norfolk District Council
- ☐ Norwich City Council
- ☐ South Norfolk Council
- ☐ NHS Norfolk and Waveney Clinical Commissioning Group
- ☐ Norfolk Probation Service
- ☐ Norfolk Youth Offending Team
- ☐ Victim Support
- ☐ Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board
- ☐ Norfolk Children Safeguarding Board
- ☐ Registered Housing providers.

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NCCSP
Norfolk county community
safety partnerships



Appendix 4 –Needs Assessment (NODA)



Domestic Abuse
Needs Assessment -

Appendix 5 – Victim-survivor survey



Domestic Abuse
Survivor Survey Repor

Appendix 6 - Refuge information

Unit details	Target Groups	Disability Access?	Child facilities?	Child support offered
5 rooms in a shared house	Women and Children	-	Spaces for up to 4 children	-
5 self-contained flats	Women and Children	1 X unit has an adapted wet room but would not support a wheelchair	Spaces for up to 8 children	Limited one -one support for children Kids club once a week - 5 years to 17 years Once a week support for 0- 5 years Currently funded by Children's Services
6 rooms in a shared house	Women and Children	-	Spaces for up to 8 children	-
12 self-contained flats	Women and Children	1 X fully adapted unit	1 X unit (can take up to 6 children) Space up to 26 Children	Limited one -one support for children Kids club once a week - 5 years to 17 years Once a week support for 0- 5 years Currently funded by Children's Services
8 self-contained flats	Women and Children	1 X unit has an adapted wet room but would not support a wheelchair	Spaces for up to 14 children	Limited one -one support for children Kids club once a week - 5 years to 17 years Once a week support for 0- 5 years Currently funded by Children's Services
12 self-contained flats	Women and Children	1 X fully adapted unit	1 X unit (can take up to 6 children) Space up to 26 Children	Limited one -one support for children Kids club once a week - 5 years to 17 years Once a week support for 0- 5 years Currently funded by Children's Services
6 units	Women and Children	Would not be able to support a wheelchair	Space for up to 8 children	

Appendix 7 – Safehouse information

Target Groups	Disability Access?	Max Capacity	Lease details	Other notes	Numbers supported (March 2020-Sept 2021)
Current provision					
Women and children	No wheelchair access	4 women 3 children	6 year lease	Would consider complex needs. Support is offered on a floating support model; no staff are based at the safehouse	15 women 7 children
Women and children	No wheelchair access	3 women 2 children	3 year lease from Victory Housing Association	Would consider complex needs. Support is offered on a floating support model; no staff are based at the safehouse	20 women 12 children
Provision being commissioned					
Women & children	Disabled access	5 women 3 children	5 year lease from Freebridge	1 staff member funded for one year to support complex needs	N/A

Get help now

If you, or anyone else, is at immediate risk of harm, phone the police on 999.

The silent solution: If you can't speak or make a sound when calling 999, listen to the operator's questions, then tap the handset. If prompted, press 55. Your call will be transferred to police who will know it's an emergency.

There is support available to help you whether you are currently experiencing domestic abuse or have recently left an abusive relationship. (See also the section [Help to move on](#) for help with the longer term impact)

Local organisations

Norfolk Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (NIDAS)

Contract awarded – further details to follow in relation to contact information.

Leeway Domestic Abuse and Violence Services

Website: www.leewayssupport.org

Email: referrals@leewaynwa.org.uk

Telephone: 0300 561 0077

web chat service – Monday 10:00 – 12:00, Tuesday 14:00 – 16:00, Wednesday 10:00 – 12:00, Thursday 14:00 – 16:00, Friday 10:00 – 12:00

- Refuge and safe house accommodation
- 24 hour telephone support
- Residential services including short term emergency accommodation for people with no recourse to public funds (this funding ends 28th February 2022)
- Specialist DA Support Worker for vulnerable adults
- Male advice line staffed by specialist male workers 10am-12pm every Wednesday
- One-to-one support and group work for children and young people
- Volunteer and training services.
- Multi-lingual support across Norfolk and free immigration advice

Orwell Housing Association Ltd

Telephone: 0845 467 4876

Email: havenproject@orwell-housing.co.uk

Area covered: South Norfolk

- Refuge accommodation in South Norfolk
- Telephone support line 10am-4pm Monday-Friday
- Emergency accommodation for females only
- Community support for men and women
- Orwell has a specialist domestic abuse worker in the South Norfolk Early Help Hub. Requests for support into this service can be made on 01508 533933 or via the [South Norfolk Help Hub](#) website

Norfolk & Suffolk Victim Care Service (facilitated by Victim Support)

Local Number: 0300 303 3706 (8am-5pm Monday-Friday)

Local Email: nsvictimcare@victimsupport.org.uk.

Live Chat at any time 24/7: [Live chat | Victim Support](#) www.nsvictimcare.org/referral

Outside office hours 24/7 Support line: [0808 1689111](tel:08081689111)

Telephone and face to face support for male and female victims.

Pandora Project

Website: www.pandoraproject.org.uk

Email: referrals@pandoraproject.org.uk

Area covered: King's Lynn and West Norfolk

- Advice Line: 07526 257857 (10am-3pm Friday only)
- Telephone and face to face support
- Drop-in sessions
- Support for female victims and survivors and child on parent violent programmes.

Daisy Programme

Facebook site: daisyprogramme.org.uk

Email: help@daisyprogramme.org.uk

Support for male and female victims

- Face to face support and counselling
- Survivor courses such as the Freedom Programme and My Confidence
- Drop-in support groups and choir
- Children and Young Peoples Domestic Abuse Worker (Breckland Only)
- Vulnerable Adults Domestic Abuse Worker.

Dawns New Horizon

Website: [Dawn's New Horizon | Domestic Violence Support Group \(dawnsnewhorizon.org.uk\)](http://Dawn's%20New%20Horizon%20-%20Domestic%20Violence%20Support%20Group%20(dawnsnewhorizon.org.uk))

Shop Phone: 01603 927717 (Opening hours only)

Mobile: 07854 044680 (9am-5pm 7 days a week)

Email: dawnsnewhorizon@yahoo.com

Social Media: [Twitter](#) / [Facebook](#)

Dawn's New Horizon supports male and female victims of Domestic Violence, providing a 'one stop shop' information and support service over the phone, online and face to face. We service the Broadland district of Norwich and there is always someone available to talk to in the shop. The support we offer enables, among other things, people to take back control of their lives.

Restitute

Restitute

www.restitute.org

support@restitute.org

<https://twitter.com/RestituteUk>

<https://www.facebook.com/RestituteUK>

<https://www.instagram.com/restituteuk/>

Area covered: all of Norfolk and Suffolk

- providing support for people who care for survivors of sexual or violent crime (including domestic abuse)
- 1 to 1 support worker, practical support, therapeutic support
- Support men, women, and children.

Sue Lambert Trust

Website: [Sue Lambert Trust – Support for survivors of sexual abuse](https://www.suelamberttrust.org)

Phone: 01603 622406

Email: info@suelamberttrust.org

The Sue Lambert Trust offer a range of services including one to one counselling, support, and group work. These services are available to anybody aged 11+, in most cases for up to 12 months.

National organisations:

National Domestic Abuse Helpline

[Freephone National Domestic Abuse Helpline - 0808 2000 247 \(refuge.org.uk\)](https://www.refuge.org.uk)

Provide Live Chat as well Mon-Fri 3pm-10pm

Website [Refuge Against Domestic Violence - Help for women & children.](https://www.refuge.org.uk)

- 24 hour domestic violence helpline (chat, web form, telephone)
- Protection from all types of abuse including tech abuse
- Referral to emergency safe accommodation and information about refuges
- Information about legal rights, housing and welfare rights and protection of children. Referral to the relevant services
- Advice and information for victims, professionals, friends or family

Galop

Website: www.galop.org.uk

Telephone: 0800 999 5428

Email: info@galop.org.uk

- Support with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender domestic abuse
- Telephone support line open 10am-5pm Monday, Tuesday and Friday, 10am-8pm Wednesday and Thursday
- Transgender specific support line 1pm-5pm Tuesday
- Online chat support available 5pm-8pm Wednesday and Thursday

Women's Aid

Email: helpline@womensaid.org.uk

Live Chat – Instant Messaging Service

Forum (women 18+)

Respect Men's Advice Line

Website: www.mensadviceline.org.uk

Telephone: 0808 801 0327

Email: info@mensadviceline.org.uk

- Advice and support for men experiencing domestic violence and abuse
- Telephone support line 9am-8pm Monday and Wednesday, 9am-5pm Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.
- If you are unable to call you can also receive support from the Helpline Advisors by emailing info@mensadviceline.org.uk and they will aim to reply within two working days
- Online chat support available 10am-4pm Tuesday and Wednesday.

Rights of Women

Rights of Women aims to increase women's understanding of their legal rights and improve their access to justice enabling them to live free from violence and make informed, safe, choices about their own and their families' lives by offering a range of services including specialist telephone legal advice lines, legal information and training for professionals.

T: **020 7251 6577** (family law helpline – other numbers are available on the website)

W: <https://rightsofwomen.org.uk>.

ManKind Initiative

Website: www.mankind.org.uk

Telephone: 01823 334244

- Telephone support line for male victims of domestic abuse 10am-4pm Monday-Friday
- Information about reporting incidents, planning an escape and police procedures
- Signposting to support for emergency housing and specialist legal help

National Stalking Helpline (delivered by Suzy Lamplugh Trust)

Website: www.suzylamplugh.org/refer-someone-to-us

Telephone: 0808 802 0300

- Telephone support line available 9.30am-4pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and 1pm-4pm Wednesday
- Advisors can provide information about the law in relation to stalking and harassment in the UK, reporting stalking or harassment, effective gathering of evidence, ensuring your personal safety and that of your friends and family, and practical steps to reduce the risk

Paladin: National Stalking Advocacy Service

Website: www.paladinservice.co.uk

Telephone: 020 3866 4107

Email: info@paladinservice.co.uk

- Provide trauma informed support, advice and advocacy to high risk victims
- Raise awareness of dangers and risks of stalking
- Provide university accredited ISAC training and CPD accredited training to professionals
- Analyse the application of the stalking law
- Campaign on behalf of victims of stalking
- Develop a "Knowledge Hub"— a single port of call for any victim seeking the best support and safety advice, for a professional seeking information about how to respond to stalking and principles of an effective advocacy service

Appendix 9 - Provider Event feedback



Domestic Abuse
Provider Event 30.9.2

Provider event feedback:

List of Organisations represented:

Norfolk County Council (Adult and Children's Services) & NODA
District Councils
OPCCN
Norfolk Constabulary
Daisy Programme
Leeway Domestic Abuse and Violence Services
Action for Children
Orwell Housing
Saffron Housing Trust
Places for People
Spurgeons Children's Charity
MAP Young People
Ormiston Families
Flagship Group
ManKind initiative
Clarion Housing Group
Broadland Housing Group
Birmingham City Council
Sue Lambert Trust
Places for People
Magdalene Group
Restitute
Saffron Housing

Surveys currently being undertaken with victim-survivors and further engagement planned.

Imogen Statham
Domestic Abuse Commissioning Manager
Housing and Capital Programmes Team
Adult Social Services
Norfolk County Council
Bay 6, Floor 3
County Hall
Martineau Lane
Norwich
NR1 2DH

30 November 2021

Dear Imogen

Re: Consultation Response – Support in Safe Accommodation Strategy for Norfolk 2021-2024

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very important piece of work.

Members of North Norfolk District Council are very concerned about the levels of domestic abuse in the North Norfolk District Council area and in particular about the potential level of hidden abuse being experienced by our older and more vulnerable residents. For this reason domestic abuse is a very important issue for us and we are cognisant of the trauma experienced by survivors and the lasting impact this can have on their lives.

We acknowledge the difficulties highlighted in the Needs Assessment and will work with partners to improve the availability and quality of data in order to identify the true gap in the provision of safe accommodation.

We acknowledge that there is provision of safe accommodation in the North Norfolk District Council area. We are aware however that this accommodation will not necessarily be of a type or in the location wanted by survivor victims of domestic abuse and even if it is of a type and in a location of their choice that it is unlikely that it will be available when they need it. We therefore believe that there should be greater choice for survivor victims of domestic abuse to meet their accommodation needs both at the time of fleeing and for building a future safe from abuse. It is for this reason that we believe that the definition of safe accommodation is too narrow and that support should be able to be accessed in a wider range of accommodation settings so that provisions can be made for all needs groups in their area of choice.

We also acknowledge that some survivors will want to or may need to relocate and start afresh and so provision needs to be made to enable this; both provision in North Norfolk for those fleeing from elsewhere and provision outside of North Norfolk for those residents of North Norfolk fleeing.

We strongly support the notion of co-production and those with lived experience being able to share this in order to improve the accommodation and support offer.

We welcome the opportunity to work with partners to deliver this strategy and improve the lives of survivors of domestic abuse.

This response has been developed in consultation with Cllr Wendy Fredericks, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Benefits and Cllr Virginia Gay, Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Wellbeing and Culture. We have advised our wider membership of the draft strategy and the opportunity to comment. The draft strategy will be considered further at the Cabinet meeting on 5 January 2022.

Kind regards

Karen Hill
Assistant Director People Services
Karen.hill@north-norfolk.gov.uk
01263 516183

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Lease Proposal at D, E and F Hornbeam Road

Summary: The Council has received a lease proposal from a national operator to rent commercial premises at Hornbeam Road, North Walsham. The proposal represents a market rent/terms and initial due diligence indicate the tenant is of good covenant strength.

Options considered: The alternative option would be not to accept the lease proposal from the national operator for all three units and continue to market the two remaining units. However, the property was acquired for investment purposes and the proposed offer would facilitate a strong financial return.

Conclusions: Having marketed the remaining units to let, Officers have gained a lease proposal to rent all three adjoining units, which would be for a trade counter facility with storage.

The proposed tenant is of a good covenant strength and the rental terms negotiated, represents a good market rental offer. The proposal provides a good level of investment return in accordance with the Asset Management Plan.

Recommendations: **It is recommended that Cabinet should resolve:**
A. To withdraw from the current proposed lease, which is not yet legally completed
B. To approve the lease terms as described in Appendix A

Reasons for Recommendations: Principally to support the financial sustainability and growth of the Council by leasing the premises and generating rental income that is used to support Council services.

Recommendations: To approve the lease terms as stated in the appendix to

move forwards with the proposal.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS AS REQUIRED BY LAW

(Papers relied on to write the report, which do not contain exempt information and which are not published elsewhere)

--

Cabinet Member(s) Cllr. E Seward	Ward(s) affected North Walsham
Contact Officer, telephone number and email: Will Cross, Surveyor Tel: 01263 516258 Email: William.cross@north-norfolk.gov.uk	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Council acquired 3 brand new commercial units with B2/B8 use at Hornbeam Road, North Walsham in December 2020. Since this time the units have been marketed with local commercial agents.
- 1.2 Cabinet previously approved a lease proposal from a local business for Unit D, in July 2021. This however has yet to legally complete and is currently awaiting a planning decision relating to change of use, as the proposed business doesn't fall within the current use class category. There is a risk that planning consent may not be granted.
- 1.3 The remaining two units are being marketed to let at £18,400 per annum for the larger unit and £17,500 for the smaller unit, which equates to (£8psft). See appendix B for site plan and particulars.

2. Lease Proposal

- 2.1 A lease proposal has been received by a National operator for a fifteen-year lease term, to rent all three units. The terms of this proposal can be found in the exempt appendix A.
- 2.2 The proposed use is for a trade counter facility with storage and distribution of hardware/kitchen and home improvement materials.
- 2.3 The lease proposed reflects a market rent and favourable lease terms including maintenance liability being the responsibility of the tenant.
- 2.2 The proposal is subject to contract.
- 2.3 Initial due diligence indicate the tenant is of good covenant strength and financial stability to meet the lease obligations.
- 2.4 This letting would require the Council to withdraw from the existing lease proposal, that has yet to legally complete.

3. Corporate Plan Objectives

- 3.1 This proposal aligns with the following key corporate priorities as contained within the current Corporate Plan;

3.2 Boosting Business Sustainability and Growth – by providing good quality business premises to a national operator, with the benefit of providing additional employment opportunities to the local economy.

3.3 Financial Sustainability and Growth – generating a rental income and financial return that is used to support Council services.

4. Medium Term Financial Strategy

4.1 The proposal contributes to the Council's medium term financial strategy. We anticipate that the rental income that will grow by incremental rent reviews throughout the term of the long lease, dependent on market conditions at that point in time.

4.2 The tenant will be responsible for all repairs and maintenance of the premises either directly or through a service charge, removing this financial liability from the Council.

5. Financial and Resource Implications

5.1 Financial information regarding the proposal can be found in the exempt Appendix A.

5.2 The gross financial return for this proposal is 7.30%, based on property value and rent. The Council's cost associated with this lease proposal will be minimal as the tenant is responsible for all costs and we anticipate a net return of circa 7%.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 The lease is subject to contract

6.2 Legal advice will be obtained during the lease transaction.

7. Risks

7.1 Typical property investment risks, including the lease not completing, tenant defaults on rental payments, dilapidations may occur, however these can be mitigated with active asset management.

7.2 Whilst this proposed lease falls within the existing use class, the current lease proposal requires a change of use and planning consent may not be granted.

8. Sustainability

8.1 The letting of the premises provides financial sustainability to the Council.

9. Climate / Carbon impact

9.1 The Energy Performance Certificate rating of the premises are a D

10. Equality and Diversity

10.1 There are no direct equality and diversity implications with this proposal.

11. Section 17 Crime and Disorder considerations

11.1 There are no Section 17 implications with this proposal.

12. Conclusion and Recommendations

12.1 Having marketed the remaining units to let, Officers have gained a lease proposal to rent all three adjoining units.

12.2 Officers support the proposed tenant use of the units, which would be for a trade counter facility with storage and distribution of hardware/kitchen and

- home improvement materials. Which compliments existing nearby businesses and would help to facilitate local building needs and support local contractors.
- 12.3 The proposed tenant is of a good covenant strength and the rental terms negotiated, represents a good market rental offer. The proposal provides a good level of investment return in accordance with the Asset Management Plan.
- 12.4 On this basis, it is officer's recommendation to withdraw from the existing lease proposal, which has not yet legally completed and to approve the lease terms as described in Appendix A.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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