

## **Homelessness Task and Finish Group**

### **Executive Summary**

The Task and Finish Group met eleven times to gather evidence from a number of internal and external witnesses to help the group formulate its recommendations. The Group would very much like to thank all those witnesses for their time and have very much appreciated their openness and the time and effort each witness put into providing information.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee set up the Task and Finish Group to look into the causes and relief of homelessness in the district and make recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on its findings.

It became clear from multiple witnesses that the level of homelessness in the district was tied to the associated problem of the lack of housing supply in North Norfolk and the group choose a remit to seek to try to answer two fundamental questions –

1. How can the number of people who become homeless within North Norfolk be reduced?
2. How can the amount of suitable accommodation in North Norfolk be increased/prevented from decreasing?

Without doubt the Housing team and other staff in People's Services have done a huge amount of work already in this field and have achieved a great deal. To reduce homelessness both its causes and as well as improving the existing housing supply needs to be addressed. We have found there may be some additional measures which we think would have a positive impact. The group has spoken to other local authorities who have tried alternative interventions, and other organisations who offer a different perspective, and we think we have come up with a blend of suggestions which may require time and effort to be successful, but which are worth considering.

The group's approach has been to seek potential solutions and each recommendation is one that seeks improvement rather than necessarily innovation.

All are based on either successful schemes taken by other local authorities or suggestions from partners or suggestions from specialists in their field as a way the Council could reduce the level of homelessness in North Norfolk.

We recognise and wish to express our thanks to all the Council staff in People Services who work with such dedication to help people who are often at times of crisis in their life. The surge in numbers of people needing help as the Cost-of-Living crisis has deepened puts extra additional burdens on those staff who are at times working with difficult cases and we would like to see the council do all it can to reduce those numbers.

The recommendations are presented in a priority order where there are multiple items under a heading for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and ultimately the Cabinet to consider. The Group recognises that there are significant revenue and capital implications for some of the recommendations that require careful thought.

However, it is not just about reducing the financial burden on the council but the pain that it causes those people affected and the effect this has on our local communities. There was no indication from any of the witnesses we interviewed that the level of homelessness in North Norfolk was expected to drop in the near future. As Cornwall Council said about its affordable housing plans – it is not just about building homes...but about building communities.

## **Recommendations that the Council**

### **(A) To prevent homelessness**

**expands its homelessness service prevention work to undertake such work at an earlier stage along with multi agency support, on an invest to save basis, to seek to reduce the number of people going into temporary accommodation and the costs of that to the council that should include**

- 1. increasing the awareness and risks of homelessness in the local communities, on the value of prevention for homelessness and that early intervention requires people to ask for help before it becomes too late**
- 2. increasing its communication work which should include Parish and Town Councils and should also provide support to Councillors to enable them to help signpost those people who need housing help**
- 3. increasing the range of interventions to help people especially on benefit support and with financial viability assessments**

### **(B) Managing homelessness**

**Explores how it uses partner, charity, and voluntary organisations to create a series of outreach hubs and front-line services in North Norfolk for homelessness to create a network of advice and support including appropriate partner organisation(s)**

### **(C) Housing allocation**

**Considers the viability of a support match scheme to match younger residents who need accommodation into a home with an older resident(s) that needs assistance in a similar way to the scheme in Cornwall**

**[Supportmatch Homeshare - Cornwall Council](#)**

### **(D) Increase housing supply**

- 1. Continues to encourage its Councillors to work within their local communities to seek to find additional plots of land that can be used for new affordable housing schemes**
- 2. As a medium-term solution looks at setting up an investment partnership to provide affordable local housing for local people at social, discount and market rent. We would recommend the model used**

by Cambridge City Council and Gravesham Borough Council who set an investment partnership with the Hill Group on a 50:50 basis

3. Explores the use of Solo Haus one bed housing where additional temporary accommodation for single people is required

**(E) Increase affordable house building/supply**

1. Undertakes an audit of shop fronts away from primary retail areas and empty units above and behind shops to assess their potential for conversion to residential usage or renting out rooms
2. An affordable housing conference be set up to encourage Parish and Town councils to create neighbourhood plans that include allocations for community led development for local people and encourages community land trusts to come forward with affordable schemes in rural exception sites
3. Continues to seek from Norfolk County Council a minimum 50% return of the extra Council tax that will be received from the new extra second homes premium and that the money the Council receives is ringfenced for affordable housing
4. Responds to the Government consultation on changes to the National Planning Policy Framework on the definition of affordability
5. Explores the potential to use Better Society Capital/National Homelessness Property fund 2 funding for 3-to-4-bedroom properties

[National Homelessness Property fund 2 | Better Society Capital](#)

**(F) Increase/sustain Private rental tenancies**

1. Explores the model of using a local estate agency to set up a Council letting agency and also looks at whether homelessness prevention grant could be used to bring empty properties back into use
2. Encourages the new government to continue the previous government's work on introducing an appropriate licencing scheme for all short-term lets
3. Continues to engage proactively with private landlords and considers whether setting up a Landlords Forum would be beneficial with an introductory conference type session including mortgage brokers, lenders, insurance companies as well as landlords and housing associations to explore solutions to the issues Landlords are experiencing

**(G) Reducing Long Term Empty Homes**

- 1. Continues to have an Empty Homes Officer as a permanent role**
- 2. Considers how to increase engagement with the Town and Parish Councils on the number of long-term empty properties in their areas**
- 3. Continues to investigate whether funding could be found to refurbish empty properties for people in housing need**

**(H) Sustain social tenancies**

- 1. Continues to investigate with registered providers on the reuse of sheltered housing and to seek fewer age designated homes**
- 2. Continues to have a strategic discussion with the registered providers on potential disposals that may occur over the next few years**
- 3. Encourages registered providers to ensure sufficient target hardening is provided in Domestic Abuse cases**

**(I) Prevention of/provision for victims of Domestic Abuse**

- 1. Explores how partner organisations can be used to help with homelessness prevention especially in domestic abuse cases that would include tenancy support by the Registered Providers and spreading awareness to Parish and Town Councils and Councillors**
- 2. Asks the new Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner whether the offer of scoping out a pilot that moves out the perpetrator in domestic abuse cases rather than the victim is still valid**

**Recommendations in Detail**

Further information about our recommendations is detailed below.

**(A) To prevent homelessness**

**expands its homelessness service prevention work to undertake such work at an earlier stage along with multi agency support, on an invest to save basis, to seek to reduce the number of people going into temporary accommodation and the costs of that to the council that should include**

- 1. increasing the awareness and risks of homelessness in the local communities, on the value of prevention for homelessness and that early intervention requires people to ask for help before it becomes too late**
- 2. increasing its communication work which should include Parish and Town councils and should also provide support to Councillors to enable them to help signpost those people who need housing help**
- 3. increasing the range of interventions to help people especially on benefit support and with financial viability assessments**

We understand that the homeless service would like to do more prevention work in identifying the cohort of people who need help and getting them the help they need at earlier stage, and we strongly support this approach and would like to see early intervention opportunities and homelessness prevention interventions explored along with multi agency support, that prevent homelessness (and repeat homelessness).

It is understood that a research report by Heriot Watt and Cardiff University and supported by Homeless Link is due out in May 2024 entitled Preventing homelessness a route map to local solutions which will look at prevention options at a range of stages from intervention to crisis and emergency stage homelessness which may provide some useful information for the council to look at.

It is though difficult for the service to do this whilst it is inundated with crisis cases and dealing with temporary accommodation. We would like to see the Council's reserves being used to create the capacity to undertake this work on an invest to save basis with the aim of reducing the number of people reaching crisis point and then needing support. The housing costs alone of providing temporary accommodation for an average two-bedroom household going into temporary accommodation are now close to £30,000 PA without staffing and additional costs. So, any work to prevent people needing temporary accommodation will bring future savings to the council.

We heard that financial help is particularly needed on what benefits are available and helping people with their financial viability assessments.

We heard from a number of organisations about the importance of getting the public and parish and town councils to not only understand how people can become homeless and to change their perceptions of those people but also that help can be at earlier stage before it reaches the crisis stage, and the help can be more effective and cheaper for the council when it is.

Rethinking and reframing the Council's language – and who says it (is it better coming from other organisations?) – can also lead to honest and realistic discussions where local people are more easily able to recognise themselves or people they know in conversations about homelessness risk and housing instability, how it can be prevented, and what steps they can take to play a part in resolving their own challenges.

The Council does some of this work already, but it would be good to have a coordinated campaign especially with a multi-agency approach to spread the key messages and we would encourage the council to run such a campaign over a 3-to-6-month period as soon as it can.

## **(B) Managing homelessness**

**Explores how it uses partner, charity, and voluntary organisations to create a series of outreach hubs and front-line services in North Norfolk for homelessness to create a network of advice and support including appropriate partner organisation(s)**

We heard from a number of organisations about the disjointed nature of support for people across North Norfolk due to its geography and lack of suitable public transport. Other authorities have set up a network of organisations that people can go to albeit in urban areas that are easier to access.

It is important that the support in local communities builds from the existing networks of active, known and trusted organisations that already have a deep understanding of the challenges faced by local people and how best to embed local solutions to ensure they last in the longer term.

The council did establish some warm hubs so a principle of how this could work is possible. We would hope that this could be extended and include charity and local organisations who we heard wanted to help. We would encourage the council to seek out funding from local organisations especially some businesses who might feel it is something worthwhile to contribute to.

We were impressed by the Homelessness Charity Emmaus, Norfolk and Waveney ([Homelessness Charity - Emmaus Norfolk & Waveney - About Us](#)) and the approach they took to help formerly homeless people in giving them support and meaningful work opportunities. They are currently based in Ditchingham as a secular, sober community that can include people with complex high needs. They are currently expanding to reflect the growing need for their services.

### **(C) Housing allocation**

#### **Considers the viability of a support match scheme to match younger residents who need accommodation into a home with an older resident(s) that need assistance**

Cornwall Council provides a scheme where elderly people on their own have a support match that works to find people to share properties at a reduced rent to help that elderly person with general health. [Supportmatch Homeshare - Cornwall Council](#)

They have so far provided 50 or 60 matches so far. However, the match needs to be highly vetted to ensure the right matches are being taken forward and that is easier at a higher-level authority.

We ask the council to consider this which would need close cooperation with Norfolk County Council social services and whether it will be possible to do this with a partner organisation.

### **(D) Increase housing supply**

#### **1. Continues to encourage its Councillors to work within their local communities to seek to find additional plots of land that can be used for new affordable housing schemes**

The Council needs to find new parcels of land within the district to build new affordable housing schemes as there are more needed. Councillors know their local

areas who are the local landowners as well as have a relationship with their Parish or Town Council(s) and are in a unique position to help and lead local discussions.

Local Councillors are therefore encouraged to continue taking on this role and help to find new parcels of land that be used for appropriate development.

**2. As a medium-term solution looks at setting up an investment partnership to provide affordable local housing for local people at social, discount and market rent. We would recommend the model used by Cambridge City Council and Gravesham Borough Council who set an investment partnership with the Hill Group on a 50:50 basis**

We note that the Council's Housing Strategy presented to Cabinet in April 2024 said that it was not viable for the Council to set up its own Housebuilding Company.

However, the model used by Cambridge City Council and now by Gravesham Borough Council is of an investment partnership that allows for additional affordable homes to be built.

An Investment Partnership (IP) is a joint venture with a partner as a Limited Liability Partnership (LLP). The LLP would be 50:50 controlled by the Council and the partner it selects to work with.

Under the model, the Council can choose which scheme it wishes to invest in the IP. The Council, or the partner, can veto whether a scheme proceeds or not once it has been appraised. The Council retains control of the freehold of the land and its value as it can choose, or not, whether it requires the freehold to remain with the Council.

This model was started in 2017 between Cambridge City Council and the Hill Group. The Cambridge Investment Partnership is on-site building over 700 new council homes and completed eight developments. They are working to deliver at least 1700 new homes, including 1000 council homes, over the next 10 years. The Partnership is delivering the City's first Passivhaus-accredited council homes, a standard that follows rigorous construction methods and delivers the highest levels of energy efficiency and airtightness.

Gravesham Borough Council were donated eight Solo Haus homes as a part of the Hill's Foundation 200 initiative. Launched to mark Hill's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Foundation 200 is a £15 million pledge to design and donate 200 modular homes to local authorities and homelessness charities by 2025.

The Gravesham report on this model is here - [Report \(gravesham.gov.uk\)](https://www.gravesham.gov.uk/reports-and-consultations/2024/04/24/gravesham-report-on-investment-partnership-model)

**3. Explores the use of Solo Haus one bed housing where additional temporary accommodation for single people is required**

Solohaus homes are safe, welcoming spaces built to the highest standards of sustainability, efficiency and safety with a 60-year life span. They were designed alongside homelessness charities and stakeholders to inform design, layout, light

and storage. The homes are designed for single occupation and come fully furnished and equipped ready for someone to move in to Solo Haus homes ([Solo Haus – An innovative approach to tackling homelessness](#)) and are mortgageable.

Cornwall Council, Gravesham Borough Council, Cambridge City Council, Ipswich Borough Council, the London Borough of Haringey and several housing associations in the East of England are using SoloHaus to support those that need it.

The evidence we heard was that using Solo Haus was cheaper than building new properties for temporary accommodation for one-bedroom properties and that included the costs of creating a site for multiple units together and connecting them up with utilities.

However, Solo Haus single units if bolted together become more expensive than new build.

There are usually neighbourhood objections to creating such a site and Cornwall Council had introduced a 24-hour licence on their sites that enabled them to move on anyone who was causing trouble within 24 hours. Added to this a maximum six-month tenancy could help to reassure neighbours to the site when seeking planning permission.

## **(E) Increase affordable house building/supply**

### **1. Undertakes an audit of shop fronts away from primary retail areas and empty units above and behind shops to assess their potential for conversion to residential usage or renting out rooms**

The Government on 22 July 2023 announced plans to boost its housing stock by making it easier to implement a change of use on empty shops. The idea was that by easing up the process of transforming empty retail units into residential dwellings the availability of housing in cities can be quickly boosted.

In North Norfolk shops are normally in protected frontages and the Council's policy is to keep them in retail usage when they are in the main shopping areas. However, in those areas away from the main retail areas there is greater scope and potential to enable conversions of shops where they have been proved to be empty and no longer commercially viable.

Planning rules for rooms above and behind shops are less stringent and it may well be allowed under permitted development rights to enable those rooms to be rented out.

We ask the Council to investigate both those circumstances and to consider what changes are needed in planning policy to allow shop owners to undertake these changes.

### **2. An affordable housing conference be set up to encourage Parish and Town councils to create neighbourhood plans that include allocations for community led development for local people and encourages community land trusts to come forward with affordable schemes in rural exception sites**



CPRE Norfolk held a Rural Affordable Conference with parish councils (a number of whom are members of the Charity) six years ago to explore what could be done to increase the number of affordable homes that were available in the rural parts of North Norfolk.

They were interested in holding another conference and we recommend that they be asked to do so. The conference could also look at recommendation G 2 from this report.

There is also a Corporate Plan action to share data at a parish level to improve support for affordable homes and this could be an excellent way to do that.

Rural Exception Sites are small sites located on the edge of existing rural settlements. They allow land to be provided below market value for residential development – provided it is used to build affordable housing for local people.

Rural Exception Sites are allocated outside of the local authority's development plan – so homes delivered via Rural Exception Sites represent additional affordable housing for the local community.

Any kind of affordable housing can be delivered, including affordable rent, intermediate housing (including first homes), or social rent, provided there is adequate evidence of local need.

Community Land Trusts are a great way for community-led schemes to come forward that are driven by local communities, rather than local authorities or private developers and we would ask the Council to encourage such Trusts to come forward.

Neighbourhood Plans were introduced by the Localism Act 2011. They enable communities to have a say about the development and growth of their local area by introducing local planning policies which (if the Neighbourhood Plan is successful at examination and referendum) form part of the statutory Development Plan. This means the Neighbourhood Plan must be taken into account when assessing planning applications for new development in that area.

### **3. Continues to seek from Norfolk County Council a minimum 50% return of the extra Council tax that will be received from the new extra second homes premium and that the money the Council receives is ringfenced for affordable housing**

From April 2025 the Council, will be able to charge an additional 100% Council Tax premium to second home, furnished properties that could generate up to £8m.

Under the current rules which dictate the share of council tax, about 75% goes to Norfolk County Council, 15% to the Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner, 8% to district councils and 2% to parish and town councils.

The Council has been lobbying the County Council and the Government for some time to allow sufficient amount of this money to come to the district where it was raised so that it could be spent in the local communities where it is raised.

We think that it would be good for that income to be spent in those local areas that are struggling with housing supply and agree with the call from Homes for Wells that the additional income from the second homes premium should be ring-fenced to provide affordable homes for local people to rent.

#### **4. Responds to the Government consultation on changes to the National Planning Policy Framework on the definition of affordability**

The Government is currently undertaking consultation on changes to the National Planning Policy Framework which is due to end on Tuesday 24 September 2024.

We ask the Council to respond to this consultation on whether the question of affordability should be changed.

CPRE, The Countryside Charity said, which we agree with, the following –

‘Affordable housing’ is defined by the government and NPPF as being 80% of the local market value and ‘affordable rent’ is at least 20 per cent below local market rents, but this is still unaffordable for many households.

The definition of affordable housing in national planning policy does not enable the delivery of genuinely affordable homes. Rural social-rented delivery has plummeted with just 348 homes delivered in England in 2020/21 and 3,282 delivered in 2021/22, whilst general ‘affordable’ housing delivery has increased with 21,826 general affordable homes delivered in 2020/21 and 25,294 delivered in 2021/22. This shows it is more viable for developers to deliver intermediate and discount market housing rather than lower rent homes that are desperately needed.

Government must redefine the term ‘affordable housing’ so that the cost of new affordable homes for sale or rent are directly linked to average local incomes. Where homes are not linked to average local incomes they should not be classed as affordable, as this obscures the type of housing that is being delivered.

Affordable housing needs to be redefined to match local incomes, with a mortgage lending ratio being no more than three times the annual income for a two-person household, and affordable rent at no more than 35% of average local household income.

This should lead to a more realistic and straightforward definition of ‘affordable housing’ in the NPPF.

#### **5. Explores the potential to use Better Society Capital/National Homelessness Property fund to fund 3-to-4-bedroom properties**

We were told that the critical shortage of homes in North Norfolk is 3- and 4-bedroom homes and we are aware of authorities that will buy properties directly from developers in new developments as a way of ensuring that there is sufficient affordable housing in a development.

This is of course expensive for a Council to do. However, there may be an opportunity to seek funding from the National Homelessness Property Fund [National](#)

[Homelessness Property fund 2 | Better Society Capital](#) which is a ten-year fund that invests directly into a diversified portfolio of residential properties – which will then be leased to housing providers to deliver affordable, good quality and suitable housing to address homelessness.

Better Society Capital is the UK's leading social impact-led investor and Resonance has already provided affordable homes in Wells

<https://resonance.ltd.uk/impact/impact-stories/homes-for-wells>

## **(F) Increase/sustain Private rental tenancies**

### **1. Explores the model of using a local estate agency to set up a Council letting agency and also looks at whether homelessness prevention grant could be used to bring empty properties back into use**

Both Norwich City Council and Great Yarmouth Borough Council have set up private sector leasing schemes. We heard that the Central Suffolk Lettings scheme has been working well in a challenging Private Rented Sector [Central Suffolk Lettings: FREE Letting Services - Babergh District Council - Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils - Working Together](#)

We did hear that it might be better to use an existing good quality private estate agent to run the scheme rather than doing it in house.

The Council's Housing Strategy refers to further discussion with Country Estates with a date of June 2025. If this is the Council's preferred estate agents we would ask that the conversations are speeded up as it is needed now.

We also note from the Council's Housing Strategy that there would be investigations of a Council rent deposit guarantee/gift scheme to help households access private rented homes with a date of April 2026. We believe that this is needed now and could form part of how a letting agency would work.

### **2. Encourages the new government to continue the previous government's work on introducing an appropriate licencing scheme for all short-term lets**

On 19 February 2024 the previous government published a statement that set out the next steps in developing a registration scheme for short-term lets in England. Consultation was undertaken and a response on that consultation is awaited from the new government,

The Low-use homes in rural and coastal areas across the UK report by Action for Empty Homes, Sheffield University and abrdn Financial Fairness Trust ([Low-use Homes in Rural and Coastal Areas of the UK — Action on Empty Homes](#)) states that:

“A licensing scheme would require property owners to apply for a licence before they can rent their properties out as short-term lets or holiday lets (for example on Airbnb) and provide evidence that they are meeting required health and safety standards.

Such a scheme would enable councils to have a better sense of how residential properties are being used and, critically, to limit the number of licences granted if the

number of short-term lets in an area is deemed too high. Councils would be able to revoke or refuse the renewal of licences and so be able to respond to the changing numbers of holiday lets each year.”

**3. Continues to engage proactively with the private landlords and considers whether setting up a Landlords Forum would be beneficial with an introductory conference type session including mortgage brokers, lenders, insurance companies as well as landlords and housing associations to explore solutions to the issues Landlords are experiencing**

It was clear that the private rental market in North Norfolk is already difficult, and we were left with the impression that it would only get worse without some sort of intervention as landlords are leaving the market and there are not enough new landlords replacing them.

We ask the council to continue encouraging the private rental market. A landlord forum may help in this regard as other authorities in Norfolk have done this to help the private rented market survive.

**(G) Reducing Long Term Empty Homes**

**1. Continues to have an Empty Homes Officer as a permanent role**

Bringing empty homes back into use can play a key part of local strategies to meet housing need. Not only are empty homes a wasted resource, but they are also often the subject of complaints and frustration for communities, as well as being a catalyst for crime and degradation.

We are pleased to note that the Council has found funding to continue to employ an Empty Homes Officer and would ask the council to make this post permanent. Other authorities have teams looking at empty homes and have made substantial reductions in the number of long-term empty properties in their area.

If the number of empty homes is reduced and become lived in again the council will receive revenue funding from council tax income so the post could very well end up paying for itself.

**2. Considers how to increase engagement with the towns and Parish Councils on the number of long-term empty properties in their areas**

This could well be part of a North Norfolk affordable housing conference as there are a surprising number of empty properties in some of the villages and towns and there is some potential to reduce that number. We would also encourage the Council’s Empty Homes officer to consult and work with the Parish and Town Councils in looking at these properties.

**3. Continues to investigate whether funding could be found to refurbish empty properties for people in housing need**

Action on Empty Homes told us that one of the things that local authorities could do is to seek funding to buy and refurbish empty properties for people in housing need. As part of this, funding could also be made available to community-based

organisations wishing to buy and refurbish empty homes. Authorities could also support community-based providers and housing associations seeking funding to bring empty homes back into use.

## **(H) Sustain social tenancies**

### **1. Continues to investigate with registered providers on the reuse of sheltered housing and to seek fewer age designated homes**

There is a lot of sheltered housing in North Norfolk that was built in the 1950 and 1960s with an expectation of what that home was for, that is different to the current approach of independent living. It is part of a wider strategic discussion that is needed on what is the best housing supply to meet the ageing demographic in North Norfolk.

A meeting with the registered providers to agree a joint vision on future plans on what to do about sheltered housing, whether supply can be matched with demand and what do with the exiting housing stock would be particularly useful.

### **2. Continues to have a strategic discussion with the registered providers on potential disposals that may occur over the next few years**

We are pleased to see in Council's Housing Strategy the introduction of a monthly meeting with Flagship to discuss potential disposals. However, there is also a wider more strategic discussion needed that looks at all the homes across North Norfolk that will come to an end of life in the next few years and what the Council and the Registered Providers want to do about them.

### **3. Encourages registered providers to ensure sufficient target hardening is provided to make homes safer in Domestic Abuse cases**

Target hardening is the strengthening of the security of a building or installation in order to protect it in the event of attack or reduce the risk of theft. In domestic abuse cases it is used to help survivors of domestic abuse feel safer in their homes.

We heard that registered providers do provide target hardening but thought it worthwhile to reemphasise this message.

## **(I) Prevention of/provision for victims of Domestic Abuse**

### **1. Explores how partner organisations can be used to help with homelessness prevention especially in domestic abuse cases that would include tenancy support by the Registered Providers and spreading awareness to Parish and Town Councils and Councillors**

Domestic Abuse is one of the main reasons for people becoming homeless in North Norfolk. It was clear from partner organisations such as Leeway that they wanted to do more and could provide outreach in communities to seek to increase preventative work.

This could involve more advice and help with regular drop-in sessions with refuges, clearer signposting to organisations such as Leeway on the Council's website and via the advice line.

**2. Asks the new Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner whether the offer of scoping out a pilot that moves out the perpetrator in domestic abuse cases rather than the victim is still valid**

DAHA (Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance) and the Drive Partnership alongside a broad alliance of voluntary and statutory sector organisations have been building the case for why more formalised perpetrator housing support and pathways are needed to keep victims safe and prevent further abuse.

At the moment it is most likely that the victims of domestic abuse will have to flee a property to become safe and the perpetrator will remain. The disruption then falls onto the victim and any children in the family.

Without the option to remove and rehouse a perpetrator, victims will continue to suffer by remaining trapped in abusive relationships or being forced to flee their home.

The Previous Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner had asked if the Council would like to scope out a pilot scheme to run in North Norfolk that rehoused the perpetrator rather than the victim and it would be good to ask the new Commissioner whether this offer is still valid.

**Homelessness Task and Finish Group:**

Councillors Victoria Holliday (Chair), Jill Boyle, Nigel Housden, Liz Vickers, Saul Penfold and Garry Bull (for the initial meetings).