

Officer Update to the Homelessness Task and Finish Group Recommendations	
Executive Summary	This report provides a response and an update on actions to address the recommendations made by Overview & Scrutiny to reduce the impact of homelessness
Options considered	Options considered in response to each recommendation have been included (where appropriate) in the body of the report
Consultation(s)	Staff across housing / housing related teams
Recommendations	It is recommended that Overview & Scrutiny Committee note the report
Reasons for recommendations	To provide a response and update to recommendations made by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee's Homelessness Task & Finish group
Background papers	Homelessness Task & Finish Group – report to Overview & Scrutiny Committee 20 th September 2024

Wards affected	District-wide
Cabinet member(s)	Cllr Fredericks, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Peoples' Services
Contact Officers	Karen Hill, Assistant Director People Services, karen.hill@north-norfolk.gov.uk Nicky Debbage, Housing Strategy & Delivery Manager, nicky.debbage@north-norfolk.gov.uk

Links to key documents:	
Corporate Plan:	Meeting our Housing Need.
Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)	Effectively tackling homelessness should reduce the need for and therefore the cost of temporary accommodation for homeless households the Council has a duty to accommodate
Council Policies & Strategies	NNDC Housing Strategy 2021-2025 Homeless and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2020- 2024

Corporate Governance:	
Is this a key decision	No
Has the public interest test been applied	NA

Details of any previous decision(s) on this matter	Cabinet 7th October 2024 – approved recommendation made by the Homelessness Task & Finish Group
--	---

1. Purpose of the report

This report provides a response and update on actions to address the recommendation made by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee's Homelessness Task & Finish group.

2. Introduction & Background

2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group met eleven times, gathered evidence from a number of internal and external witnesses to help formulate recommendations to reduce the instance and impact of homelessness in North Norfolk.

2.2 Homelessness is clearly a major issue cross the country and specifically for the district and it is welcomed that there is cross party support for tackling this issue. Being homeless can have a devastating impact on those households affected, impacting on health, employment education and life chances. Homelessness is also a major challenge for the council – both in terms of the staff and workload involved and the costs associated with supporting and accommodating homeless households.

2.3 The report produced by the Task & Finish Group includes many interesting ideas and recommendations. Some of these can be responded to, and actioned, reasonably quickly. Others may will need to be looked at in much more detail to understand their potential benefit, the work involved and vitally, in the light of the current budget position of the council, the costs that might be involved.

2.4 Many of the themes emerging from the report reflect those in the Housing Strategy and the Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy. Both of these are live documents, regularly reviewed and where we have the opportunity to incorporate new ideas and approaches into action plans.

3. Proposals and Options

3.1 Appendix A to this report sets out the initial response and provides and an update on progress in addressing recommendations where this is appropriate.

4. Corporate Priorities

4.1 Effectively preventing and tackling homelessness – the most acute form of housing need – is fundamental to delivery of the Council's key corporate priority "Meeting our Housing Need".

5. Comments from the S151 Officer

Actions to address recommendation in the Task & Finish Group's report will need to be considered in light of the Council's budget and financial position

6. Comments from the Monitoring Officer

Legal advice may need to be provided for some specific actions identified in the report.

7. Risks

The risks associated with not effectively tackling homelessness are significant – financial, reputational, legal. A risk assessment will be required for any significant actions arising from this report

8. Net ZeroTarget

No specific implications

9. Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

No specific implications

10. Community Safety issues

No specific implications

11. Conclusion and Recommendations

Recognition by all members of the importance of homelessness is welcomed by the Council and we are grateful for the work the Task & Finish Group has undertaken to identify ideas to help tackle this issue

It is recommended that Overview & Scrutiny Committee note the report