

Homelessness & Rough Sleeper Review	
Executive Summary	This report provides an outline of progress with the homelessness review, which is a key stage in the development of the Council's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy; together with an update on actions in response to the recommendations made by the Homelessness Task and Finish group to Overview & Scrutiny to reduce the impact of homelessness.
Options considered	A range of options will be considered as part of the development of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.
Consultation(s)	A range of stakeholders have been and will be consulted in development of the strategy including partner agencies, residents, parish and town councils, district councillors, staff.
Recommendations	That Overview & Scrutiny Committee note the report and provide feedback on the Homelessness & Rough Sleeper Review.
Reasons for recommendations	To provide an opportunity for Overview & Scrutiny Committee pre-scrutiny of the Homelessness Review, ahead of the development of the full strategy.
Background papers	Homelessness Task & Finish Group – report to Overview & Scrutiny Committee 20 th September 2024 Officer Update to the Homelessness Task and Finish Group Recommendations – 12 th February 2025.

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 2019- 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	

1. Purpose of the report

This report provides an outline of progress with the Homelessness Review, which is a key stage in the development of the Council's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy; together with an update on actions in response to the recommendations made by the Homelessness Task and Finish group to Overview & Scrutiny to reduce the impact of homelessness.

A presentation on the review process and high-level findings is attached as Appendix A.

An update on the actions in response to the recommendations made by Overview & Scrutiny's Task & Finish group is attached as Appendix B.

2. Introduction & Background

- 2.1 There is a legal requirement for the Council to undertake a review of homelessness in the district and develop a strategy at least every 5 years. The approach to this is set out in the Homelessness Code of Guidance for local authorities. The Council's current Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy covers the period 2019 to 2024, although we continue to deliver the actions in that strategy. The government is due to publish a National Homelessness Strategy (which is expected this summer) which we will need to consider in developing North Norfolk's strategy.
- 2.2 The presentation at Appendix A sets out the process to be followed in conducting the Homelessness Review and developing our strategy. We are currently in the review stage of the process – which includes assessing progress against the 2019 - 2024 strategy, data and evidence collection, and consultation with a wide range of stakeholders. The next stage will be to develop a draft strategy (which we envisage will take place August – September 2025) followed by further consultation ahead of adopting the strategy (which we aim to do by December 2025).
- 2.3 We have identified some initial high-level findings from the review work so far undertaken. These are set out in more detail in the attached presentation, and we seek the views of Overview and Scrutiny on these and the overall approach to development of the strategy.
- 2.4 Many of the recommendations made by Overview and Scrutiny's Homelessness Task and Finish Group can be brought into the review of homelessness and considered alongside other evidence and outcomes from consultation to help develop the draft strategy.

- 2.5 Where actions can be taken forward, ahead of the development of the Homeless Strategy or that are not a part of it we have sought to do this. The update on actions in response to the recommendations from the Task and Finish group is attached as Appendix B.

3. Corporate Priorities

- 3.1 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".

4. 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

5. Comments from the Monitoring Officer

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

6. 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 the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.

7. Net Zero Target

No specific implications

8. Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

No specific implications

9. Community Safety issues

No specific implications

10. 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 and the continued involvement of Overview and Scrutiny in development of the Council's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy

It is recommended that Overview & Scrutiny Committee note the report and provide feedback on the Homelessness Review.