



## Agenda

## Page No

1. Minutes

To confirm the decisions of the meeting held on 9 February 2021 (CA.18 - CA.28), previously circulated.

2. Apologies for Absence

Policy Implementation

3. Climate Change Policy and Strategy

1 - 18

This report seeks Cabinet approval for the Climate Change Policy and Strategy attached in Annex A and B of the report respectively.

In approving the recommendations, Cabinet will approve and recommend to Council the draft Climate Change Strategy and Policy be approved and adopted with effect from 1 April 2021 and that the Strategy be included in the Council Plan.

4. Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme

19 - 22

This report seeks approval from Cabinet and Council for the acceptance of a Government grant of £4,724,763 to assist the Council in implementing a range of initiatives that aim to significantly reduce the carbon emitted by its leisure centres.

In accepting the recommendations, Cabinet will agree and recommend to Council that the grant offer detailed within section 1 of the report is formally accepted, and any significant changes to the Capital Programme as a consequence of implementing the decarbonisation initiatives are brought to Cabinet for its consideration.

5. Hambleton Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Review 2021-2024

23 - 64

This report requests the approval of the draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping strategy for 2021-24 which has been developed following a homelessness review in consultation with partners and others.

In accepting the recommendation, Cabinet will approve and recommend to Council that the draft strategy be approved and adopted from April 2021.

## **Hambleton District Council**

**Report To:** Cabinet

**Date:** 9 March 2021

**Subject:** **Climate Change Policy and Strategy**

**Portfolio Holder:** Environmental Health, Waste and Recycling  
Councillor S Watson

**Wards Affected:** All Wards

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### **1.0 Purpose and Background**

- 1.1 This report seeks Cabinet approval for the Climate Change Policy and Strategy attached in Annex A and B respectively.
- 1.2 The Climate Change Act 2008 sets a target of net UK greenhouse gas emissions for 2050 to be 100% lower than the 1990 baseline figures. This is an ambitious target and one which can't be achieved without action from local government.
- 1.3 Hambleton District Council is already making considerable progress with carbon reduction in all departments with measures such as street lighting, electric vehicle charging points, home working and Environmental Health's Warm Homes projects improving energy efficiency in the community. However, not all this information is being collated in a central location and therefore our achievements are not necessarily being recognised. A key action within the strategy is to annually calculate our carbon baseline, this information can then be used to prioritise our most significant sources of emissions, and we will also be able to benchmark our achievements with other councils.
- 1.4 With global concern about climate change Hambleton residents will expect us to be at the forefront of implementing carbon reductions initiatives, this overarching policy will help evidence this. This policy will place a responsibility on all departments to consider the emissions associated with all aspects of projects, whether that be from purchasing paper, or building projects. By adopting this policy now, we will help our environment for future generations.
- 1.5 We, along with the other North Yorkshire Councils, are supporting the Local Enterprise Partnership, who are working on a carbon abatement plan with specific policy recommendations for Local Authorities. As part of this we need to be able to evidence our commitment to reducing our carbon emissions and our support to organisations, partners and local communities, a policy and strategy assists with this.

## 2.0 Link to Council Priorities

- 2.1 Caring for the Environment – The Council Plan states: “The environment is a top priority for us and our residents, and we are working on ways to reduce the impact of climate change.” This policy and strategy are key to supporting our commitment to the environment.
- 2.2 Driving Economic Vitality - Evidencing that we are improving our own greenhouse gas emissions puts us in a stronger position to advise and support businesses in our area as well as encouraging suppliers of new environmental technologies.

## 3.0 Risk Assessment

- 3.1 There are no significant risks in with approving this recommendation.
- 3.2 The key risk is in not approving the recommendation(s) as shown below:

Risk	Implication	Gross Prob	Gross Imp	Gross Total		Net Prob	Net Imp	Net Total
Not evidencing our commitment to a key priority of Caring for the Environment and not supporting the Governments national targets.	Lack of focus on climate change results in actions being missed that could significantly help with carbon reduction. Damage to the reputation of the council caused by failing to be seen to act on climate change.	5	3	15	Approve the Strategy and Policy	2	2	4

Prob = Probability, Imp = Impact, Score range is Low = 1, High = 5

The overall risk of approving the draft Climate Change Strategy and Policy outweighs the risk of not approving them.

## 4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications to the approval of the Climate Change Strategy and Policy. Costs will be identified as each carbon reduction scheme is introduced, but these may realise savings as well as costs. All movements in the budget will be updated on an ongoing basis and reported to Members in the quarterly Revenue Monitoring reports or in the quarterly Capital Monitoring and Treasury Management reports where the capital programme is impacted.

## 5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Local authorities don't have a statutory duty to reduce emissions in line with the Climate Change Act 2008, but they do need to produce plans and strategies that have a considerable bearing on emissions such as the Local Plan, Councils Plans, Waste Management Strategy, Procurement Strategy etc.

## **6.0 Equality/Diversity Issues**

6.1 Equality and Diversity Issues have been considered however there are no issues associated with this report.

## **7.0 Recommendation**

7.1 That Cabinet approves and recommends to Council the draft Climate Change Strategy and Policy be approved and adopted with effect from 1 April 2021.

7.2 That Cabinet approves the Strategy be included in the Council Plan.

Paul Staines  
Director of Environment

**Background papers:** None

**Author ref:** TF

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# Climate Change Policy Statement

## Our vision to tackle climate change

Tackling climate change is at the heart of our Council Plan to balance our environmental and local economic aspirations. We are committed to making Hambleton carbon neutral by 2034.

Our vision for Hambleton is a place that:

- Recognises, prepares and adapts to the socio-economic, environmental and demographic changes that the future will bring;
- Protects and enhances our rich natural and historic environment;
- Uses natural resources wisely;
- Meets local needs and priorities, secures maximum benefit to our local communities and enables the local economy to prosper

Our climate change commitments to mitigate and address the causes, impacts and consequences of climate change are to:

- Reduce our own carbon footprint, including emissions from our buildings, services and operations;
- Reduce energy consumption and emissions by promoting energy efficiency measures, sustainable construction, renewable energy sources, and behaviour change;
- Reduce consumption of resources, increasing recycling and reducing waste and promoting a less wasteful economy;
- Promote cycling, walking and the use of staff and public transport to reduce emissions from transport, reducing car travel and traffic congestion, and encouraging behaviour change;
- Encourage and support our communities, residents and businesses to reduce their own carbon footprints and greenhouse gas emissions and influence sustainable new development.
- Find ways of off-setting our residual carbon footprint in order to achieve our aim of carbon neutrality.

To find out how we're tackling climate change and learn more about the actions that we are taking to deliver our vision, you can read our climate change strategy.

Key aims of the strategy are to help develop a collective council response, and to harness all existing activity and strategies, to adapt our services and their delivery to respond to changes in the climate and to promote sustainable practices.

Our Climate Change Strategy brings together council policies and specific key actions to help mitigate and adapt to climate change, and to ensure a sustainable future for our district.

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**HAMBLETON**

**DISTRICT COUNCIL**

# Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan

2021 – 2034

a place to  
*grow*



## Foreword

Hambleton District Council's Climate Change Strategy looks at how the authority can work towards achieving our target of net zero CO<sup>2</sup> emissions by 2034 .

We have seen first-hand how increased rainfall and flash flooding can have a catastrophic effect on householders and transport infrastructure. Climate Change is predicted to dramatically increase the occurrence of these weather extremes including hotter summers and rising sea levels, leading to habitat loss, changes to agriculture, impacting wildlife diversity and health. Unless we act now to curb our greenhouse gas emissions, we recognise that the damage caused to future generations will be irreversible.

The Council along with Hambleton businesses and residents have an important part to play if nationally we are to achieve the UK targets of net zero CO<sup>2</sup> emissions by 2050.

We have produced this report at a pivotal point in time, 2020 has given us a greater appreciation of our need to support each other, to appreciate our environment and to recognise our fragility within that environment. We need to harness some of our achievements during the Covid 19 crisis such as home working, reduced traffic on our roads, greater use of cycle ways, increased recycling and reuse. All of which will have reduced our CO<sup>2</sup> usage and needs to be embraced and developed moving forward.

## Background

In 2018 the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) produced a report detailing how global temperatures are likely to rise by 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate.

The world has already started to see the impact of Global Warming on the environment but once temperature increases above the 1.5°C level most land and ocean regions will be adversely affected, sea levels will rise, there will be increased droughts, and extreme weather conditions. These changes will have a detrimental impact on biodiversity and ecosystems leading to species loss and extinction. These climate changes will also risk human life, food and water supplies, economic growth and livelihoods.

The IPCC report details that by limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to 2°C we will be in a better position to manage and adapt to the effects we are already experiencing. This can only be achieved by halting net CO<sup>2</sup> emissions by 2050.

The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) is a statutory body set up under the Climate Change Act 2008 to advise the government, they have produced strategic recommendations on how to achieve the targets set by the IPCC and in June 2019 the UK became the first major economy to legislate for net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Net zero CO<sup>2</sup> emission means some emissions can be produced providing they are offset by processes that reduce the equivalent amount of CO<sup>2</sup> in the atmosphere, such as tree planting, effective land management, biomass energy with carbon capture and storage. Much of this technology is still in the developmental stage.



## Hambleton's Commitment

HDC's Council Plan 2019-23 establishes four key priorities: Driving Economic Vitality; Enhancing Health and Wellbeing; Caring for the Environment, and Providing a Special Place to Live, intrinsic to every aspect of this plan is the need to act on our contribution to climate change.

The Local Plan which is currently at the examination stage includes the long-term vision, objectives and strategic policies that reflect the Council's corporate ambitions. The policies within the Local Plan aim to safeguard the resources of the district and establish a framework for managing environmental challenges. In doing so, they seek to ensure that Hambleton's communities and the wider environment will not be exposed to unacceptable risks from hazards such as flooding and pollution and that the potential impacts of climate change are addressed.

This Climate Change Strategy aims to outline in greater detail how we plan to achieve the target set out in our Climate Change Policy of achieving net zero CO<sup>2</sup> emissions by 2034. We have set this ambitious target of 2034 to align ourselves with York & North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to help support their ambition to be the UK's first carbon negative region – carbon neutral by 2034 and carbon negative by 2040.

The Council is committed to playing a leadership role in local efforts to address climate change and recognise that to successfully achieve net zero CO<sup>2</sup> emission by 2030 will require cross sector partnerships between Hambleton District Council, North Yorkshire County Council, local businesses, and voluntary groups.

The IPPC report emphasises the need to act now in order to achieve the ambitious target of achieving net zero emissions. HDC will need to ensure that every decision taken addresses the following 4 questions:-

- 1. How this impacts our own CO<sup>2</sup> emissions?**
- 2. How will our contractors/supplier's CO<sup>2</sup> emissions be impacted?**
- 3. How will this impact the districts CO<sup>2</sup> emissions?**
- 4. How will these emissions be mitigated?**

This does not mean that we focus on putting our own house in order before influencing our contractors or supporting our communities. When Council policies are reviewed, specific consideration needs to be given to how the policy and related decisions and actions affect the contribution to climate change. When awarding contracts weighting must be given to the environmental accreditation of the supplier. Climate change must be a golden thread running through every Council decision and to this end all committee reports should include an Environmental Impact Statement

This needs to be viewed in conjunction with current standards so for example Building Regulations and the Local Development Framework.



## Financial Implications

This strategy in itself has no financial implications however the cost of implementing CO<sup>2</sup> reduction projects will need to be costed as they occur. A lot is already being done in the Council, particularly Environmental Health to access external funding, both public and private funding is likely to increase in the future as the Government develops it's infrastructure to achieve the national target.

## Measuring and Monitoring

This Strategy is accompanied by an Action Plan, and Achievements to date (appendix A). Our progress will be measured and monitored annually, and a full evaluation will be undertaken in 2025.

## Action Plan

Our Climate Change Policy details six commitments we have made to mitigate and address the causes, impacts and consequences of climate change:

- 1. Reduce our own carbon footprint, including emissions from our buildings, services and operations.**
- 2. Reduce energy consumption and emissions by promoting energy efficiency measures, sustainable construction, renewable energy sources, and behaviour change;**
- 3. Reduce consumption of resources, increasing recycling and reducing waste and promoting a less wasteful economy;**
- 4. Promote cycling, walking and the use of staff and public transport to reduce emissions from transport, reducing car travel and traffic congestion, and encouraging behaviour change.**
- 5. Encourage and support our communities, residents and businesses to reduce their own carbon footprints and greenhouse gas emissions and influence sustainable new development.**
- 6. Find ways of offsetting our residual carbon footprint in order to achieve our aim of carbon neutrality.**



We will meet these commitments through the following actions:-

## Estates

The UK Green Building Council estimate that the built environment contributes to 40% of the UK's total carbon footprint. Focussing on our estate will be key to meeting our target. We own a wide range of properties from leisure centres and offices to depots and commercial rental properties. These properties have varying use and energy demands.

By reducing energy and water usage, minimising waste through our operations, using renewable energy and energy efficient technology and practices, we will see improved efficiency, reduced operating costs and reduced environmental impact.

## Actions

Ref	Activity	Lead
E1	Promoting and supporting Housing Energy Efficiency schemes and seeking opportunities to address fuel poverty through sustainable and efficient means.	EH
E2	Identify the Council's wider current carbon footprint	ALL
E3	Calculate Council's current Carbon Footprint	DM
E4	Green Energy Purchase – electricity purchased is matched by purchases of renewable energy.	DM
E5	Investigate training opportunities for staff and members to become Carbon Literate therefore increasing awareness of where changes can be made	ENV
E6	Continue with public lighting replacement with LED 2019/20 200,000Kwh target	DM
E7	Consider ways to reduce water consumption	DM
E8	Through LFFN Fibre Broadband project, remove physical Servers in depot, cutting costs in power, maintenance, space etc.	ICT
E9	Installation of air source heat pumps to replace boilers	Leisure
E10	Assess feasibility of solar power systems	Leisure
E11	Upgrade of building management systems, including digitisation	Leisure
E12	Replacing existing lighting with LED lighting	Leisure
E13	Provide battery energy storage	Leisure
E14	Installation of smart metering systems	Leisure
E15	Depot Review – to review Energy use and Climate impact.	WASS



## Transport

Emissions arise from staff using their own cars for business, commuting to and from work. The services we provide which use vehicles such as waste collection, environmental health, planning etc. We also have to consider the services we offer that require residents to travel in their cars for meetings, accessing services etc. By reducing the need to travel and reducing carbon emitting fuel consumption the efficient management of every aspect of transport can contribute significantly towards our overall carbon reduction target.

### Actions

Ref	Activity	Lead
T1	Increased self-service - Reduces travel demands on customers	ALL
T2	Demographics of staff - Utilise locally based staff to reduce travel	ALL
T3	Working from home - Reduced travel	ALL
T4	Green Travel Plans - Encourages customers to think about alternative travel options	Leisure
T5	Air quality of licensed vehicles - Proposed changes relating to review of taxi age limit will encourage reduce emissions	Licensing/ EH
T6	Investigate infrastructure and incentives to enable taxi companies to switch to hybrid or full electric alternatives	Licensing/ EH
T7	Officer group visits - Reduced miles travelled	ALL
T8	On-line meetings – Reduced Transport	ALL
T9	Remote working – as well as reduced transportation also allows us to attract skills from people living outside of our area.	ALL

## Community Partnerships

We are ideally placed to influence change in our district through information, advice and awareness.

### Actions

Ref	Activity	Lead
CP1	Exploring a range of ways in which local communities, including streets and neighbourhoods, can be encouraged to take some responsibility in supporting, improving and maintaining their local environment.	Communities
CP2	We will continue to support and engage with local community groups that address climate change in their engagement and awareness raising events.	Communities/ WASS
CP3	We will identify and act on opportunities to work together on joint carbon reduction projects	Various



## Procurement

We must ensure that when we are purchasing goods, services and contracts that we not only identify value for money but also look at the whole life cost from an environmental viewpoint. We must take into consideration transportation, disposal, use of resources and sustainability.

### Actions

Ref	Activity	Lead
P1	Work with our suppliers and contractors to minimise the environmental impact of their products and services across our sites. Work with and where possible require our suppliers and contractors to reduce the impact of goods and services by considering whole life costs.	ALL
P2	Purchase recycled paper - 53% less CO <sup>2</sup> to produce compared to virgin fibre.	Repro
P3	Seek out ISO14001/ EMAS companies where appropriate these are the most credible and robust environmental management certifications an organisation can achieve.	ALL
P4	Include sustainability as a criteria for awarding contracts, if applicable. For example, the longevity of a product, the recyclability or necessity for consumables.	ALL

## Planning

The planning process can make a major contribution to achieving our target by shaping new and existing developments in ways that reduce CO<sup>2</sup> emissions. Energy efficient homes and businesses, sustainable drainage schemes, green infrastructure, sustainable travel infrastructure, are some of the outcomes that the planning process can bring to our communities. The planning process can give local communities opportunities to take action on climate change by encouraging community-based development and active participation in plan making.

### Actions

Ref	Activity	Lead
B1	Northallerton Sports Village – Community Allotments, native tree planting	Communities
B2	On-going energy efficiency projects to install measures in homes in the district such as new gas central heating systems, ground source heat pumps and cavity wall insulation etc.	EH
B3	Looking at viable opportunities for solar energy/renewable energy	Commercial



## Waste Management

Our Waste Management Strategy is designed to optimise environmental performance and deliver value for money for Hambleton residents. It is key to the sustainable management of household waste within Hambleton and we have an important part to play not just in the way we handle the waste we collect but also the message we provide to our residents.

Defra’s Resource and Waste Strategy for England which is currently at the consultation stage will introduce key changes to the waste management sector with proposed national consistency in collections including food waste, deposit return schemes and greater producer responsibility for packaging waste. This will impact on what we are able to collect from our residents and also the funding available for collections.

## Actions

Ref	Activity	Lead
W1	Promote the principles of the Waste Hierarchy both to residents and in-house	WASS
W2	Ensuring our contracts enable householder to recycle as much as feasible	WASS
W3	Maximising participation of recycling and waste reduction through education and awareness	WASS
W4	Increased participation in Garden Waste composting through affordable service	WASS
W5	Free of charge advice and education to Schools and Community Groups	WASS
W6	Involvement with national campaigns such as Love Food Hate Waste and WRAP	WASS
W7	In-house - Segregation of waste for recycling, mixed recycling, printer cartridges, crisp packets etc	ALL
W8	Print Reduction - Less paper used, less waste.	ALL
W9	The move to emails and online services for elections, taxi driver newsletters, green waste licences. Committee agenda/reports etc Reduces the demand for paper and postal services	ALL
W10	Re-use of items such as folders, cardboard boxes, toner bottles, polling booths etc	ALL
W11	Electric bin lifts fitted to RCv fleet for reduced fuel consumption	WASS

# Appendix A



The following table details initiatives that have already been implemented/ completed.

Service Area	Scheme	Start	End	Description
EH	Warm Homes Funding – First time gas central heating systems	Ongoing		A joint project between Ryedale, Scarborough, Richmondshire and Hambleton using funding of £516,638 obtained from the National Grid’s Warm Homes Fund to install first time gas central heating systems into homes and main gas connection where needed. Will result in carbon reductions compared to a mix of electrical and storage heaters currently used.
EH	LAD 2 Funding	2020	-	£583K funding to improve whole house energy efficiencies for eligible homes including wall, loft and underfloor insulation, low carbon
EH	Warm Homes Funding Air source heat pumps.	Ongoing		A joint project between Ryedale, Scarborough, Richmondshire and Hambleton using funding of £777,000 obtained from the National Grid’s Warm Homes Fund to install air sourced heat pumps to eligible homes.
EH	Warm up Hambleton	Ongoing		Joint initiative between HDC and J & J Crump & Son Ltd to help householders make their homes warmer and cheaper to heat.
Leisure	Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme	TBC	-	An application has been submitted for £4.7m funding for carbon reduction schemes across our leisure centres. If successful this will support air source heat pumps, solar panels, upgraded BMS, new lighting, smart metering.
HR	Working from Home Policy	TBC	-	Great flexibility to allow for working from home, thereby reducing travel to work fuel consumption for staff. <i>Awaiting approval at the staff consultative forum at time of writing.</i>
ICT	Installing SSD into used Desktops	May 18	Oct 18	During Windows 10 rollout project HDD from desktops have been swapped with SSD’s. This utilises old equipment and saves costs with purchasing new hardware.



Service Area	Scheme	Start	End	Description
ICT	Replace HP laptops with Dell Vostro laptops	May 18	Oct 18	Throughout the Windows 10 rollout project we have been replacing laptops with new Dell Vostro units that save on power and requires less materials 320tCO <sup>2</sup> e
DM	Public lighting - Part-night lighting scheme 2014/15 - Reduction in the hours of illumination of the public lighting, switch off 12.00am - 5.00am	Apr-14	Mar-15	Reduction in on-going electricity consumption
DM	Public lighting - Replacement LED	Apr-16	Mar-17	Reduction in on-going electricity consumption of 126,534Kwh
DM	Public lighting - Replacement LED	Apr-17	Mar-18	Reduction in on-going electricity consumption of 21,337 Kwh
	Public lighting - Replacement LED	Apr-18	Mar-19	Reduction in on-going electricity consumption of 160,516Kwh
DM	Bedale Leisure Centre - MUGA - Replacement LED lighting	Apr-18	Mar-19	Reduction in on-going electricity consumption
DM	Bedale Leisure centre - Pool Hall - Replacement LED lighting	Apr-18	Mar-19	Reduction in on-going electricity consumption
DM	Northallerton Leisure Centre - MUGA - Replacement LED lighting	Apr-18	Mar-19	Reduction in on-going electricity consumption
DM	Northallerton Leisure Centre - Pool Hall - Replacement LED lighting	Apr-18	Mar-19	Reduction in on-going electricity consumption



Service Area	Scheme	Start	End	Description
DM	Stokesley Leisure Centre - MUGA - Replacement LED lighting	Apr-18	Mar-19	Reduction in on-going electricity consumption
DM	Civic Centre - Council Chamber - Replacement LED lighting	Apr-18	Mar-19	Reduction in on-going electricity consumption
DM	Facilities - Energy audit of electricity and gas usage	Apr-19	Mar-20	Assessment of how energy is consumed by facilities
WASS	Electric Fleet	2020	2020	4 fully electric vehicles to replace diesel
WASS	Electric bin lifts fitted to RCv fleet			Reduced fuel consumption
WASS & DM	Electric Pool Cars	2020	2020	Reduction in emissions
WASS & DM	Electric Charging Points	2020	2020	
WASS	Route Optimisation	2017	2017	Most economically therefore energy efficient route
WASS	In-cab system in WASS Fleet	2020	2020	Reduced fuel consumption and resources required for collection
Communities	Sowerby Sports Village		2020	18 community allotments created; 259 native trees planted; 10,000 native hedgerows planted; 3.58 hectares of habitat supported
CSC	FoodShare local charity support		Ongoing	Collection point for customers and staff donations
Corporate Services	Tusker Car staff Scheme	2021	Ongoing	Tax incentive for purchasing an electric vehicle
Corporate Services	Cycle to work scheme	2017	Ongoing	Salary sacrifice scheme with tax incentives to pay for a bike for work use
Planning	Crematorium	2020	2021	Native Tree Planting, Environmental Screening report to address and potential environmental impact at the planning stage



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**HAMBLETON**  
**DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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## Hambleton District Council

**Report To:** Cabinet

**Date:** 9 March 2021

**Subject:** **Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme**

**Portfolio Holder:** Leader  
Councillor M S Robson

**Wards Affected:** All Wards

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### 1.0 Purpose and Background

- 1.1 To seek approval from Cabinet and Council for the acceptance of a Government grant of £4,724,763 to assist the Council in implementing a range of initiatives that aim to significantly reduce the carbon emitted by its leisure centres.
- 1.2 In 2020 the Government announced a £1bn decarbonisation fund to encourage green investment, supporting the Government's net-zero and clean growth goals. The scheme is for capital energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation projects within public sector non-domestic buildings, including central government departments and non-departmental public bodies in England, to deliver the following objectives:
- Deliver stimulus to the energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation sectors, supporting jobs;
  - Deliver significant carbon savings within the public sector.
- 1.3 Working with the Council's development partner Alliance Leisure Services, the appointment was made of a specialist company, Leisure Energy, to undertake energy audits of the HDC leisure centres. In light of the opportunities these audits presented work was then undertaken with our partners to submit bids to the Government scheme in January 2021. At this stage the emphasis was on 'getting our foot in the door' in the hope that the Council might be awarded a relatively modest amount. The bid totalled £4,724,763 for 7 schemes across the four leisure centres which extended to:
- Air Source Heat Pumps
  - Solar Power
  - Building Management System Upgrades
  - New Lighting
  - Battery Storage
  - Smart Metering
  - Electrical Infrastructure

The headline figures from the application were:

Total cost: £4,724,763	Annual cost saving: £38,985	Annual CO <sub>2</sub> saving (tonnes): 708	CO <sub>2</sub> saving %: 57.4%
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1.4 Despite the scheme being significantly oversubscribed the Government has informed the Council that the single application, for all works totalling £4,724,763, has been successful, subject to providing an in-principle consent, which it has done pending Cabinet and Council consideration. The timescales for this scheme are exceptionally tight, with the Government intending to provide the grant in full to the Council by 31 March 2021. The expectation is that works on the initiatives will start by the same date and be completed by Autumn 2021. These works will need to be integrated with the Capital Programme approved at Cabinet in February 2021, including the development of Thirsk and Sowerby Leisure Centre. A review of the Capital Programme will be undertaken to ensure efficiency and deliverability, with any necessary amendments being brought to Cabinet for its consideration.

## **2.0 Link to Council Priorities**

2.1 The reduction in carbon emissions from its facilities is integral to the Council's Caring for the Environment priority.

## **3.0 Risk Assessment**

3.1 There are no significant risks in approving the recommendations.

## **4.0 Financial Implications**

4.1 The Section 151 Officer is satisfied with the Government's proposed Section 31 method of payment. Any significant impacts upon the Capital Programme as a consequence of implementing the Decarbonisation Scheme will be brought to Cabinet for consideration. The scheme funds can only be spent on the delivery of the project, with overspends being met by the Council unless prior permission is given by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (there is also the potential for the scope of the project to be reduced). Underspends will be returned to the Government.

## **5.0 Legal Implications**

5.1 The relevant draft documents have been reviewed to the satisfaction of the Director of Law and Governance. The draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) requires the provision of comprehensive monitoring data, but it does not impose any performance targets for the Council to achieve once the project is completed.

## **6.0 Equality/Diversity Issues**

6.1 Equality and diversity issues have been considered, however there are no issues associated with this report.

## **7.0 Recommendations**

7.1 It is proposed that Cabinet agrees and recommends to Council that:

- (1) the grant offer detailed within section 1 of this report is formally accepted, and

- (2) any significant changes to the Capital Programme as a consequence of implementing the decarbonisation initiatives are brought to Cabinet for its consideration.

Steven Lister  
Director of Leisure & Communities

**Background papers:** None

**Author ref:** SL

**Contact:** Steven Lister  
Director of Leisure & Communities  
01609 767033

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## Hambleton District Council

**Report To:** Cabinet

**Date:** 9 March 2021

**Subject:** **Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Review and Draft Strategy for 2021-24**

**Portfolio Holder:** Planning  
Councillor D A Webster

**Wards Affected:** All Wards

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### **1.0 Purpose and Background**

- 1.1 This report requests the approval of the draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping strategy for 2021-24 which has been developed following a homelessness review in consultation with partners and others.
- 1.2 The Homelessness Act 2002 places a duty on English local housing authorities, to formulate a homelessness strategy at least every five years. A review of homelessness in a local authority area must take place prior to a homelessness strategy being formulated and published. The legislation requires local housing authorities to take strategic responsibility for tackling and preventing homelessness in their local authority area. This duty complements other duties local housing authorities have to advise and assist persons who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.
- 1.3 The homelessness review was carried out between August and November of this year and was subject to an independent scrutiny to challenge its robustness by the former Head of Service at the National Practitioner Support Service. This exercise identified some information gaps in the review, and which were subsequently addressed.
- 1.4 The completed review has enabled us to develop the accompanying draft homelessness and rough sleeping strategy. The draft strategy was then subject to public consultation for a period of 6 weeks from the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020 to 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and which is in line with good practice. Although limited feedback was received through the consultation process, respondents commented favourably on the proposals in the draft strategy.
- 1.5 The draft strategy (Annex 1) builds on the work arising from the previous strategy (2015-20) as reflected in the six priorities which have been identified.

Priority 1 – Reduce the number of households becoming homeless

Priority 2 – Raise awareness of homelessness and rough sleeping ensuring that services are accessible to those in need

Priority 3 – Continually improve access to support services

Priority 4 – Work strategically and seek new opportunities for funding

Priority 5 – Deliver a range of affordable housing options

Priority 6 - End Rough Sleeping

The draft strategy is supported by a delivery plan (annex 2) which will be reviewed annually, and an update will be provided for members as is the case with the current delivery plan.

## 2.0 Link to Council Priorities

2.1 The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping strategy contributes to the Council's priority of 'Providing a special place to live' by enabling the delivery of affordable housing.

## 3.0 Risk Assessment

3.1 There are no significant risks in approving the draft strategy.

3.2 The key risk is in not approving the recommendation as shown below:-

Risk	Implication	Gross Prob	Gross Imp	Gross Total	Preventative action	Net Prob	Net Imp	Net Total
The Council is not compliant with the relevant legislation to formulate a strategy every 5 years	Negative impact on the image of Hambleton DC	3	5	15	Adopt a new strategy in line with legislation	2	3	6

Prob = Probability, Imp = Impact, Score range is Low = 1, High = 5

Overall, the risk of agreeing with the recommendation outweighs the risks of not agreeing with it and is considered acceptable.

## 4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications relating to this report.

## 5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 As noted at paragraph 1.2, the Council has a statutory duty to formulate a homelessness strategy at least every five years. The proposed draft statutory ensures that the Council is compliant with this duty.

## 6.0 Equality/Diversity Issues

6.1 Equality and Diversity Issues have been considered however there are no issues associated with this report.

## **7.0 Recommendation**

- 7.1 That Cabinet approves and recommends to Council that the draft strategy be approved and adopted from April 2021.

Mick Jewitt  
Deputy Chief Executive

**Background papers:** None

**Author ref:** CD

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# Homelessness and Rough Sleeping

Review and Strategy 2021-24

a place to  
*grow*

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# Foreward

Welcome to Hambleton District Council's Homelessness Strategy for 2021-2024.

My vision is to make sure there is a decent home within reach of every citizen within Hambleton district. I want Hambleton to be a place where individuals, couples and families affected by homelessness have simple and effective access to a range of housing services and other opportunities - to enable them to rebuild their lives and make a success of their futures.

This strategy is the product of thorough consultation with our partners, homelessness services/providers and citizens. We are now in the midst of very difficult times, including a worldwide pandemic, and budget cuts to statutory and voluntary services pose enormous challenges in a rural community such as Hambleton.

Unfortunately, many people live in crisis, and one of the worst crises of all is to be without a home. The causes of homelessness and its effects are complex and intertwined, and inevitably there are no simple solutions. It is not just about buildings and beds - it is about the many social problems that may go wrong in people's lives, such as health, income, family breakdown; and things can go wrong for any one of us in such a climate.

Although this strategy is focused around the details of our policies and services for homelessness for the next 3 years, it does not do this in isolation. The Council's Housing Options team, Broadacres Housing Association and our other partners are working hard to deliver a comprehensive economic action plan, a new Health and Wellbeing strategy, a Children and Young People's plan. Building on these and the recommendations of the Hambleton child poverty commission are just a few of the strategies that seek to impact on some of the causes and effects of homelessness.

Hambleton District Council cannot tackle homelessness effectively alone - it is a countywide issue requiring action from many organisations. Support is provided within the housing options team to provide this critical service which provides support for homeless clients and their families - harnessing the skills and hard work of many people to deliver sensitive and tailored solutions to our diverse communities, often from within those communities themselves.

Much has already been achieved and we have much more to do. I am very conscious of and grateful for, the hard work that is being done by council staff, and our statutory and voluntary partners.

I look forward to working together with all our partners to deliver this strategy and tackle homelessness in Hambleton together.



**Councillor David Webster**  
**Portfolio Holder for Economy and Planning Services**  
**Hambleton District Council**

# Our Vision



Homelessness is everyone's business. Together with our partners we will strive to deliver practical and effective housing solutions to ensure that Hambleton remains a special place to live for every member of our rural community.

# Introduction

Welcome to Hambleton District Council's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Review and Strategy for 2021-2024.

The strategy responds to the changing environment in which homelessness and rough sleeping support services are now delivered and has been shaped by national policy, a review of current services, customer feedback and partner views.

The strategy also fully recognises the important role that other partners and stakeholders have to play in harnessing their skills and expertise to deliver sensitive and tailored solutions to some of these issues within our communities.

The strategy details how the council and its partners will seek to optimise opportunities to prevent and relieve homelessness including rough sleeping throughout the district and the sub-region to provide the right accommodation and support for those facing homelessness and builds on the achievements made in the last five years.

## Notable achievements for the Housing Options Service from the previous strategy

- The young person's accommodation pathway has continued to provide mediation, homelessness prevention and advice services for 16-25-year olds in partnership with other agencies, assisting 13 individuals in 2019/20.
- The North Yorkshire Home Choice pathway has been maintained and continues to provide a county wide allocations scheme. Between November 2019 and November 2020, a total of 425 properties were allocated across the scheme.
- In July 2017 Hambleton District Council was only the 3rd local authority of 326 in England to achieve a Gold Standard award. At the time this showed that the local housing options service was in the top 3% of local authorities in England, but we are not complacent and always want to improve and develop our services.
- In November 2017, in partnership with Broadacres an additional House of Multiple Occupation (HMO) was developed, providing vital accommodation for younger people in employment.
- In April 2018 we fully implemented the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 requirements, including the new homelessness prevention and relief duties and Personal Housing Plans.
- In October 2019 the Homelessness Prevention Support Service previously provided by Humankind was successfully integrated into the Housing Options Team helping to streamline the service.



## Why do we need a Homelessness Strategy?

Due to the complex nature of the causes of homelessness, a homelessness review and strategy must take a broad view of both population and housing market characteristics. Section 1(4) of the Homelessness Act 2002 requires housing authorities to publish a new homelessness strategy based on the results of a homelessness review. A homelessness review must include a review of:

- the levels, and likely future levels, of homelessness in the housing authority's area
- the activities which are carried out in the local housing authority's district for the prevention of homelessness
- accommodation that is or will be available for people who are or who may become homeless
- support available for people who are homeless or who may be at risk of homelessness, or those who have been homeless and need support to prevent them from becoming homeless again
- the resources available to the authority, social services authorities and other public authorities, voluntary organisations and other persons for such activities.

A homelessness strategy aims to:

- prevent homelessness in the district
- securing that sufficient accommodation is and will be available for people in the district who are or who may become homeless
- securing the satisfactory provision of support for people in the district who are or may become homeless, or who have been homeless and need support to prevent them from becoming homeless again
- ensuring accommodation is fit for purpose and in a decent state of repair.

## Definition of homelessness

The common perception of homelessness is a single person seen sleeping rough on the streets. However, homelessness is a more complex issue affecting families, couples and single people. Not all homeless people live on the streets. They may have access to unsettled accommodation by "sofa surfing" or living in overcrowded accommodation with families or friends. This review uses a wide definition of homelessness which includes the following:

- People sleeping rough
- Single homeless people living in shelters, hostels and supported accommodation
- Statutory homeless

It also includes people that can be described as "hidden homeless". These are people who are squatting and/or living in severely overcrowded accommodation.



The government has set out in legislation, in the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, who can be considered as being homeless or threatened with homelessness and has provided guidance on how the council assesses this. People who present as homeless do not have to be sleeping on the streets or not have a roof over their head at the time they apply for help.

A person is 'threatened with homelessness' if they are likely to become homeless within 56 days or they have received valid Section 21 notice under the Housing Act 1988.

A person is 'homeless' if they have no accommodation in the UK or elsewhere which is available for their occupation and which that person has a legal right to occupy. A person is also homeless if they have accommodation but cannot secure entry to it, or the accommodation is a moveable structure, vehicle or vessel designed or adapted for human habitation and there is nowhere it can lawfully be placed in order to provide accommodation. A person who has accommodation is to be treated as homeless where it would not be reasonable for them to continue to occupy that accommodation.

## Definition of Rough Sleeping

Since 2010, the figures used for national statistics have used the following definition of rough sleeping:

"People sleeping, about to bed down (sitting on/in or standing next to their bedding) or actually bedded down in the open air (such as, on the streets, in tents, doorways, parks, bus shelters or encampments). People in buildings or other places not designed for habitation (such as stairwells, barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, stations, or 'bashes')."

The definition does not include people in hostels or shelters, sofa surfers, people in campsites or other sites used for recreational purposes or organised protests, squatters or Travellers sites.

## Equality and Diversity

This strategy is aimed at improving homelessness services for all residents with housing or housing-related support needs. As such, no group or individual in the Hambleton district should be adversely affected or disadvantaged as a result of the strategy. The strategy actively recognises the difficulties faced by those facing homelessness and rough sleeping in accessing services and promotes inclusion.

The outcomes of the Homelessness Review show that, proportionate to the district profile, no protected characteristic group, as determined by the Equality Act, is adversely impacted by homelessness or by decisions made by the council.

The council is committed to equality and diversity issues and will comply with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken on this strategy.

# Our Homelessness Review

## The National Context

In April 2018 The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 came into force, changing the way local authorities were required to respond to approaches from households who were homeless or threatened with homelessness. The main elements include:-

- A duty to provide improved advice and information about homelessness and the prevention of homelessness
- Extension of the period 'threatened with homelessness' from 28 days to 56 days
- A requirement to undertake an assessment for any household whom the council is satisfied are eligible for assistance and homeless or threatened with homelessness
- New duties to prevent and relieve homelessness for all eligible people regardless of priority need
- The new requirement to create a personalised housing plan for households owed a prevention duty
- The broadening of the local connection criteria for care leavers making it easier for a care leaver to demonstrate an established connection to a local authority area
- Encouraging public bodies to prevent and relieve homelessness through the Duty to Refer

This key piece of legislation was subsequently followed by the Government's Rough Sleeping Strategy (August 2018) which set out a commitment to halve rough sleeping by 2022 and end it by 2027.

Other major national influences on this strategy include;

### Welfare reform

Changes to the benefit system and introduction of Universal Credit (roll out started in June 2016 for Hambleton)

### The Children and Social Work Act 2017

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 requires local authorities to publish a 'local offer' for care leavers up to age 25. This includes services related to health and wellbeing, relationships, education and training, employment, accommodation and participation in society.

### The Care Act

A fundamental component of the Care Act is the 'suitability of accommodation' in meeting the at home care and support needs of older and vulnerable people. The Act and the accompanying regulations and guidance outline how housing can support a more integrated approach and set out local implementation requirements by April 2015.



## The Rough Sleeping Strategy

In 2018 the Government published its Rough Sleeping Strategy in which it set out its commitment to halve rough sleeping by 2022 and end it by 2027. The strategy called on central and local government as well as businesses, communities, faith and voluntary groups and the general public to work together in new ways. The strategy was backed by £100 million funding and marked the beginning of the government's ambition to ensure no one has to sleep rough again.

## Brexit

It remains unclear how much impact there will be on homelessness following the UK leaving the European Union. Staff will therefore keep up to date with national developments, policy changes and continue to support European Nationals with accessing accommodation and advice during this transition process.

## The Renters Reform Bill

At the state opening of Parliament on 19 December 2019, the Queen's Speech announced a Renters' Reform Bill that will abolish the use of 'no fault' evictions by removing Section 21 of the Housing Act 1988 and reforming the grounds for possession. If this becomes law, it may have an impact on homelessness in the district as landlords may be discouraged from renting properties and the private rented sector may shrink.

## The Domestic Abuse Bill

The Domestic Abuse Bill is currently progressing through the required stages to make its contents a legislative requirement. The new Domestic Abuse Act will place duties on local authorities to assess the need for abuse support locally, produce and publish a strategy and monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy. A Domestic Abuse Partnership Board will need to be formed from local partnerships to advise on the formation of the strategy.

## Coronavirus

On 26 March 2020, the Minister for Local Government and Homelessness wrote to local authorities asking them to urgently accommodate all rough sleepers and focus on the provision of adequate facilities to enable people to adhere to the guidance on hygiene or isolation, including for those who are at risk of sleeping rough.

Furthermore, in May 2020, the Minister for Rough Sleeping and Housing requested that when arranging move-on accommodation for people sleeping rough, local authorities provide short-term accommodation whilst looking for long term options. The impact of this being an increased number of individuals with complex needs requiring accommodating in the short and longer term by the local authority.



## The Sub Regional Context

There is extensive well-established partnership working in the sub-region relating to housing strategy and Hambleton's strategy links to the wider objectives agreed in the sub-region. The York, North Yorkshire & East Riding Housing Board meets quarterly and has agreed the sub-regional 'York, North Yorkshire & East Riding Housing Strategy 2015-21'. There are 9 priorities in the strategy, covering all aspects of housing.

### North Yorkshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy

There are strong links between public health and housing therefore it is important to take into account wider objectives. The North Yorkshire Health and Wellbeing Board works across the county to bring partners together and has produced a strategy which is available online. Our homelessness strategy links to the theme of 'Live Well' which includes the aim to have: Fewer people living in poor quality or inappropriate housing or living in fuel poverty.

### York and North Yorkshire Domestic Abuse Strategy

Domestic abuse is a recognised cause of homelessness and it is important that our strategy has regard to the sub-regional strategy, in order that victims are supported and given appropriate priority for housing when necessary and safety planning takes place to safeguard victims and families.

### North Yorkshire Homechoice Choice Based Lettings Scheme

Hambleton District Council is a full partner in the North Yorkshire Home Choice scheme and officers are involved in actively reviewing the policy and procedures. The scheme works to ensure that housing resources are allocated to those most in need and has been considered within this strategy. As of December 2020, there were 1125 (Hambleton) active applicants on the council's housing register (North Yorkshire Home Choice).

### Joint Housing Investment Plan - York, North Yorkshire and East Riding

The housing options team work closely with colleagues in housing development and are able to inform them about housing needs in the district and requirements for affordable options.

### Young Peoples Accommodation Partnership

North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) funds this partnership. Hambleton and other housing authorities across the county work with Foundation and NYCC to provide youth homelessness services for individuals aged 16-25 working together to ensure young people have one point of contact (in each district or borough), for support to prevent homelessness and access supported accommodation if required.



### The Young and Yorkshire 2 Plan

Written by North Yorkshire Children’s Trust aims to improve the lives of children and young people living in the county including Hambleton. This is relevant when considering how we plan to tackle youth homelessness and brings together the key priorities for everyone working with children, young people and families, setting out in detail the actions needed to improve outcomes for young people living in the county.

### North Yorkshire Armed Forces Community Covenant

Hambleton District Council is a signatory to the above Covenant. The aims of the covenant are to:

- encourage local communities to support the armed forces community in their areas, and vice versa
- promote understanding and awareness among the public of issues affecting the armed forces community
- recognise and remember the sacrifices made by the armed forces community

### Refugee resettlement scheme

In 2017, Hambleton District Council rehoused 6 families (32 individuals) under the Refugee resettlement scheme. These have remained within the district and integrated into society.

In January 2020 the council agreed to take more refugee families into Hambleton, however this was subsequently delayed due to the global pandemic.

## The Hambleton Context

The population of Hambleton was estimated to be 90,718 in 2019, with a projected increase to 91,400 by 2025 (Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2019).

Populations are dispersed across a large, mostly rural area, with five market towns (Northallerton, Thirsk, Easingwold, Stokesley and Bedale), which in this context constitute ‘urban’ areas. Analysis of homelessness across the District would tend to show that it is Northallerton and Thirsk where there is a higher proportion of housing need; however, the dispersal of the population is wide and accessibility to services can prove difficult.



## Hambleton Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment 2018

This identified a net need for 55 affordable homes per annum in the District for the 2016-2035 period. It found that the median house price in Hambleton in 2017 was £223,500 which was above the North Yorkshire figure of £205,000. The affordability ratio of median house prices to residence-based earnings in Hambleton was 7.84 (compared with 7.30 for North Yorkshire). This shows that people in Hambleton find it more difficult to afford to buy a property than in other parts of the wider region.

The identified need is derived from the earlier Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) which was commissioned in 2016.

## Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) 2019

The council has an important role to play in working with its partners towards shared goals particularly with regards to housing. North Yorkshire County Council have produced a profile for Hambleton which is available online.

Key themes which relate to housing include:

- The population is ageing which will lead to increased health and social care needs.
- The affordability of housing for people on lower than average incomes is worse than for England. This may impact on mental health.
- Excess winter deaths are at their highest level for more than a decade.

## Hambleton District Council Plan

The Council Plan 2019-2023 includes four priorities. One of these is 'Providing a Special Place to Live' and includes an aim to ensure 100% of homelessness decisions are made within 56 days.

## Covid-19 - the impact in Hambleton

The pandemic led to a significant increase in the number of homeless households accommodated in temporary accommodation: 50 in the period from March to July 2020 (compared to 17 in the same period in 2019) in response to the Government's 'Everybody In' initiative.

Most of these households were placed in hotels (bed and breakfast) and have since moved on to more settled accommodation. However due to the lack of availability of affordable accommodation within the District some of these people had to move out of the area.

# Delivering the homelessness and rough sleeping strategy

## Staffing levels

The Housing Options Service team comprises of:

- 0.4 Housing Services Manager from October 2020
- 1 FTE Housing Options Team Leader
- 1 FTE Senior Housing Options Advisor
- 2 FTE Housing Options Advisors
- 2.5 FTE Housing Support Workers
- 1 FTE Admin Officer
- 0.3 FTE Young Peoples Prevention Worker employed by North Yorkshire County Council and working under the Young People's Pathway.

On announcing the implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) 2017, the government provided additional funding for 3 years to help meet the costs associated with additional duties (see table below).

Some of this funding can be used to provide financial assistance to households facing homelessness to enable them to either remain in their existing accommodation or access alternative housing. For example, it can be used for rent in advance or as a deposit for a new property.

In 2019/20 over £57,530 was provided to customers under this initiative, helping 67 households in preventing or relieving homelessness.

Funding source	2018/19 spend	2019/20 spend	2020/21 budget
Prevention Budget	£212,259	£267,742	£270,810
Flexible Homelessness prevention grant	£43,539	£41,272	£14,5454
Homeless Data Grant	Nil	Nil	£9,202
New Burdens Funding	£11,791	£12,455	£33,621
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£267,591</b>	<b>£321,470</b>	<b>£459,088</b>

The main types of expenditure are staff salaries, rent bonds and temporary accommodation.



## Additional funding and bids

The Housing Options team are also able to access North Yorkshire Local Assistance Funding for customers. This is available for people who are deemed vulnerable, have limited financial resources and are unable to access financial assistance from other services. The funding can supply up to two emergency awards in any 12-month period, or one award for furniture/household items.

In July 2020 the council received £1,470 from the Government’s Rough Sleepers fund to assist the council with additional costs incurred for rough sleepers during the Covid-19 pandemic.

In August 2020 in partnership with Broadacres Housing Association, the council successfully applied to the Government’s Next Steps Accommodation Programme for funding for additional move-on accommodation for rough sleepers and potential rough sleepers. This will provide 3 units of specialist accommodation for those who have either slept rough or are at significant risk of rough sleeping for up to 3 years.

Number of people presenting as homeless or at risk of homelessness

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 required local authorities to focus firmly on positive preventative action; upstreaming efforts to support households and ensuring those at risk of homelessness approached the local authority at the earliest possible opportunity.

Since the implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act on 3 April 2018, presentations to the Housing Options Team for assistance with housing and homelessness issues have increased however it is not possible to perform a percentage comparison as we no longer have access to the former database.

	Customer presentations	Successful preventative activity	Successful relief activity
2018/19	218	82	83
2019/20	333	100	149
2020 year to date	352	10	60

Where the local authority is unsuccessful in preventing or relieving homelessness, they must consider whether a main housing duty is owed. In 2019/20, a total of 107 main duty decisions made. Of these, 90 households were found to be owed a main housing duty.

Hambleton District Council has noted an increase in customers presenting with complex needs, requiring extensive casework and creative solutions. In 2019/20, a total of 204 customers disclosed that they had at least one or more support needs (61% of all customers).



## Reasons for approach

The main reasons for approach are shown below with loss of private rented sector tenancy accounting for 46% of all presentations in 2019/20:

Year	Main Reasons	%
2018/19	Loss of private tenancy	46%
	Relationship breakdown	28%
	Family eviction	26%
2019/20	Loss of private tenancy	42%
	Relationship breakdown	22%
	Family eviction	36%

*\*Breakdown not available prior to the implementation of the HRA 2017*

A more detailed look at the reason for loss of private rented sector tenancy shows that there are three main causes:

- Rent arrears due to difficulty budgeting or making other payments
- Rent arrears due to reduction in employment income
- Landlord wishing to sell or re-let the property

Funding source	2018/19	2019/20
Rent arrears due to tenant difficulty budgeting or tenant making other payments	22	33
Rent arrears due to increased rent	0	3
Rent arrears due to reduction in employment income	26	23
Rent arrears following changes in benefit entitlement	0	0
Rent arrears due to change in personal circumstances	0	0
Breach of tenancy, not related to rent arrears	0	0
Landlord wishing to sell or re-let the property	53	18
Tenant complained to the council/agent/landlord about disrepair	3	5
Tenant abandoned property	0	0
Illegal eviction	0	0
Other	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>82</b>

At the time of writing this strategy data was not available to support an analysis of the household make up of those presenting to the council for housing advice and assistance. It is recognised, however, that this information would help to ensure that services are better informed moving forwards.



## Rough Sleepers Count

The council undertakes a count of all rough sleepers in the District every year. The last count was undertaken in November 2020 and no rough sleepers were identified. Previously in October 2019 the count had identified two individuals who were rough sleeping. Both were offered temporary accommodation during the Covid-19 pandemic but unfortunately declined assistance. This is not unusual where individuals present with multiple and complex needs. Hambleton District Council’s 2020 rough sleeper count was undertaken in November 2020 and is currently pending validation.

## Support Services

Following changes to commissioning arrangements for floating support services by NYCC, the Homelessness Prevention Service has now been brought in-house.

The service will provide increased scope to target resources specifically at customers where homelessness is potentially imminent, helping to reduce homelessness in the district. The main types of support are shown below:

NYLAF Applications (North Yorkshire Local Assistance Fund)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help with gas, electric and other utilities</li> <li>• Help with purchasing white goods/furniture</li> </ul>
Housing Advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General housing advice</li> <li>• Homeless advice</li> </ul>
Housing Affordability Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Falling behind on rent payments</li> <li>• Loss of benefits</li> <li>• Loss of employment</li> <li>• Other debt issues</li> </ul>
Housing Register	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Yorkshire Homechoice Applications</li> <li>• Questions about social housing</li> </ul>
Local Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help sourcing private rented accommodation</li> <li>• Assistance with bond application</li> <li>• North Yorkshire Homechoice bidding</li> </ul>
Benefit claim and maximising income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Checking Benefit entitlements</li> <li>• Council Tax assistance</li> <li>• Discretionary Housing Payment applications</li> </ul>
Referrals to other service providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and wellbeing</li> <li>• Securing employments</li> <li>• Accommodation providers</li> <li>• Foodbank and food vouchers</li> </ul>



## External Links

The Housing Options team have a number of successful joint working partnerships with local services, both statutory and third sector. The most notable of which is with the Children’s and Young People’s Service, via the Young Person’s Pathway.

The Housing Options service also facilitates a six-monthly multi-agency meeting called the Hambleton Homelessness Forum. All local agencies involved in preventing homelessness in the district are invited to attend, providing an opportunity to share knowledge and good practice, network and collaborate on local projects. Hambleton’s Homelessness Forum is integral to supporting such a collaborative approach and therefore central in supporting the delivery of the strategy moving forward. Strategic buy-in is therefore required from all partner agencies some of whom will be invited to join the steering group which will oversee the implementation of this strategy.

## Temporary Accommodation

The council leases dispersed accommodation from Broadacres Housing Association who manage these properties on our behalf through a Service Level Agreement. This provides 12 self-contained homes for temporary accommodation. The average length of stay is 106 days (this average is taken from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020). The council seeks to limit households’ stay in temporary accommodation and move households on to longer term settled accommodation as quickly as possible.

The council has no dedicated emergency accommodation. In an emergency, or when the temporary accommodation units are full, the council is able to provide customers with Bed and Breakfast accommodation for a short period. This is often located outside of the district as such provision is very limited locally.

In line with the Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities, the council recognises that Bed and Breakfast (B&B) accommodation caters for very short term stays only and offers residents only limited privacy, and may lack or require sharing of important amenities, such as cooking and laundry facilities. Wherever possible, therefore, the council seeks to avoid using B&B accommodation for homeless households unless, in the very limited circumstances where it is likely to be the case, it is the most appropriate option for the applicant.

Living in B&B accommodation can be particularly detrimental to the health and development of children. Under section s210(2), the Secretary of State has made the Homelessness (Suitability of Accommodation) (England) Order 2003. The 2003 Order specifies that B&B accommodation is not be regarded as suitable for applicants with family commitments provided with accommodation under Part VII.

The average number of nights spent in Bed and Breakfast accommodation increased significantly from 2018/19 to 2019/20:

	2018/19	2019/20
Average number of nights in B&B accomodation	6 nights	62 nights



In line with the increase in the average number of nights spent in Bed and Breakfast, the council’s spend on accommodation has increased significantly from £9,086 in 2017/18 to £86,468 in 2019/20.

## Supported Housing

Supported accommodation is available in the district for young people, via the Young People’s Pathway and managed by Foundation. Anecdotally, the move-on process is difficult; both in finding suitable move-on accommodation, as well as providing adequate support to manage the pressures that come with independent living.

There is also a reported lack of supported accommodation throughout the district for the remaining customer base, including ex-offenders, customers experiencing mental and physical health issues, as well as those with complex needs. Where specialist accommodation is available it is often located in neighbouring districts and is ring-fenced for those with local connection.

## Social Housing Stock

The council transferred its housing stock to Broadacres Housing Association in 1993. Along with stock owned by other housing associations, there are approximately 4731 affordable homes in the District, which includes: 124 extra care units, 6 Hub properties, 19 HDC Leased, 17 refuge spaces and 82 non-social housing rented (rent to buy).

In 2018/19 there was a total of 1054 applicants registered for social housing in the district. Of these, almost 60% were assessed as requiring a 1-bedroom property. In 2019/20 the council undertook a review of housing register applications which resulted in an overall reduction of those on the housing register to 980. Applications from households requiring a 1-bedroom property remained high, however, and currently makes up over 58% of all applications on the housing register:

Year	Total Applications	1 bed need	2 bed need	3 bed need	4+ bed need
April 2018 - March 2019	1054	621	329	101	12
April 2019 - March 2020	980	572	301	95	11

In 2018/19 a total of 375 properties were allocated of which 37 percent were 1-bedroom units. In 2019/20 407 properties were allocated of which 28 percent had 1 bedroom.



Year	Total Let	1 bed need	2 bed need	3 bed need	4+ bed need
1 April 2018 - 31 March 2019	375	139	168	61	7
1 April 2019 - 31 March 2020	407	114	179	110	0

## Private Rented Sector

Hambleton benefits from a buoyant private rental sector, however this can be to the detriment of those who are on a low income or would not pass traditional credit and referencing checks. Hambleton District Council work closely to maximise the number of private rental properties those at risk of homelessness or homeless have access to; this may be through offering landlord incentives. As a first option we try to sustain tenancies to prevent homelessness and support landlords to keep existing tenants and provide support for the tenants if appropriate or refer to specialist support. It can be preferable for the landlord to retain a tenant than go through the process of re-letting their property.

There has been significant growth in the number of households living in privately rented accommodation in the district. Specifically, for households under 35, analysis shows a sharp increase in the number living in private rented accommodation, opposed to owning their own homes.

The majority of the Hambleton district does benefit from LHA rates covered by the 'York' and "Teesside" Broad Rental Market Areas (BMRA), assisting with affordability. However, a number of smaller towns fall within alternative BRMAs and therefore customers in these areas may struggle more with affordability because local rents are often potentially charged above the relevant LHA rate.

Accommodation affordability is an issue for single people under 35 who are eligible only for the 'Shared Room' LHA rate. Given the need to increase shared accommodation in the district, many single people are limited to larger accommodation which is more likely to be unaffordable.

The council holds a Landlords' Forum 3 times a year to ensure that local landlords are aware of changes to legislation and policy and are aware of services that can be offered to them and their tenants. This helps to prevent homelessness through increasing landlords' awareness of support services and how to obtain advice if they need it for tenants with support needs or if they should fall into arrears.

The Landlords Forum also increases contact with landlords who may consider working with the authority to house customers who are at risk of homelessness or homeless in the future which helps to reduce demand on social housing stock and on temporary accommodation. Work must continue to ensure our private rented offer is not only maintained but increased. This includes increasing the number of homeless cases discharged into the private sector.

# Priority 1

## Reduce the number of households becoming homeless

Our goal is to provide the best possible service that we can for all of our customers and to achieve this we will regularly review our casework and ensure that our staff are well-trained to perform their roles. Whilst we have a strong team ethos, we will ensure that each customer has one key point of contact throughout their journey with us and we will routinely gather their feedback to help shape and improve our services for all customers.

Hambleton District Council has worked hard to prevent homelessness for many years; however, the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 now underpins this work making this a legal requirement. It sets out how councils must work to prevent and relieve homelessness:-

- An extension of the period during which an authority should treat someone (regardless of priority need) as threatened with homelessness from 28 to 56 days.
- A new duty to prevent homelessness for all eligible applicants threatened with homelessness (regardless of priority need) and a requirement to provide applicants with housing prevention plans.
- A new duty to relieve homelessness for all eligible homeless applicants (regardless of priority need) and a required to provide application with housing relief plans.
- A new duty on certain external organisations (including prisons and hospitals) to refer homeless households to the council.

As there is now a statutory responsibility to prevent homelessness, there has been a significant increase in the level of assessment and administration to process applications.

Over the period of the last strategy, there were three common reasons why people approached the Local Authority for assistance, therefore, we will concentrate on investing in initiatives relating to these in order to continue to reduce homelessness. These were, loss of private tenancy, relationship breakdown and eviction by family.

In Hambleton we strive to assist customers to retain their existing accommodation where possible through early intervention. To achieve this, we use a range of 'prevention tools' such as working with their landlord or mortgage provider, identifying ways to maximise their income and negotiating on their behalf. Given that access to social housing is limited in our area, we will actively support customers to find properties to rent privately recognising that for some customers the flexibility of private renting might be their best housing option.

We will focus our initiatives, including the housing support service on activities which aim to prevent the main causes of homelessness. This will enable us to maintain a flexible approach and ensure that those most in need will continue to be prioritised. The team will also continue to help customers in other ways such as obtaining charitable funding to help clear rent arrears or debts, purchase essential household items and also to assist with daily living costs.

### Actions

1. Review and enhance prevention tools to enable customers to sustain and remain in their current accommodation
2. Conduct a gap analysis of homelessness prevention education delivered through schools, colleges and youth organisations and refine accordingly enabling us to re-imagine our service offer to young people
3. Review the support available for households across the district from wider organisations and ensure this is signposted from the council's website
4. Implement the findings from the independent review of the Housing Options Service carried out in January 2021.

# Priority 2

## Raise awareness of homelessness and rough sleeping ensuring that services are accessible to those in need

How we communicate with others is a key part of our strategy going forward. We have to ensure that our communities are fully aware of the help that we can provide to those households who may be at risk of homelessness so that they approach us as soon as possible.

We will therefore review the effectiveness of our current communications and work with others in order to implement these more successfully.

We will ensure that we continue to attend multi-agency meetings and take part in consultations locally in order to keep housing and homelessness high on the agenda and to improve joined up working. We need to ensure that we accurately record the work we do with households who approach our service before they are officially classed as threatened with homelessness as currently this is not fully captured on our existing systems.

Hambleton is a very large geographical area where public transport links are often poor and transport can be expensive. We acknowledge that some people find it difficult to access our services which are mostly based at Hambleton in the civic centre. Therefore, we will work flexibly providing home visits to people with specific needs if necessary or give advice by the telephone. We will review our service provision and, if there is a need, consider the use of drop-in sessions in outlying parts of the district so that people can access housing support. We will explore joint working opportunities in order to provide housing and homelessness advice where and when it is needed.

There are increasing opportunities for customers to contact the housing team via electronic devices and manage their applications via our online system at a time that suits them. We will encourage people to access advice online through our website, where possible, and use our customer portal if they have internet access once it has been made live.

We will ensure that our housing support staff continue to offer extra support to customers who are not able to access online services in order that they are not disadvantaged, for example making bids for social housing on their behalf and assisting them to maximise their incomes.

The six-monthly Homelessness Housing Forum provides information to a range of organisations and this is the main forum for information sharing around homelessness in the district. This information sharing needs to be increased.



## Actions

1. Work with partners and other organisations to enhance publicity of our services and encourage people to approach our service early and in particular private landlords
2. Review the effectiveness of all current communications and continually update information which is available online
3. Review the current systems which record customer contact to ensure that all contacts are being accurately recorded and data captured used to inform future service delivery
4. Implement a robust customer feedback and analysis mechanism to ensure the service is continually developed and improved
5. Consider the use of drop-in and outreach services throughout the district to cover the rurality of the area

# Priority 3

## Continually improve access to support services

Partnership working is essential to the prevention of homelessness and for ensuring that the appropriate support is available for those who are homeless, to prevent them from becoming homeless again in the future.

The council currently provide a £5,000 annual grant to Citizens' Advice to provide money advice to those who are facing homelessness, providing them with specialist independent advice and help to access money and debt advice and to assist them to resolve these issues. Citizens' Advice also currently provide a Help to Claim service to support people in the early stages of claiming Universal Credit through to their first payment being received.

Other agencies who have received a financial contribution from the council in recognition of the importance of their role include the Hambleton food bank to support them in the delivery of their voluntary services to provide food for households who are in need. Between November 2019 and October 2020, they redeemed 406 food vouchers for households, ranging from single people to families.

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 placed a duty on local authorities to provide advice to specific groups of people who may be more vulnerable namely:

- people released from prison or youth detention accommodation
- care leavers
- former members of the regular armed forces
- victims of domestic abuse
- people leaving hospital
- people suffering from a mental illness or impairment, and
- any other group that the authority identifies as being at particular risk of homelessness in their district

For each of the identified categories of need, we have developed tailored advice which is available via the website or can be obtained directly from the Housing Options Team.

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 also introduced a new duty - the Duty to Refer - on certain statutory authorities to refer anyone who is known to be homeless to the housing authority (with consent) including the DWP and the Prison Service. These referrals are important as they mean that we can work with customers from an earlier stage in close co-operation with our partners.



Although Registered Providers are not subject to a statutory duty, the National Housing Federation developed its own Commitment to Refer and, in line with this, we continue to encourage registered providers to work with us as soon as possible as this is in the collective interest. Allied to this we also have a keen understanding of the role of safeguarding and our staff are able to raise alerts should they have any concerns about a particular customer. In addition, we also have a strong working relationship with our Community Safety Partners which means that we are able to make timely and appropriate referrals for vulnerable individuals who need specialist support.

There is an ongoing need to work closely with health services in Hambleton to ensure that people can access the support they need when they need it. We have links with mental health services and GPs but will work to strengthen and formalise these and other pathways. We will also regularly review our hospital discharge protocol to ensure it is operating effectively.

### Actions

1. Regularly test and review our existing partnership protocols with other agencies to maintain their effectiveness
2. Maintain and strengthen existing partnerships and explore opportunities to develop new ones with organisations providing support to specific groups to prevent and relieve homelessness.
3. Regularly monitor, review and evaluate financial contributions to third parties to ensure that they continue to deliver value for money
4. Identify ways in which we can work more closely with Health services across the district and in particular with mental health services

# Priority 4

## Work strategically and seek new opportunities for funding

We recognise the need to work with other stakeholders and to positively influence decision makers and budget holders by making them aware of the challenges we face locally. We will do this through our attendance at county wide groups and at other networking opportunities as well as through hosting our local partnership forums.

We will bolster our approach in Hambleton by re-introducing a strategic level steering group which will oversee the implementation of this strategy and its associated action plan and work with us to deliver the best service locally.

We will provide regular and timely updates to our elected members and senior management team and work with the communication team to ensure that we portray a realistic image of homelessness issues in the district.

In terms of funding we will continue to actively seek opportunities to bid for additional funding from the government and other funding streams. In particular, we will build on our relationships with neighbouring authorities and partner agencies to facilitate further funding opportunities where appropriate and our in-house support service will continue to access charity funding to support individuals to resolve their homelessness and tackle debt issues.

We will ensure that our services represent value for money by monitoring the cost of temporary accommodation we use and minimising void periods in the accommodation leased directly from Broadacres Housing Association.

### Externally Funded Services

Preventing homelessness and providing support is not just a Housing Authority responsibility. The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 sets out the importance of enhanced joint working and integration between housing authorities, health and social care in relation to the development and implementation of homeless prevention strategies. The Act further bolsters existing legal requirements on local authorities under the Health & Social Care Act 2012 to take such steps as it considers appropriate for improving the health of the people in its area. This includes people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness and under The Children Act 1989 to work in partnership to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need.



The new Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities stresses the need for close integration between social care, housing and health authorities around this whole agenda, specifically in relation to the development of homeless strategies. The governments' Code of Guidance for Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 highlights that:

“the homelessness strategy should secure the satisfactory provision of support for people in the district who are or may be homeless, or who have been homeless and need support to prevent them becoming homeless again.

In two-tier authority areas it will be necessary to engage the upper tier authority, which holds responsibility for commissioning housing related support, in identifying resources available to meet support needs across all cohorts that are at high risk of homelessness.”

The main statutory responsibility towards homelessness sits with the district council as the housing authority, however many of the services that are provided locally are funded via the upper tier authority (NYCC).

These services include:

- the Housing Homeless Prevention and Support Service
- the Young Persons Pathway
- support for victims of domestic violence
- Offender housing related support service

The provision of these services is a legacy of what was the Supporting People grant funding programme.

We want to build upon existing relationships and strengthen partnership working across the district. The North Yorkshire Housing Forum meets on a quarterly basis and is a well-established mechanism for monitoring the county wide approach to homelessness, discussing local issues, improving communication and sharing good practice. We will continue to facilitate this, as it is a useful group and will review our membership and encourage agencies to additional to attend in future.

## Actions

1. Establish a Homelessness & Rough Sleeping steering group to oversee implementation of the strategy and the associated delivery plan
2. Work with NYCC in reviewing services that deliver specific young peoples' accommodation and support services within Hambleton
3. Work with NYCC commissioners and successful contractors, in partnership, on the provision of mental health accommodation and offender support services in Hambleton
4. Work with the North Yorkshire Housing Forum to contribute to the prevention of homelessness and rough sleeping across the County

# Priority 5

## Deliver a range of affordable housing options

The private rented sector in Hambleton can be difficult to access for people who are on a low income or disadvantaged in other ways so we will continue to work with private landlords and estate agents and will look to develop improved ways to assist households who are at risk of homelessness to access the private rented sector.

We will continue to be innovative and look for ways to increase the provision of affordable housing in the district, including shared housing to accommodate single people on low incomes who cannot afford independent accommodation.

### Affordable Housing Development

Hambleton District Council is proactive in working to enable affordable housing development across the district and there is an annual target of 55 properties as set out in the HEDNA 2018. (at the time of writing this target is being tested as part of the Local Plan examination process).

### Empty Properties

Whilst the majority of new homes will be provided through the affordable development programme the council will also look to identify other potential sources of accommodation including bringing empty properties back into use through the application of the Empty Property Strategy which is overseen by the Housing Services Manager.

### Low Cost Home Ownership

Shared Ownership and Discount for Sale properties are provided on most Affordable Housing developments to provide those on a lower income with the opportunity to purchase a property.

The housing options team are involved in ensuring that people with a local connection are allocated properties through these schemes.

### Gypsy and Traveller sites

Local authorities have the power to provide Gypsy and Traveller sites and government guidance advises that local planning authorities should ensure that sites are sustainable economically, socially and environmentally. The council is also required to include policies to address the needs of Gypsies and Travellers in their local development documents. We are also required to assess the need for accommodation of Gypsies and Travellers when undertaking a review of housing needs in the district.

Hambleton District Council works with others to help provide sufficient sites where residents are also provided with support to enable them to comply with the site rules, as and when required.



## Specialist & Supported Accommodation

In addition to the young person's supported accommodation, other specialist accommodation within the District includes a women's refuge as well as accommodation for offenders or those with mental health support needs. Provision of this type of accommodation is commissioned by NYCC and other providers, so Hambleton District Council will continue to work with the commissioner to ensure that the needs of Hambleton residents are identified.

## Actions

1. To promote and facilitate access to low cost home ownership and affordable rented housing options where possible
2. To maintain and where possible seek to increase the availability of affordable, privately rented accommodation within the District including Houses in Multiple Occupation
3. To review access to move on accommodation from supported accommodation particularly for young people
4. To aim to minimise the number of empty homes in the District and in particular any which are subject to the Long-Term Empty Property Premium.

# Priority 6

## End Rough Sleeping

We know that rough sleepers are some of the most vulnerable people in society, often with additional and complex support needs which can be worsened by having no settled suitable accommodation.

The Government pledged to half rough sleeping by 2022 and end rough sleeping nationally by 2027, as outlined in the Government's Rough Sleeping Strategy. However, the impact of Coronavirus and the Government's Everyone In policy to ensure that nobody slept rough during the pandemic has meant that the landscape has changed significantly in recent months.

In addition, the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 increases the responsibilities of the council to all homeless people, including rough sleepers regardless of whether they have a priority need for housing.

At national level there has been a 165% increase in levels of rough sleeping since 2010. This increase is likely to be attributable to a range of factors including the withdrawal of funding to pay for support services and hostels, the impact of austerity on public sector services more generally (particularly around mental health services) and the impact of welfare reforms.

Through the multi-agency work undertaken by the community safety partnership, the council undertakes regular mapping of all known rough sleepers in the district. The last formal rough sleeper count was undertaken in November 2020 and 0 rough sleepers were identified. A previous count undertaken in November 2019 similarly identified 0 rough sleepers.

Nov 2020	Nov 2019	Nov 2018	Nov 2017	Nov 2016	Nov 2015
0	0	0	0	1	2

Whilst the formal counts may indicate that rough sleeping is not an issue in our area the reality is that rough sleeping in the district is often hidden as people tend to sleep in their vehicles or in outbuildings or tents in isolated locations rather than in obvious locations on town streets, this leads to the perception that there are no rough sleepers in Hambleton. Further work is being undertaken to help routinely capture those individuals who present to the service and who have indicated that they have spent a number of days sleeping rough.

Tackling this issue requires a close and co-ordinated multi-agency response to ensure that anyone sleeping rough or at risk of sleeping rough in the Hambleton area is aware of the services available and is able to access the necessary support to help them off the streets and to address the problems that led to them becoming homeless.

We recognise that rough sleeping is much more than a housing problem and through strengthening our partnership arrangements to tackle rough sleeping in a joined-up way we can ensure that the different agencies are working towards a common goal.



It is therefore our intention to relaunch the 'Single Service Offer' approach based on the Government's 'No Second Night-Out' Principles.

These are:

- New rough sleepers should be identified and helped off the streets immediately so that they do not fall into a dangerous rough sleeping lifestyle
- Members of the public should be able to play an active role in reporting and referring people sleeping rough through a national rough sleeper helpline which in turn informs our emergency out of hours contact line within Hambleton Housing Options Service (these numbers can be found on our website).
- Rough sleepers should be helped to access a place of safety where their needs can be quickly assessed, and they can receive advice on their options
- They should be able to access emergency accommodation and other services such as healthcare, if needed
- If people have come from another area or country and find themselves sleeping rough, the aim should be to reconnect them back to their local community, unless there is a good reason why they cannot return. There they will be able to access housing and recovery services and have support from family and friends. Our housing team will take action to connect people with local support services, if they are returning to another area or country to which they have a local connection.

All rough sleepers, regardless of 'priority need' will be provided with some form of service within the District and will not be turned away. They will be referred to a relevant agency for assistance. This approach acknowledges that various agencies have a different role to play but will work in partnership to tackle this problem.

## Actions

1. Refresh and implement a 'single service offer' based on the no second night out principles.
2. Increase knowledge across the district with both partners and the general population of how to seek help for a rough sleeper
3. In partnership with other Districts, explore the possibility of creating an emergency bed space for Rough Sleepers
4. Successfully establish the Homeless Supported Move-On scheme in Northallerton in partnership with Broadacres

# Delivering the Monitoring this Strategy

It is recognised that delivering the Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy is the responsibility of many organisations working together in partnership and not just the council. Therefore, a key action arising from the implementation of this strategy will be to establish an effective steering group which will be called the Hambleton Homelessness Strategy Steering Group (see below).

The council will monitor delivery of the key actions and the impact on key performance measures including:

- Number of homeless preventions per quarter
- Numbers of young people presenting as homeless
- Number of people placed into temporary accommodation
- Average cost of temporary accommodation
- Numbers of people accommodated in private rented accommodation
- Number of approaches from people threatened with homelessness
- Numbers of people sleeping rough
- Waiting times for housing advice

## Hambleton Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy Steering Group

The aim of the steering group is to ensure that this work is co-ordinated in an effective way with all partners influencing and contributing to a coherent agreed strategy.

The Hambleton Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy Steering Group will monitor the Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Action plan on a regular basis and the group will drive forward delivery and progress in meeting the objectives set out in the strategy. The action plan will be reviewed annually to ensure that any new changes in legislation and policies are reflected within the strategy and to ensure that the actions continue to be the right ones to meet the key priorities of the strategy. Where identified, new actions will be introduced to meet priorities.

We will continue to welcome comments which will help to shape future reviews of this strategy and associated action plans.

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*grow*

**HAMBLETON**  
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# Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2021-24 Action Plan

## Priority 1 - Reduce the number of households becoming homeless

No.	Task	Lead	Actions/Performance indicator	Risk	Resources	Target date
1	Review and enhance prevention tools to enable customers to sustain and remain in their current accommodation.	HOTL	Annual review to be completed. Number/percentage of households prevented from becoming homeless after housing advice and assistance.	Prevention is the main focus of the service without which we could see a rise in homeless applications and extra costs to the council.	Officer time	Annual review
2	Conduct a gap analysis of homelessness prevention education delivered through schools, colleges and youth organisations and refine accordingly enabling us to re-imagine our service offer to young people.	SHO	Identify the range of organisations working with young people and obtain and review examples of the current educational materials which are used.	Prevention is the main focus of the service without which we could see a rise in homeless applications and extra costs to the council.	Officer time	October 2021
3	Review the support available for households across the district from wider organisations and ensure this is signposted from the council's website.	HOTL	Identify which organisations offer support and capture all signposted referrals. Report numbers of referrals quarterly.	Working with partners ensures that the council makes best use of its resources and remains within budget.	Officer time	June 2021 Quarterly
4	Implement the findings from the independent review of the Housing Options Service carried out in January 2021.	HSM	Create an action plan arising from the findings of the independent review. Report progress against the action plan quarterly.	Undertaking independent reviews helps to ensure that the service remains effective and performs well.	TBC	March 2021 Quarterly

## Priority 2 - Raise awareness of homelessness and rough sleeping ensuring that services are accessible to those in need

No.	Task	Lead	Actions/Performance indicator	Risk	Resources	Target date
1	Work with partners and other organisations to enhance publicity of our services and encourage people to approach our service early and in particular private landlords.	HOTL	Develop a communication plan and identify how customers became aware of the service when adding their details.	Customers are not presenting early enough resulting in less prevention work.	Officer time	September 2021
2	Review the effectiveness of all current communications and continually update information which is available online.	HOTL	Review existing communications to ensure that they are up to date and link in with the customer feedback mechanism to check how effective they are in practice.	Customers are increasingly contacting the service electronically, therefore information needs to be accurate.	Officer time	Ongoing priority
3	Review the current systems which record customer contact to ensure that all contacts are being accurately recorded and data captured used to inform future service delivery.	HSM	Review existing communications to ensure that they are up to date and link in with the customer feedback mechanism to check how effective they are in practice.	Current systems fail to record all customer contact and therefore can lead to false conclusions about the level and nature of the demand faced by the service.	Officer time and potential cost of additional ICT requirements	April 2021
4	Implement a robust customer feedback and analysis mechanism to ensure the service is continually developed and improved.	HSM	Undertake a customer journey mapping exercise.	Customer feedback is vital in identifying improvements to the current processes.	Management time Officer time	September 2021
5	Consider the use of drop-in and outreach services throughout the district to cover the rurality of the area	HSM	Review existing patterns of demand and potential workspaces	Whilst the service has demonstrated that it can be delivered over the phone some cases would have benefitted from face to face contact. Geography can prove a barrier to this and costly for applicants.	Officer time and additional travel costs	TBC

### Priority 3 - Continually improve access to support services

No.	Task	Lead	Actions/Performance indicator	Risk	Resources	Target date
1	Regularly test and review our existing partnership protocols with other agencies to maintain their effectiveness.	HOTL /SHO	Work with partners to agree a methodology to “test” the protocols and agree suitable dates.	Protocols are not effective when called upon resulting in wasted time and effort for those involved and poor outcomes for customers.	Officer time and partner time	Ongoing priority
2	Maintain existing relationships and develop new ones with organisations providing support to specific groups to prevent and relieve homelessness.	HOTL	Ensure that both the Homelessness Forum and Landlords Forum are recommended and continue to meet on an agreed basis and are captured on the Service Plan.	Partnership working is key to effective deliver and saves time and costs in the long run.	Officer time	Ongoing priority
3	Regularly monitor, review and evaluate financial contributions to third parties to ensure that they continue to deliver value for money.	HSM	Task will be delegated to the proposed steering group to ensure value for money.	Resources are limited and need to be reviewed regularly to ensure the right services are supported.	Management time	Annual review
4	Identify ways in which we can work more closely with health services across the district and in particular with mental health services.	HSM	Undertake research with other organisations to determine ways to integrate the service with health colleagues.	Vulnerable customers will not be able to access the full range of services to achieve the best outcomes.	Management time	March 2022

## Priority 4 - Work strategically and seek new opportunities for funding

No.	Task	Lead	Actions/Performance indicator	Risk	Resources	Target date
1	Establish a Homelessness & Rough Sleeping steering group to oversee implementation of the strategy and the associated actions.	HSM	Invite colleagues from key stakeholders / partners who will then meet on a quarterly basis to monitor performance against the action plan.	Failing to achieve wider strategic buy-in from our partners could result in the Council not meeting its priorities.	Management time	June 2021
2	Work with NYCC in reviewing services that deliver specific young peoples' accommodation and support services within Hambleton.	SHO	SHO will continue to manage the local hub / young persons pathway which meets quarterly.	Failing to review services could result in funding being lost if their effectiveness is not maintained.	Officer time	Quarterly
3	Work with NYCC commissioners and successful contractors, in partnership, on the provision of mental health accommodation and offender support services in Hambleton.	HSM & HOTL	HSM & HOTL will continue to attend the County Homeless Forum and other key strategic groups on a regular basis.	Failure to attend key groups could result in services being withdrawn locally.	Management time	Quarterly
4	Work with the North Yorkshire Housing Forum to contribute to the prevention of homelessness and rough sleeping across the County.	HSM	HSM will attend the Forum on a quarterly basis.	Failure to attend could result in our local voice not being heard and not being party to multi-district initiatives.	Management time	Quarterly

## Priority 5 - Deliver a range of affordable housing options

No.	Task	Lead	Actions/Performance indicator	Risk	Resources	Target date
1	To promote and facilitate access to low cost home ownership and affordable rented housing options where possible.	HDO & RHE	The HDO and RHE will work alongside Planning colleagues in reviewing applications in line with the outcomes from the Local Plan examination.	Failure to deliver will prevent the sub region providing much needed affordable homes and could lead to further homelessness.	Officer time and partners time	Ongoing priority
2	To maintain and where possible seek to increase the availability of affordable, privately rented accommodation within the District including Houses in Multiple Occupation.	HSM / HOTL	Work with partner landlords through the Landlord Forum and continue to grow the numbers attending.	Limited options for those under 35 in particular will lead to more applicants remaining in insecure housing.	Officer time	Ongoing priority
3	To review access to move on accommodation from supported accommodation particularly for young people.	SHO	Number of successful moves from supported accommodation within the District reported quarterly.	Young people and other complex individuals are housed inappropriately without support and / or out of area.	Officer time	Quarterly
4	To aim to minimise the number of empty homes in the District and in particular any which are subject to the Long-Term Empty Property Premium.	HSM/ HDO /RHE	Review existing approaches for reducing the number of empty homes and identify any areas for improvement.	Poor performance in this area will prevent the District from providing much needed accommodation to help alleviate homelessness.	Officer time	Annual review

## Priority 6 - End rough sleeping

No.	Task	Lead	Actions/Performance indicator	Risk	Resources	Target date
1	Refresh and implement a 'single service offer' based on the no second night out principles.	HOTL	The number of people who repeatedly sleep rough. The number of people on the repeat homeless list.	Not breaking the cycle of rough sleeping and not fulfilling government guidelines through this area.	All housing options team staff	September 2021
2	Increase knowledge across the district with both partners and the general population of how to seek help for a rough sleeper.	HOTL	Referrals made and outcomes recorded on a monthly basis.	Not increasing awareness of the support available will lead to poorer outcomes.	Officer time	Quarterly
3	In partnership with other Districts, explore the possibility of creating an emergency bed space for Rough Sleepers.	HOTL	Through the County Homeless Group agree what partnership and joint funding opportunities are available to facilitate an emergency bed space.	Lack of access to emergency bed space will present increased pressures on the team particularly if received out of hours.	Officer time	March 2022
4	Successfully establish the Homeless Supported Move-On scheme in Northallerton in partnership with Broadacres.	HSM	3 additional units of accommodation for those rough sleeping / or at risk of rough sleeping are made available to let.	This scheme has been funded by central government and any failure carries a reputational risk to the authority.	Officer time	March 2021

### Key

HSM Housing Services Manager

HOTL Housing Options Team Leader

SHO Senior Housing Officer

HDO Housing Development Officer

RHE Rural Housing Enabler



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