

## **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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