

Committee: Cabinet Report

Agenda Item

Date: 12 January 2016

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Title: Homelessness Strategy

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Key decision: Yes

Summary

1. In 2012 the council included its Homelessness Strategy within the Housing Strategy document. The Housing Strategy is now being renewed and the decision has been to once again have a stand-alone Homelessness Strategy to better illustrate the council's commitment to tackling homelessness. The Homelessness Strategy has now been finalised following a period of public consultation and is ready for member approval, prior to its adoption in January 2016.

Recommendations

2. That Cabinet agrees the adoption of the Homelessness Strategy 2016-21 as recommended by the Housing Board.

Financial Implications

3. It is envisaged that the strategy's Action Plan will be delivered from within existing resources.

Impact

- 4.

Communication/Consultation	Members, tenants, all partner agencies and public consultation via the website
Community Safety	N/A
Equalities	Equality impact assessment has been completed
Health and Safety	N/A
Human Rights/Legal Implications	It is a requirement for the council to have a homelessness strategy
Sustainability	N/A
Ward-specific impacts	All wards

Workforce/Workplace	Housing, Planning, Environmental Health
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Situation

5. The council's current Homelessness Strategy is contained within the Housing Strategy which expired at the end of December 2015. As the council is legally required to have a Homelessness Strategy a new document has been prepared and consulted on. The new Strategy will run from 2016 -2021.
6. The document details the council's homelessness service's achievements since 2012. It also looks at the legal context for having a homelessness strategy and the National and Local context of homelessness and other strategies that the document links to.
7. The Strategy also contains a review of homelessness within Uttlesford and details homelessness statistics for the past 4 years. These clearly show the impact that the recession has had on increasing homelessness during this period.
8. The Strategy contains an Action Plan that outlines how the council will meet the four strategic priorities that have been set for the council's homelessness service during the lifetime of this new document. These priorities are:-
 - Prevent homelessness, by providing a high quality housing advice service to clients in all housing tenures, by sustaining tenancies and by mitigating the negative effects of welfare reform
 - Provide good quality suitable temporary accommodation and work towards ending the use of bed and breakfast even in an emergency
 - Engage with the private rented sector to improve access to accommodation for people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness
 - Improving the Health and Wellbeing of homeless people
9. The Strategy has been out for a 2 month period of public consultation and a few minor amendments have been made. The document has now been agreed by the Housing Board who recommends its adoption by Cabinet.

Risk Analysis

17.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
The council fails to have carried	1 Little risk – review and	3 – the council may lose	The document has already been out for

out a homelessness review and have an updated Homelessness Strategy before the current document expires	draft strategy already prepared in advance of current document being out of date	government funding if it cannot demonstrate it has a homelessness strategy in place	public consultation and is ready to put before Cabinet for approval in January
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1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.