

**Committee:** Community

**Agenda Item**

**Date:** 19 June 2008

**9**

**Title:** **DRAFT HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY**

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Item for decision

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### Summary

1. This report advises the Committee of the requirement under the Homelessness Act 2002 for all local authorities to have a Homelessness Strategy and for there to be a review of homelessness within their district and a new strategy written every 5 years. Uttlesford's first Homelessness Strategy was published in 2003 and a new Strategy needs to be in place before the end of July 2008.

### Recommendations

2. It is recommended that the Committee: -

Considers and approves the Draft Homelessness Strategy.

### Background Papers

3. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report.

- Internal records and reports
- P1E statistics

### Impact

- 4.

Communication/Consultation	There will need to be communication/consultation with partner agencies
Community Safety	NONE
Equalities	NONE
Finance	The strategy action plan has been written in line with existing budgets
Human Rights	NONE

Legal Implications	Council has a statutory duty to have a new Homelessness Strategy in place by July 2008
Ward-specific impacts	Across the district
Workforce/Workplace	NONE

### **Situation**

5. The Council's first five year homelessness strategy was published in 2003.
6. Following consultation events, in writing this draft document we reviewed where we are within Uttlesford in relation to homelessness since the 2003 Strategy was published. It also considered the services that have been put in place since 2003 and what effects these have had on homelessness.
7. The new Strategy considers how gaps in the service can be addressed and how an enhanced housing options and homelessness service can move forward and expand work on preventing homelessness within Uttlesford.
8. The new Strategy also addresses issues raised in the recent Audit Commission Report on the Council's Strategic Housing Service. The Action Plan details how the specific recommendations of the Audit Commission will be implemented.

### **Targets**

9. There is a legal requirement to have a new Strategy in place before the end of July 2008.
10. The Draft Homelessness Strategy addresses the need to meet local and national targets on homelessness.

### **Options**

11. All partner agencies will be consulted with prior to the publication of the Strategy and any comments they have will be reflected in the final document.

### **Pay-Offs/Penalties**

12. The Council are required to have a new homelessness strategy in place by the end of July 2008.
13. The new strategy Action Plan will progress the current work being carried out on homelessness prevention and help the Council meet its local and national targets. It will also address the improvements to the service recommended by the Audit Commission.

## Risk Analysis

14. The following have been assessed as the potential risks associated with this issue.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating Actions
New Homelessness Strategy needs to be in place by end of July 2008	HIGH	HIGH	Council at risk of legal challenge if new Strategy not published.
Failure to meet Performance Indicator targets through lack of up to date Action Plan	HIGH	HIGH	Performance is considered and commented on by EMT on a monthly basis. Proposed Select Committee will focus on Corporate performance issues