

Committee:	Cabinet	Date:
Title:	Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy	Thursday, 9 January 2020
Portfolio Holder:	Portfolio Holder for Housing; Health and Wellbeing	
Report Author:	Judith Snares, Housing Strategy and Operations Manager jsnares@uttlesford.gov.uk	Key decision: No

Summary

1. This report presents the Council's Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy.
2. The Strategy, which responds to the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, government guidance on homelessness and rough sleeping and current practice in Uttlesford, replaces the previous Homelessness Strategy 2016-2021.
3. The Strategy has been consulted on with the Housing Board, all members, tenants, stakeholders and the wider public. Any amendments have been made and the strategy is now being placed before Cabinet for approval and adoption.

Recommendations

4. That the Cabinet agrees the adoption of the Homelessness Strategy and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025.

Financial Implications

5. It is envisaged that the strategy's Action Plan will be delivered from within existing resources.
6. Additional ring-fenced resources have been allocated to the council by the Government for homelessness prevention over the past 3 financial years and various sums have been allocated for use from this funding, such as the provision of an additional Housing Options and Homelessness Officer.

Impact

- 7.

Communication/Consultation	Members, tenants, all partner agencies and public consultation via the website
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Community Safety	N/A
Equalities	Equality impact assessment has been completed
Health and Safety	N/A
Human Rights/Legal Implications	It is a statutory obligation, under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 and its Code of Guidance, for housing authorities to produce a Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy by Winter 2019
Sustainability	N/A
Ward-specific impacts	All wards
Workforce/Workplace	Housing, Planning, Environmental Health

Situation

8. In August 2018, the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) published the Cross-Government Rough Sleeping Strategy, which committed to ensuring that all local authorities have an up to date homelessness strategy available online by winter 2019. They also asked that strategies be rebadged as *homelessness and rough sleeping strategies*.
9. This has given the council the opportunity to revisit the current strategy, which runs until 2021, and update both the detail within the document and the Action Plan attached.
10. The updated Strategy will run from 2020-2025 and details the council's homelessness service's achievements since the last strategy was introduced. It also looks at the legal context for having a Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, the national and local context of homelessness and other strategies that the document links to.
11. The new Strategy also reflects the considerable changes brought about by the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act in April 2018 including:
 - to extend the duty to work with households at risk of homelessness to prevent homelessness to 56 days
 - to work with homeless households to help them relieve their homelessness for 56 days
 - to create a personalised housing plan to help each household find settled accommodation.

12. The strategy has been out for a 1 month period of consultation and a few minor amendments have been made. The document is now ready for approval by Cabinet and adoption.

Risk Analysis

13.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
The council fails to have Homelessness Strategy and Rough Sleeping Strategy in place	1 Little risk – review and draft strategy already prepared within timescales	3 – the council may lose any government funding on offer if it cannot demonstrate it has a homelessness and rough sleeping strategy in place	The document has already been out for consultation and is ready to put before Cabinet for approval in January

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.