

REPORT TO: STRATEGY AND RESOURCES

Date: 7th October 2019

TOPIC: NDC'S HOMELESSNESS REVIEW AND STRATEGY

REPORT BY: SENIOR HOUSING OFFICER (HOUSING NEEDS)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 North Devon Council (NDC) is required to carry out a homelessness review and publish a homelessness strategy every five years.
- 1.2 NDC's new homelessness review and strategy for 2019 – 2024 are attached at Appendices A and B respectively.
- 1.3 The review evidences the demand and performance of NDC's homelessness services; the strategy details the approach for the delivery of services.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Committee recommend approval of NDC's Homelessness Review and Strategy by Full Council (Appendices A and B respectively).

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To ensure NDC complies with legislative requirements to publish a homelessness review and strategy every five years.
- 3.2 To provide detail and understanding of the extent of homelessness in our community and NDC's approach to meet their statutory responsibilities to address homelessness in the area.

4. REPORT

- 4.1 The Homelessness Act 2002 places a duty on local housing authorities to (i) carry out a homelessness review and (ii) produce/publish a homelessness strategy based on the review every five years.
- 4.2 NDC will need to take account of the strategy when exercising their functions.

- 4.3 The review and strategy purposes are:
 - 4.3.1 Preventing homelessness in the district.
 - 4.3.2 Securing accommodation availability in the district for households who are, or may become, homeless.
 - 4.3.3 Providing support for persons in the district who are, or may become, homeless, or who have been homeless and need support to prevent them becoming homeless again.
- 4.4 The homelessness review should determine the current and future extent of homelessness or the risk of becoming homeless and activity/contribution of all agencies to address homelessness
- 4.5 The homelessness strategy will need to ensure there are current and future necessary levels of activity and sufficiency of resources required to achieve purposes 4.3.1 – 4.3.3.
- 4.6 Local authorities are encouraged to involve all relevant partners in developing a strategy to involve them in early homelessness identification and interventions to prevent homelessness.
- 4.7 NDC homelessness review and strategy has been developed by an independent body involving all appropriate partner and community representatives through a variety of workshops, consultations and interviews (detailed at section 11 of the strategy).
- 4.8 NDC's Homelessness Review dated May 2019 (Appendix A) evidences:
 - 4.8.1 The broader context within which NDC's Homelessness Services operates.
 - 4.8.2 The corporate and local strategic influences
 - 4.8.3 NDC's Homelessness demand and service performance.
 - 4.8.4 The position statement regarding the gypsy and traveller provision.
 - 4.8.5 The consultation approach.
 - 4.8.6 Future considerations.
- 4.9 NDC's Homelessness Strategy 2019 – 2024 (Appendix B) focuses on:
 - 4.9.1 Increasing the supply of affordable housing and making best use of existing stock.
 - 4.9.2 Preventing homelessness and offering support to homelessness households.
 - 4.9.3 Provision of temporary accommodation.

4.9.4 Preventing and addressing rough sleeping.

4.10 Legislation would require NDC's new strategy to date from 2018 but the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government have extended the publication date to December 2019 to acknowledge the impact of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Resource implications are set out at Section 4.15 (page 26 & 27) and 4.2 (Page 27) of NDC's Homelessness Review (Appendix A).

6. EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT

6.1 There are no equality implications as a result of this report. An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and an Equalities Impact Assessment Summary is available on NDC's website.

7. CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

Article or Appendix and paragraph	Referred or delegated power?
Part 3, Annex 1	Delegated

8. STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

8.1 This report contains no confidential information or exempt information under the provisions of Schedule 12A of 1972 Act.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: None

10. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL ADVICE

10.1 The author (below) confirms that advice has been taken from all appropriate Councillors and Officers.

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Date: 17th September 2019

Reference: Reference 2 290819 – NDC Homelessness Review and Strategy