

## **Teignbridge District Council**

**Committee name**

**Meeting date**

**Part I**

**Report Title:**

**Teignbridge Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-2027**

### **Purpose of Report**

To seek endorsement for the approach outlined within the draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-2027, noting the proposed amendments resulting from consultation. The Committee is invited to comment on issues or actions that have been proposed as part of this work.

### **Recommendation(s)**

The Committee RECOMMENDS to the Executive that the approach outlined in the draft Teignbridge Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-2027 is adopted, noting the feedback that has been provided via our 5 consultation exercises, which will enable us to refine and improve our final version of the strategy which we plan to publish in June of 2022.

### **Financial Implications**

Martin Flitcroft, Chief Financial Officer and Head of Corporate Services

Email: [martin.flitcroft@teignbridge.gov.uk](mailto:martin.flitcroft@teignbridge.gov.uk)

As and when budget is required for the completion of any project derived from the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, or internal staffing resources need to be committed, a business case will be made and senior leadership and/ or democratic approval will be sought in line with our corporate and constitutional requirements.

### **Legal Implications**

The Council as a Local Housing Authority has a statutory obligation to review its Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy every 5 years. Failure to undertake the review by the Council will amount to a breach of its statutory duty.

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Paul Woodhead, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer  
Email: [paul.woodhead@teignbridge.gov.uk](mailto:paul.woodhead@teignbridge.gov.uk)

## **Risk Assessment**

For any future projects derived from the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, where required, the relevant project lead will assess risks and complete a risk register outlining any potential risks and associated mitigations.

Tony Mansour, Housing Needs Lead  
Email: [tony.mansour@teignbridge.gov.uk](mailto:tony.mansour@teignbridge.gov.uk)

## **Environmental/ Climate Change Implications**

There are no direct environmental or climate change implications associated with the Draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, however any future projects or interventions derived from the strategy will be developed with environmental and climate change considerations in mind and, where required, with input from our Climate Change Officer.

Will Elliott, Climate Change Officer  
Email: [will.elliott@teignbridge.gov.uk](mailto:will.elliott@teignbridge.gov.uk)

## **Report Author**

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## **Executive Member**

Cllr Martin Wrigley: [martin.wrigley@teignbridge.gov.uk](mailto:martin.wrigley@teignbridge.gov.uk)

## **Appendices/Background Papers**

Appendix 1 Draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-2027  
Appendix 2 The Teignbridge Homelessness Review 2021  
Appendix 3 Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy Consultation Report

### **1. Introduction**

1.1 The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy sits beneath the Council Strategy, The Local Plan and the Housing Strategy. Local Authorities are

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legally obliged under the Homelessness Act 2002 (as amended) to update their Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy every five years, and to provide a comprehensive review of homelessness within their area. Following member approval, a final version of this strategy will be published in June of 2022 and will run until 2027.

- 1.2 Consultation on the draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy was undertaken in December of 2021, January 2022 and February of 2022. A report detailing the consultation methodology, outcomes and planned amendments to the strategy is attached. Please see appendix 3.
- 1.3 Following member approval of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, an action plan will be developed prioritising key projects designed to address and reduce levels of homelessness within the district. This action plan will run for eighteen months, and will be the first of three to be produced through the lifetime of the strategy. Key projects and actions derived from this strategy will be reviewed and reported on a quarterly basis via our Council Strategy and Housing Strategy Report.
- 1.4 Progress against the key aims and themes of our strategy will also be reported to representatives of key statutory and community and voluntary sector agencies via a Homelessness Forum which will be convened on a bi-annual basis.
- 1.5 A detailed Equality Impact Assessment is currently being developed in relation to the new strategy, and will be published alongside the final version of the strategy in June of 2022.

## 2. Report Detail

- 2.1 The draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy sets out what the council and its partners will be doing over the next five years to address and reduce levels of homelessness in the district. The approach we plan to take is divided into three core principles and three strategic priorities, namely:

### Core Principles

- Working In Partnership
- Using Data Effectively
- Putting the Client First

### Strategic Priorities

- Prevention
- Intervention
- Sustainment and Recovery

## 2.2 Consultation

2.2.1 Consultation on our draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy was undertaken using the following 5 methods:

- A workshop conducted with local representatives of the community and voluntary sector in Teignbridge
- An open formal consultation undertaken between 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021 and 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022.
- Feedback provided by staff working in the field of Housing and Homelessness at Teignbridge Council
- Focused interviews with the leads of key agencies including those supporting young people and commissioners of substance misuse services.
- Interviews with people with lived experience of homelessness in Teignbridge.

2.2.2 As a result of the consultation exercises listed above we plan to make the following improvements to our strategy:

- In relation to the establishment of a Homelessness Forum, meetings should include a combination of developing projects and sharing of relevant information from all parties.
- Developing mechanisms for capturing the voices of people with lived experience of homelessness should draw on local best practice examples such as the co-designing of services by Young Devon.
- We will include more specific reference to mental health services and the new Community Mental Health Framework.
- We will include a commitment to looking at the relationship between mental health crisis and debt.
- We will include specific reference to awareness raising in relation to homelessness and homelessness prevention, for example outreach/ visiting schools and undertaking workshops around housing options.
- We will commit to the promotion and utilisation of befriending services.
- We will commit to promoting and utilising apprenticeship schemes as a route into employment, particularly for young people.

- We will further explore the potential for including organisations within the private and social enterprise sectors into our wider homelessness partnership. We agree that this could have a positive financial and social impact and could benefit those experiencing homelessness.
- We will be more explicit in terms of our commitment to proactively use data in order to provide tangible benefits for service users.
- More explicit reference to the Teignbridge 100 development project should be included to emphasise our efforts to bring into existence more affordable housing for local residents.
- We will include more data to show the increased demand year on year for the Rough Sleeping Service.
- We will include a heavier emphasis on our approach to reducing levels of rough sleeping within the district.
- We will provide dedicated sections showing our approach to supporting vulnerable groups including; people with substance misuse issues, young people experiencing homelessness, victims of domestic abuse and violence, and people experiencing mental health issues.
- We will commit to investigating the unmet needs are of young people experiencing homelessness in terms of the provision of accommodation.
- We will commit to investigating the feasibility of an emergency accommodation and assessment centre in Teignbridge for young people.
- We will promote closer collaboration between Social care and Housing for cases of 'intentional homelessness'.
- We will link our strategy to the new Drugs Strategy which has just been released.
- We will acknowledge that moves between units of accommodation can be disruptive for people engaged with treatment services.
- We will commit to Housing and substance misuse services working collaboratively to investigate the potential for rapid prescribing for people experiencing street homelessness, and for those people recently accommodated from a position of street homelessness.
- We will promote an approach based on harm reduction and harm minimisation should be adopted prior to services users being fully engaged in

drug and alcohol treatments. Please link your strategy to the new Drugs Strategy which has just been released.

- Moves between units of accommodation can be disruptive for people engaged with treatment services. It would be helpful for this to be acknowledged within the strategy.
- Housing and substance misuse services should work collaboratively to investigate the potential for rapid prescribing for people experiencing street homelessness, and for those people recently accommodated from a position of street homelessness.
- An approach based on harm reduction and harm minimisation should be adopted prior to services users being fully engaged in drug and alcohol treatments.

### **3. Implications, Risk Management and Climate Change Impact**

#### **3.1 Financial**

As and when budget is required for the completion of any project derived from the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, or internal staffing resources need to be committed, a business case will be made and senior leadership and/ or democratic approval will be sought in line with our corporate and constitutional requirements.

#### **3.2 Legal**

Housing authorities are required by legislation (Homelessness Act 2002 and the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017) to carry out a periodic review of homelessness in their area and to update their Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy every five years. The purpose of the review is to determine the extent to which the population in the district is homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, assess the likely extent in the future, identify what is currently being done and by whom, and identify what resources are available to prevent and tackle homelessness.

Local housing authorities should use this understanding of homelessness in their area to inform their Homelessness Strategy and they are obliged by legislation to involve partners in this process.

#### **3.3 Risks**

For any future projects derived from the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, where required, the relevant project lead will assess risks and complete a risk register outlining any potential risks and associated mitigations.

### **3.4 Environmental/Climate Change Impact**

For any future projects derived from the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, where required, the relevant project lead will assess risks and complete a risk register outlining any potential risks and associated mitigations.

### **4. Alternative Options**

As detailed above, Local Authorities are required by law to have an up to date Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy in place. Failure to refresh our Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy would therefore constitute a breach of this statutory requirement.

### **5. Conclusion**

As outlined above, we request that the Committee endorse the approach outlined within the draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-2027, noting the proposed amendments resulting from consultation. The Committee is invited to comment on issues or actions that have been proposed as part of this work.

We also request that the Committee recommends to the Executive that the approach outlined in the draft Teignbridge Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-2027 is adopted, noting the feedback that has been provided via our 5 consultation exercises, which will enable us to refine and improve our final version of the strategy which we plan to publish in June of 2022.