

Teignbridge District Council
Committee name: Full Council
Meeting date: 24th May 2022
Part I

Report Title:

Teignbridge Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-2027

Purpose of Report

To request that Full Council approves and adopts the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-2027, noting the amendments resulting from consultation.

Recommendation(s)

That Full Council approves and adopts the Teignbridge Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-2027, noting the feedback that has been provided via our 5 consultation exercises, which has enabled us to refine and improve our final version of the strategy which we plan to publish in July of 2022.

Financial Implications

Martin Flitcroft, Chief Financial Officer and Head of Corporate Services
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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.

Paul Woodhead, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
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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
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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.

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Executive Member

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Appendices/Background Papers

Appendix 1 Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-2027
Appendix 2 The Teignbridge Homelessness Review 2021
Appendix 3 Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy Consultation Report
Appendix 4 Equality Impact Assessment for the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-2027.

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 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, the strategy will be published in July 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 resulting 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 for the strategy has been developed. Please see appendix 4.

2. Report Detail

- 2.1 The 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 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 2nd December 2021 and 4th 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 have made 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.
- 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 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.
- 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.
- 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 Full Council approves and adopts The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-2027, noting the amendments resulting from consultation.