



Cabinet

Tuesday, 8 February 2022

South Nottinghamshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022 to 2027

Report of the Director – Neighbourhoods

**Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Communities and Climate Change,
Councillor A Brennan**

1. Purpose of report

The Council is legally required to publish a Homelessness Strategy at least every five years. This report sets out to update Members on the key achievements of the current South Nottinghamshire Homelessness Strategy 2016 to 2021 and provides an opportunity to input into the South Nottinghamshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022 to 2027, which replaces and builds upon the previous Strategy.

2. Recommendation

It is **RECOMMENDED** that Cabinet approves the South Nottinghamshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022– 2027 (Appendix A).

3. Reasons for Recommendation

The draft South Nottinghamshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy seeks to:

- Raise awareness among Members, officers, partners, and the public about the homelessness challenges facing the Borough and wider South Nottinghamshire area and the Council's actions in response.
- Focus resources on priorities that make a practical difference with a strong focus on early intervention and assisting rough sleepers.
- Comply with the statutory requirement to produce a Homelessness Strategy every five years.
- Accord with the Council's corporate priorities and supports links to partnership plans and joint working.
- The Strategy provides a direction, focus and the performance framework for the delivery of Homelessness, Rough Sleeping, and housing support related services.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 The three boroughs of Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe have statutory responsibility for meeting their legislative requirements under the Homelessness Act 2002.
- 4.2 Section 1(4) of the Homelessness Act 2002 requires local authorities to publish a new Homelessness Strategy within a period of five years of the last published strategy.
- 4.3 This is the third joint Homelessness Strategy for the three boroughs. The last Homelessness Strategy was published in 2017. The Strategy builds on the achievements of the previous Homelessness Strategy and sets out a framework for continued improvements.
- 4.4 The three Borough's face many common challenges and work closely together to provide joint interventions to help prevent and relieve homelessness and rough sleeping. This includes multi-agency working through the South Nottinghamshire Inter Agency Homelessness Forum, the body which monitors progress on the action plan.
- 4.5 Over recent years, the homelessness landscape has seen a number of significant changes and challenges, including new duties on council's and other public sector organisations to prevent and relieve homelessness. The introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act and the Domestic Abuse Act have been positive steps in helping vulnerable groups, but this has been set against a backdrop of other challenges, notably, Welfare Reform, Universal Credit, and the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 4.6 More recently, and particularly since the Covid-19 pandemic, there has been an increased emphasis on assisting rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping with opportunities to provide specialist support and accommodation. This has resulted in several successful countywide bid submissions and initiatives, which will assist in creating a system wide approach to tackle homelessness, rough sleeping and improve health outcomes for the most vulnerable groups.
- 4.7 The new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and accompanying action plan focuses its actions around six identified key themes:
 - Early intervention through partnership working.
 - The provision of accessible, agile and responsive homelessness services.
 - Access to affordable and quality accommodation across all sectors.
 - Tackle rough sleeping by developing and improving pathways.
 - Linking health, well-being, and housing together to improve the life chances and aspirations of those affected.
 - Delivering long term support solutions to sustain tenancies for the most vulnerable.

- 4.8 The key themes, actions and associated targets were open for public consultation for an eight-week period from October to December 2021. The consultation results are set out in Appendix B.
- 4.9 The actions are assigned delivery targets which will be monitored across the term of the Strategy. Progress on the action plan will be reported to the South Nottinghamshire Interagency Forum and reviewed on a quarterly basis. It will also be monitored through the respective governance and performance management arrangements at each authority.

5. Risks and Uncertainties

The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy is a strategic Council document. The risk is that the targets set within the Plan are not met. However, targets will be reviewed by the South Nottinghamshire Inter-agency Forum on a quarterly basis and mitigation measures will be established if targets are slipping.

6. Implications

6.1. Financial Implications

The priorities and tasks identified within the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy will be contained within existing budgets. Further opportunities to bid for additional funding are available as part of the annual Spending Review. Currently, funding for the three authorities has been secured for rough sleeper initiatives, Next Steps Accommodation Programme (NSAP) (£311k) and Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme (RSAP) (£450k) schemes supporting the Strategy of the three authorities. Properties will be purchased and operated through Framework Housing Association, with the three councils having indefinite nomination rights to the units.

6.2. Legal Implications

The production of a Homelessness Strategy at least every five years is a statutory requirement.

6.3. Equalities Implications

The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy takes account of the effect of the Council's priorities on all residents of the Borough and is supported by the Council's Equality and Diversity Scheme. An equality impact assessment has been carried out and no adverse impacts have been identified.

6.4. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications

There are no direct Section 17 implications to the recommendations contained within this report; however, the Strategy and associated action plan will aim to have a broader positive impact on some of the most vulnerable in our society,

who without a fixed abode may fall victim to crime or indeed commit crime when rough sleeping.

7. Link to Corporate Priorities

Quality of Life	Strong partnership working will enable residents to have safer, healthier, and live longer lives in which they are able to fulfil their aspirations.
Efficient Services	The Plan supports partnership working and the most effective use of resources to prevent and tackle homelessness.
Sustainable Growth	The Plan supports the sustainable development of affordable and supported housing to meet the housing needs of existing low-income households and vulnerable groups.
The Environment	Sustainable housing solutions will enhance resident's quality of life and minimise the prevalence of poor quality housing across all tenures

8. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet approves the South Nottinghamshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022– 2027 (Appendix A).

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Background papers available for Inspection:	None
List of appendices:	A – South Nottinghamshire Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022 - 2027 B - Strategy Consultation Results Summary