



Ashfield

DISTRICT COUNCIL

ASHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL: EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

Please use this form to record any Executive Decision taken by a Cabinet Member or Chief Officer.

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE DECISION TAKER:

1. Title / Subject Matter:

HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY 2019-2024

To endorse the draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-24 and approve it for consultation with stakeholders and residents on the proposed objectives and actions.

2. Is this a Key Decision: YES

3. Decision Taken:

To endorse the draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-24

To approve a consultation exercise with stakeholders and residents on the proposed objectives and actions

Following the consultation, on the basis that only minor amendments are required, approve delegated authority to the Director of Housing and Assets in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder to finalise this Strategy.

4. Reasons for the Decision:

It is Ashfield District Council's vision that the residents of Ashfield have affordable and warm housing in a safe community that promotes their health and wellbeing. Preventing homelessness is key to achieving this vision and is identified as a priority in the Council's Corporate Plan.

Under the Homelessness Act 2002, every local housing authority is required to have a homelessness strategy in place which is based on a review of all forms of homelessness in their area. The strategy must be renewed at least every 5 years and must set out the authority's plans for the prevention of homelessness and for securing that sufficient accommodation and support are, or will be available for people who become homeless or who are at risk of becoming so.

This draft Strategy has been developed following extensive research, data analysis and stakeholder interviews. Approval is now sought to consult with stakeholders and residents on the proposed objectives and action plan that has emerged from this research before finalising the Strategy. This will include a consultation session open to all Councillors.

The aims of this Strategy are to:

- Prevent as many residents as possible from becoming homeless
- Ensure options are available to ensure no one has to sleep rough other than through personal choice
- Help as many residents as possible to move seamlessly from one home to another without the need for emergency or temporary accommodation
- Provide a high quality service that customers indicate satisfaction with

The objectives of this Strategy are:

1. To improve the financial resilience amongst the population at risk of homelessness through a proactive and integrated local welfare benefits system
2. To increase the amount of social housing available to households at risk of, or experiencing homelessness and increase the sustainability of social housing tenancies by these households
3. To deliver the additional required supported housing and housing related support
4. To increase the amount of Private Rented Sector (PRS) housing available to households at risk of, or experiencing homelessness and increase the sustainability of PRS tenancies by these households
5. To ensure the support needs of households at risk of, or experiencing homelessness are appropriately met in order to reduce their risk of homelessness and the risk of homelessness increasing their support needs
6. To minimise rough sleeping and street activity and encourage the community to do their bit to end homelessness
7. To achieve high customer satisfaction with the outcome and experience of the support provided by Ashfield District Council Housing Options
8. To ensure services are designed based on robust evidence and effectively monitored and evaluated.

The Council cannot achieve this vision on its own and a central theme to this Strategy is partnership working.

5. Copy of the Report or Briefing Note setting out the information which was used as the basis for the Decision:

The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-2024 is attached.

6. Was the Decision classed as exempt? If so, what were the reasons for this: NO

7. Alternative Options Considered / Rejected:

Not preparing a homelessness strategy – this was not considered as the Council is required by the Homelessness Act 2002 to have a homelessness strategy in place.

Not consulting with stakeholders and residents – this was not adopted as partnership working is essential to achieving the aims and objectives of this Strategy and it is important to have the support of stakeholders and residents and ensure that their views are included in every stage of the development of this Strategy.

8. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations – if applicable:

Not applicable

9. Name / Title of the relevant lead Cabinet Member(s) consulted (if appropriate):

CABINET MEMBER (OUTWARD FOCUS), COUNCILLOR JOHN WILMOTT

10. Name / Title of the decision taker:

Cabinet Member (Outward Focus)
Councillor John Wilmott



Date: 18-3-2019.

TO BE COMPLETED BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES	
1.	Date that the decision was notified to members: 18 MARCH 2019
2.	Date and time when the Call-in period for this decision ends: 5pm 25 MARCH 2019
3.	Date when the decision can be implemented (five working days following publication): 26 MARCH 2019
4.	Decision Reference Number: NA

The completed form should be emailed to the Democratic Services Team:

democratic.services@ashfield.gov.uk

They will arrange for it to be published on the Council's web site.

EXEMPT OR CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF THE DECISION:

Use this section to share any confidential information. This will not be published or placed on the Council's web site. It will only be shared within the Authority, as appropriate.

For further support or guidance please contact Ruth Dennis, Director of Legal and Governance (and Monitoring Officer) r.dennis@ashfield.gov.uk or any member of the Democratic Services Team.