

Report to: **Overview & Scrutiny Panel**  
Date: **28 June 2018**  
Title: **Homelessness Strategy Action Plan 2018/19**  
Portfolio Area: **Customer First**  
  
Wards Affected: **All**  
Relevant Scrutiny Committee: **N/A**

Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**

Date next steps can be taken:

Author: **Sophie Cobbledick** Role: **Housing Specialist**

Contact: **01803 861441 email:**  
[Sophie.cobbledick@swdevon.gov.uk](mailto:Sophie.cobbledick@swdevon.gov.uk)

---

**Recommendations:**

**That the Overview & Scrutiny Panel RECOMMEND to the Executive that the Homelessness Strategy Action Plan 2018/19 be adopted with effect from 1 April 2018.**

**1. Executive summary**

- 1.1. Members will recall the adoption of the 2017-22 Homelessness Strategy and the corresponding Action plan for the year 2017/18.
- 1.2. The review of the 2017/18 Action plan has been completed and surmised in appendix 1.
- 1.3. The draft 2018-19 Action plan is attached as appendix 2 and details the proposed actions for the Strategy's second year.
- 1.4. Widespread consultation with partner organisations on the action plan was completed in April 2018 with 100% of respondents either agreeing or strongly agreeing with the proposed actions. A summary of these responses is attached as Appendix 3

## 2. Background

- 2.1. It is a statutory requirement of the Homeless Act 2002 for each Local Authority to have a homeless strategy, which reviews homelessness and its causes locally, and the plan to tackle and prevent homelessness in their area. It is also a requirement that the Authority will consult with the public or Local Authorities, voluntary organisations or other as they consider appropriate. Whilst it is not a requirement to consult on the annual action plans it was felt that the input of partner agencies in the formation of the annual plan would be of benefit to us.
- 2.2. The South Hams and West Devon Joint Homelessness Strategy was adopted in 2017 and included a requirement to produce an annual Action plan and the requirement to report to members annually on progress against the previous year's action plan.

## 3. Outcomes/outputs

- 3.1. Members are asked to recommend to the Executive the adoption of the 2018-19 South Hams & West Devon Homeless Strategy Action Plan.
- 3.2. Officers will report back annually on progress against the Action Plan, and to agree the actions for the following year.

## 4. Options available and consideration of risk

- 4.1. The introduction of the Homeless Reduction Act 2017 has altered the legislative framework within which Local Authorities are required to perform. The formulation of the 18-19 Action plan has taken into consideration the impact of the legislative changes. This Authority already offered a prevention-led service rather than one that is reactive, so has found itself in a strong position to respond to the changes in legislation. Furthermore the plans to tackle and prevent homelessness, as contained in the strategy, are designed to strengthen wherever possible the effective work of early intervention.
- 4.2. Some of the actions may require funding. It is important to note that Local Authorities still receive a prevention of homeless grant from central Government. In South Hams this is for £78,132 and in West Devon this is for £64,148. This is likely to remain at least until 2020. We are not making any request for additional funding to deliver this strategy.
- 4.3. Members will note that our current financial advice service is contracted to Citizens Advice. The contract value is £25,000 per year split equally between South Hams and West Devon. The contract is due for re tender in June 2018.

## 5. Proposed Way Forward

- 5.1. That Members recommend the adoption of the 2018-19 Action Plan.

## 6. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address

Legal/Governance	Y	It is a legal requirement of the 2002 Homeless Act to have a homeless strategy
Financial	Y	No additional funding is sought at this time.  It is important to note that Local Authorities still receive a prevention of homeless grant from central Government. In South Hams this is for £78,132 and in West Devon this is for £64,148. This is likely to remain at least until 2020. As most of the Actions are designed around homeless prevention and early intervention, the larger costs of temporary accommodation and rehousing will wherever possible be negated. This by far not only offers the best service for the customer but is the most efficient in terms of the Local Authority.
Risk	N	
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity	Y	The public consultation was reflective of the local demographic.
Safeguarding	Y	As the Homeless Strategy Action Plan concerns work with very vulnerable people and one of the priorities is around Health and Wellbeing, the corporate safeguarding policy will underpin the work of officers who regularly work with homeless households.
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder	Y	Devon & Cornwall Police have contributed to the development of the Action Plan and will remain significant partners during the delivery of relevant actions in the action plan.
Health, Safety and Wellbeing	Y	The prime concern for the Strategy is around tackling and preventing homelessness which in turn is designed around improving the health and wellbeing of people living in the area.
Other implications		

### **Supporting Information**

#### **Appendices:**

Appendix 1 Review of 2017-18 Action plan

Appendix 2 South Hams & West Devon Homelessness Strategy Action Plan 2018/19

Appendix 3 Summary of the Consultation online responses

#### **Background Papers:**

None