

Report to: **Hub Committee**

Date: **1st February 2022**

Title: **Public Consultation Homeless Strategy
2022- 2027**

Portfolio Area: **Homes – Cllr Barry Ratcliffe**

Wards Affected: **all**

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

Date next steps can be taken:

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

Contact: **email: Sophie.cobbledick@swdevon.gov.uk**

Recommendations:

1. That the Hub agree to commence public consultation on the draft Homeless Strategy 2022-2027

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 Members received an update on the proposed direction of the next 5 year homeless strategy in the housing challenges report of the 7th December 2022
- 1.2 As a result of the review 4 key areas of housing need were identified.
 - i. Single Households
 - ii. Families
 - iii. Households with additional needs
 - iv. Rough Sleepers
- 1.3 It is proposed to commence public consultation on a draft strategy in line with the adopted consultation and engagement strategy which will commence after the call in period for this report.
- 1.4 On review of comments and suggestions, a final draft will be presented to the Hub, with a recommendation to Council

to adopt the new strategy. This is not likely to be before the 24th May meeting, although the recommendation will suggest retrospective adoption from the 1st April 2022

1.5 The draft strategy is attached at appendix 1

2. Background

- 2.1 The Homelessness Act 2002 places a duty on local authorities to review homelessness and the influencing factors that cause homelessness and to develop a strategy that addresses the findings of the review.
- 2.2 The current strategy is shortly at the end of its 5 year life span. The review of the achievements of this strategy were presented to Members at the Hub meeting of the 7th December 2021 (ref HC 53/21) which included current and likely future needs and trends.
- 2.3 As of the 10th of January actions under this strategy has resulted in the prevention of homelessness for 1017 households in West Devon, and a further 1450 households in South Hams, with whom this strategy is shared.
- 2.4 The draft strategy is person focused rather than theme focused as its predecessor was, instead focusing on actions around different client groups As listed in section 1.2
- 2.5 The impact of the pandemic on local housing need has been significant, and the new strategy comes at an opportune time to address the additional challenges our residents face.
- 2.6 On the 11th January Members attended a workshop on the new strategy where there was support for the approach
- 2.7 Public consultation will begin shortly after the call in period for this report and this will also include a stakeholder event with our statutory and voluntary partners.

3. Outcomes/outputs

- 3.1 If Members agree to commence public consultation it will ensure we are able to bring forward a new homeless strategy that residents and stakeholders have had an opportunity for input. Public consultation will be conducted in a number of ways:
 - Using the Council's website and Survey Monkey
 - A stakeholders strategy consultation event
 - Consultation with targeted service users and groups

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

- 4.1 Public consultation, whilst not a legal requirement of a Homeless Strategy is a priority in West Devon and engaging with our residents is aligned with our adopted corporate engagement strategy

5. Proposed Way Forward

5.1 That the Hub Committee agree to commence public consultation on the draft Homeless Strategy 2022-2027

6. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance	Y	It is not a legal requirement to consult It is a legal requirement to have a homeless strategy (Homeless Act 2002)
Financial implications to include reference to value for money		Consultation Activity will be met through existing budgets
Risk	Y	There is reputational risk if the Hub chose not to publically consult as there is an adopted corporate engagement strategy
Supporting A Plan for West Devon	Y	Homes & Wellbeing
Consultation and Engagement Undertaken or Proposed	Y	Using the Council's website and Survey Monkey. A stakeholder's strategy consultation event. Consultation with targeted service users and groups
Climate Change - Carbon / Biodiversity Impact		No direct impacts of this report
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity	Y	A equality impact assessment will be completed as part of the new strategy prior to adoption
Safeguarding	Y	No direct implications as a result of this report, but the strategy itself contains various activity to support vulnerable households.

Community Safety, Crime and Disorder	Y	No direct implications, although we will be consulting with the community safety partnership and inviting them to comment
Health, Safety and Wellbeing	Y	No direct implications as a result of this report but the strategy itself contains various activity to promote wellbeing
Other implications		

Supporting Information

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Draft Homeless Strategy 2022-2027

Background Papers:

Homeless strategy 2017-2022

Homelessness Act 2002

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Approval and clearance of report

Process checklist	Completed
Portfolio Holder briefed/sign off	Yes
SLT Rep briefed/sign off	Yes
Relevant Heads of Practice sign off (draft)	Yes
Data protection issues considered	Yes
Need for a Communications Plan?	Yes
Accessibility checked	Yes