

DRAFT HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY 2020 - 2025

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE



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PORTFOLIO	Housing and Leisure
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PURPOSE

1. To seek approval from Members to consult on a draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020 – 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That Executive:
 - a) Approve the document included at Appendix 1 as a draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020 – 2025 and authorise officers to conduct a consultation exercise with partners and stakeholders.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. To ensure the Council meet its statutory duty to publish a Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy to cover the period 2020 – 2025.
4. To enable partners and stakeholders to input into the development of the strategy ensuring the final document is a comprehensive strategy supported by those organisations and agencies that will be instrumental to its delivery.
5. To ensure the strategy is fit for purpose and effective to prevent homelessness and rough sleeping across the borough.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

6. As part of the Homelessness Act 2002, the Homeless Reduction Act 2017 and the Governments Rough Sleeping Strategy 2018 each Local Authority has a duty to agree

and publish a strategy document that details how the authority plans to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping over the following five year period.

7. There is a distinction between the definitions of homeless and rough sleeping. A person who is rough sleeping is bedding down in the open air. A person who is homeless has no home they can occupy that is secure but will not be sleeping in the open air. A person can be deemed homeless if they are in some form of temporary accommodation, staying with friends or relatives, or some other temporary housing situation and require a permanent home of their own.
8. There are three separate but sequential documents that make up the draft strategy.
 - **The Homelessness Review** – that contains a comprehensive review and analysis of homelessness and rough sleeping in the borough
 - **The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy** – that sets out the aims and priorities that will be the focus of service provision
 - **The Action Plan** – which details the specific actions that will be undertaken to deliver the aims of the strategy and meet its priorities.
9. Work to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping cuts across a number of sectors and involves a broad range of services and organisations. The success of any strategy that aims to tackle these issues needs agreement and buy-in from partners and stakeholders. Many of the objectives contained within the strategy will only be achieved through close partnership working and collaboration with partner agencies and it is therefore important they have an input into the development of the document.
10. Ultimately the intention of the Local Authority is that the strategy is viewed as a partnership document that sets out the central aims of the Council and the wider partnership that works to prevent homelessness and end rough sleeping. These aims are set out under 5 priority areas,
 - **Universal Prevention:** *Ensure everyone knows about the housing options available in Burnley and where to go for help*
 - **Targeted Prevention:** *Reaching people earlier if they are at risk of becoming homeless in the future*
 - **Preventing and relieving homelessness at crisis point:** *Help to keep a home or find another one*
 - **Recovery:** *Helping homeless people who are vulnerable and need support to recover so they can manage a home in the future*

Having a suitable range of Housing Options: *a range of options for those in housing need and homeless people to move in to with support if needed*
11. The consultation will run for 6 weeks following which a final draft will be produced and presented to the Executive for approval.
12. Due to the Covid – 19 pandemic it will be necessary to redesign the consultation programme to remove face to face and group meetings with significantly greater emphasis on online consultation and social media communication.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

13. There are no direct cost implications associated with the recommendation in this report.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

14. Approval of the recommendation in this report is necessary to allow the Council to meet its statutory duty to publish a Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

15. N/A

BACKGROUND PAPERS

16. None

FURTHER INFORMATION

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