

# HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY 2021 - 2026

## REPORT TO EXECUTIVE



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PORTFOLIO	Housing
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### PURPOSE

1. To seek approval from Members for the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2021 – 2026.

### RECOMMENDATION

2. That Executive:
  - a) Approve the document included at Appendix 1 as Burnley's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2021 – 2026.
  - b) Approve the document included as Appendix 2 as Burnley's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2021 – 2026 Action Plan.
  - c) Approve the document included at Appendix 3 as Burnley's Homelessness Review.

### REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. To ensure the Council meet its statutory duty to publish a Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy to cover the period 2021 – 2026.
4. To ensure that the borough has a comprehensive strategy to effectively prevent and relieve homelessness and rough sleeping across the borough.

### SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

5. 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 5-year period.

6. There are three separate but sequential documents that make up the strategy.
- ***The Homelessness Review*** – that contains a comprehensive review and analysis of homelessness and rough sleeping in the borough (*labelled as Appendix 1 to the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy*).
  - ***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.
7. Work to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping cuts across several 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. To achieve this a consultation exercise has been carried out during November and December 2020, to seek the views of partner agencies and stakeholders.
8. Due to the Covid – 19 pandemic it was necessary to adopt a different approach to the consultation programme that removed face to face and group meetings with significantly greater emphasis on online consultation. The strategy was published and advertised on the Council's website and promoted through social media. A press release was issued and links to access the relevant information were sent to all partners and stakeholders and Members of the Council.
9. The consultation responses were supportive of the Strategy and Action Plan, and only resulted in a small number of minor changes to the document.
10. The strategy is 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 strategy will be implemented over the 5-year term. The action plan will be reviewed annually and updated as appropriate to monitor progress and ensure the document remains relevant and effective.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION**

12. There are no immediate cost implications associated with the recommendations in this report. Any future costs associated with the implementation of the Homelessness and

Rough Sleeping Strategy 2021 – 2026 will be properly identified and approved in line with Council procedures.

#### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

13. 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**

14. General open consultation through the Council website and social media platforms, the Burnley and Pendle Homelessness Forum that covers a range of professional, voluntary and statutory agencies, Calico Homes Ltd, and the Cross Party Homelessness Working Group.

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

15. None

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

**PLEASE CONTACT:**

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