



Civic Centre,
Arnot Hill Park,
Arnold,
Nottinghamshire,
NG5 6LU

Agenda

Cabinet

Date: **Thursday 7 December 2017**

Time: **12.30 pm**

Place: **Chappell Room**

For any further information please contact:

Alec Dubberley

Service Manager Democratic Services

0115 901 3906

Cabinet

Membership

Chair Councillor John Clarke

Vice-Chair Councillor Michael Payne

Councillor Peter Barnes
Councillor David Ellis
Councillor Gary Gregory
Councillor Jenny Hollingsworth
Councillor Henry Wheeler

Observers: Councillor Chris Barnfather

AGENDA

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- 1 Apologies for Absence.**
- 2 To approve, as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2017.** 5 - 10
- 3 Declaration of Interests.**
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- 5 Gedling Conversation 2017** 85 - 88
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Report of the Director of Organisational Development & Democratic Services.
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- 8 Progress Reports from Portfolio Holders.**
- 9 Member's Questions to Portfolio Holders.**
- 10 Any other items the Chair considers urgent.**

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MINUTES CABINET

Thursday 2 November 2017

Councillor John Clarke (Chair)

Councillor Michael Payne
Councillor Peter Barnes
Councillor David Ellis

Councillor Jenny Hollingsworth
Councillor Henry Wheeler

Observers: Councillor Chris Barnfather

Absent: Councillor Gary Gregory

Officers in Attendance: D Alvey, H Barrington, A Dubberley, M Hill and
D Wakelin

48 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Gregory.

49 TO APPROVE, AS A CORRECT RECORD, THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 OCTOBER 2017.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the above meeting, having been circulated, be approved as a correct record.

50 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

None

51 QUARTER 2 BUDGET MONITORING, PERFORMANCE DIGEST & VIREMENT REPORT

The Deputy Chief Executive introduced a report, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, informing Members of the likely outturn of the Revenue and Capital Budgets for the 2017/18 financial year as at the end of Quarter 2. The Director of Organisational Development and Democratic Services provided some details of performance for the same period.

RESOLVED to:

- 1) Note the progress against Improvement Actions and Performance Indicators in the 2017/19 Gedling Plan;
- 2) Approve the General Fund Revenue Budget virements included in Appendix 1 to the report;
- 3) Note the use of reserves and funds during quarter two as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report; and
- 4) Approve the changes to the capital programme included in paragraph 2.2.3 of the report.

52 PRUDENTIAL CODE INDICATOR MONITORING 2017/18 AND QUARTERLY TREASURY ACTIVITY REPORT FOR QUARTER ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2017

The Deputy Chief Executive introduced a report, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, informing Members of the performance monitoring of the 2017/18 Prudential Code Indicators, and advising Members of the quarterly treasury activity, as required by the Treasury Management Strategy.

RESOLVED to:

- 1) Note the report, together with the Treasury Activity Report 2017/18 for Quarter 2, at Appendix 1 to the report, and the Prudential and Treasury Indicator Monitoring 2017/18 for Quarter 2, at Appendix 3 to the report; and
- 2) Approve the amendment to the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2017/18, to add the use of Property Funds to the list of approved investment instruments referred to at 2.7(i) above, and refer the amendment to Full Council for approval as required by the regulations.

53 FORWARD PLAN

Consideration was given to a report of the Service Manager, Elections and Members' Services, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, detailing the Executive's draft Forward Plan for the next four month period.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

54 PROGRESS REPORTS FROM PORTFOLIO HOLDERS.

Councillor Henry Wheeler (Housing, Health and Well-being)

- A new accountable officer was in post at the Clinical Commissioning Group who would be overseeing a restructure of the group.
- A recent meeting was held which provided an update on the work of the CCG including planned improvements to some GP premises, work to support young carers through their schools, an action plan to address falls in the elderly and work to help diabetes sufferers manage their own conditions more effectively.

Councillor Jenny Hollingsworth (Growth and Regeneration)

- The most recent Gedling Business Partnership meeting was well attended although new businesses are always welcome.
- An Apprenticeship Fair would be held in February.
- A meeting was held last month to update on housing delivery progress and work with developers to encourage construction on stalled sites has taken place.

Councillor David Ellis (Public Protection)

- The Council's "Warm Homes on Prescription" scheme had been recently recognised as the best in the East Midlands.
- Consultation events on the Selective Licensing Scheme for Netherfield had taken place and further such events were planned.

Councillor Peter Barnes (Environment)

- Work was underway to design a scheme to install at the new Haywood Road Park.
- Improvement works at Carlton Cemetery were progressing well and scheduled for completion at the end of the month.
- Work to secure the disused tunnel at the Country Park was now complete.

Councillor Michael Payne (Resources and Reputation)

- Reminders for residents on when to put their bins out were now being sent to residents who had opted-in via the keep me posted service.

Councillor John Clarke (Leader of the Council)

- From the Community Development portfolio it was reported that the play days across the Borough were very well attended.
- A recent informal meeting was held with Members of the Seniors Council who would be meeting again in the New Year.
- A useful meeting was recently held with other Nottinghamshire Districts to share best practice on how to deal with illegal traveller encampments.
- The Bonington Theatre would be live streaming performances of the National Ballet from the Royal Opera House.
- A meeting was recently held with Gedling Homes to discuss a range of issues.

55 MEMBER'S QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDERS.

None received.

56 ANY OTHER ITEMS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT.

None.

57 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Councillor Clarke introduced a report relating to the purchase of Arnold Market. He explained that there was information in the report that was commercially sensitive and legally privileged. He therefore moved that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of the item.

RESOLVED:

That Members being satisfied that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the ensuing report on the grounds that the report involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 3 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

58 ARNOLD MARKET

The Service Manager for Economic Growth and Regeneration introduced a report, including a not for publication appendix, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, seeking approval to acquire the Arnold Market site and associated buildings.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To recommend to Council that a budget is established to acquire the Arnold Market site (as shown on the Plan at Appendix 1 to the report) for no more than the sum set out in Exempt Appendix 2 to the report;
- 2) That subject to budget approval by Council to:
 - a) Approve the acquisition of the site using the Council's powers under Section 226 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990;
 - b) Delegate authority to the Chief Executive to agree Heads of Terms for the acquisition of the site (as shown on the Plan at Appendix 1 to the report), to make a formal offer for no more than the maximum price set out in Exempt Appendix 2 to the report, and, subject to the offer being accepted, to complete the acquisition of the site; and
 - c) Authorise officers to progress proposals for improvements to the appearance of the site and its operation, the details of which will be reported to members at a future date.

The meeting finished at 2.25 pm

Signed by Chair:
Date:

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Report to Cabinet

Subject: South Nottinghamshire Homelessness Strategy 2017-21

Date: 7 December 2017

Author: Report of the Chief Executive

Wards Affected

All

Purpose

To seek approval for the South Nottinghamshire Homelessness Strategy 2017-2021 at Appendix one.

Key Decision

This is a key decision because it is likely to be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards of the Borough.

Background

- 1.1 The draft South Nottinghamshire Homelessness Strategy was presented to Cabinet for consideration and feedback in April with the recommendation that the final strategy was presented to Cabinet once the Homelessness Reduction Bill was enacted. The previous paper to Cabinet is attached as Appendix two.
- 1.2 The Council has strategic responsibility for meeting our legislative requirements under the Homelessness Act 2002. The Homelessness Act 2012 requires Local Authorities to publish a new homelessness strategy within a period of 5 years.
- 1.3 This is the second joint homelessness strategy for South Nottinghamshire. The last joint homelessness strategy was published in 2013 and is due to expire at the end of this year.

Proposal

- 2.1 The Homelessness Reduction Bill was enacted on 27th April. Since

that time, the South Nottinghamshire Councils have benefitted from a greater understanding of the implications of the Act and a consultation draft Homelessness Code of Guidance is currently out for consultation.

2.2 Whilst this has resulted in a need to amend the action plan to fully take account of the implications of the Act, the understanding of implications at the time the draft report was presented to Cabinet has remained correct and has meant that the body of the strategy remains unchanged.

2.3 As outlined in the previous report to Cabinet, the focus of the Strategy remains on the following priorities:

- **Minimising demand** through delivering interventions to ensure that households know where to access advice and support at the appropriate time that assists them to avoid or deal with issues that could lead to homelessness.
- **Reducing the extent of crisis presentations** by working in a more joined up way to identify those households at high risk of homelessness
- **Delivering effective services at the point of contact** by ensuring that households who approach services across South Nottinghamshire will be able to access effective advice and assistance to prevent homelessness
- **Providing appropriate accommodation options** by ensuring that partners are able to facilitate access to appropriate accommodation to prevent and resolve homelessness in the short, medium and long term
- **Moving people away from homelessness** by reducing incidences of repeat homelessness through enabling a range of options that will assist people in accessing education, training, employment or other appropriate support.

2.4 The Strategy was developed through the South Nottinghamshire Inter Agency Homelessness Forum, which includes representatives from all three Boroughs; the County Council and a number of partner organisations with a homelessness remit. The strategy has undergone extensive consultation over a 12 week period (11 November 2016 – 6 February 2017) and provided opportunities for partners to contribute to the development of the strategy. Consultees included neighbouring Councils; County Council; Social Landlords; Nottinghamshire Public Health and third sector organisations dealing

with homeless clients. Responses were received from a wide range of partner organisations including Nottinghamshire County Council; the Probation Service; Homelessness Charities; other Councils; local colleges; the NHS and private landlord representatives. As reported to Cabinet in April 2017, overall, the responses confirmed that the priorities contained within the draft strategy were appropriate. Significantly, responses very much confirmed the need to ensure appropriate homelessness prevention services are in place and that opportunities to bolster access to wider support through partners, including relating to training opportunities and health, are maximised.

- 2.5 A summary of the consultation responses together with the Council's response for consideration by Cabinet is available as appendix three. Cabinet will note that a number of minor changes have been made to the original draft Strategy in light of the consultation responses.

The overall focus of the strategy remains on preventing homelessness. This is reflective of Government priorities and statutory obligations for local authorities contained in the Homelessness Reduction Act.

As stated, the body of the Strategy remains as per the draft presented to Cabinet in April. However, actions covering the following have been included in the Action Plan to better reflect the greater understanding of the implications of the Homelessness Reduction Act:

- Examining ways that support needs can be addressed within personalised action plans
- Ensuring that staff are fully prepared for the new requirements of the Homelessness Reduction Act
- Ensuring that partner agencies are fully briefed and prepared for the new requirements of the Homelessness Reduction Act
- Working with our software provider to ensure our requirements are communicated and work scheduled in within appropriate timescales including the need for staff training
- Joint work across the South of the County to provide consistent advice and information.

- 2.6 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed for the Strategy which suggests a positive impact of Strategy across all groups experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The Equalities Impact Assessment is attached as Appendix four.

Alternative Options

- 3.1 It is a legal requirement to update the homelessness strategy at least every 5 years, therefore the strategy must be updated by end of the Calendar year.
- 3.2 Gedling Borough Council could produce a stand-alone Homelessness Strategy. However, we work closely with Broxtowe and Rushcliffe Borough Councils in many aspects of housing and are able to pool resources; many statutory and voluntary sector agencies work across the area so they only need a single channel of engagement rather than three separate relationships and Nottinghamshire County Council treats the three boroughs as a single area for the purposes of commissioning housing related support services.

Financial Implications

- 4.1 Actions planned will be contained within existing budgets. Any additional costs are subject to appropriate internal and external funding streams being identified

Appendices

- 5.1 South Nottinghamshire Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan
- 5.2 Draft South Nottinghamshire Homelessness Strategy - report to Cabinet 6 April 2017
- 5.3 Summary of responses received to the Homelessness Strategy consultation
- 5.4 Equalities Impact Assessment

Background Papers

- 6.1 South Nottinghamshire Homelessness Strategy 2013-2017

Recommendation(s)

That Cabinet:

Approve the South Nottinghamshire Homelessness Strategy 2017-2021 at Appendix one.

Reasons for Recommendations

To ensure that the Council has a Homelessness Strategy in place which focusses resources on priorities that make a practical difference with a strong focus on preventing homelessness and meets statutory requirements.

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South Nottinghamshire Homelessness Strategy 2017-2021

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Councillors Foreword

As the Housing Portfolio Holders for Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe Councils, we are pleased to introduce South Nottinghamshire's second joint Homelessness Strategy. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the organisations and individuals who have contributed towards its development.

Since the South Nottinghamshire Councils produced the first joint homelessness strategy in 2013, significant progress has been to improve services and deliver a range of housing initiatives, of which a number of examples are outlined within this Strategy. We recognise that at a time of increasing pressures on homelessness services due to factors such as welfare reform; rising house prices and increased funding challenges for support services, it is more important than ever to ensure that existing services are effective at rising to new and increasing challenges.

The strategy outlines the key homelessness issues in South Nottinghamshire and sets our priorities for action. We are determined to continue to work effectively with partners across the public, private and voluntary sectors to maximise opportunities to deliver this Strategy. If you think you can help us to deliver on these priorities please come and talk to us.

Introduction

The three Boroughs of Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe have strategic responsibility for meeting our legislative requirements under the Homelessness Act 2002. Section 1(4) of the Homelessness Act 2002 requires Local Authorities to publish a new homelessness strategy within a period of 5 years. This is the second joint homelessness review for the three Boroughs; the last joint homelessness strategy was published in 2013.

The South Nottinghamshire Homelessness Strategy sets out how the three Councils and our partners aim to tackle homelessness over the next five years.

By building on successful partnerships and service provision and by developing new and improved ways of working we can assist anyone who is threatened by or is experiencing homelessness in South Nottinghamshire.

The strategy sets the agenda, enabling us to continue to meet the needs of people in South Nottinghamshire and to eliminate the threat of homelessness from their lives which fully reflects the national priorities for a continued focus on homelessness prevention.

The South Nottinghamshire Homelessness Strategy sets out:

- The homelessness challenges facing South Nottinghamshire
- How the strategy was developed
- The key objectives of the strategy
- How we will deliver the strategy

The strategy sets the framework for improving access to housing. Supporting vulnerable people and minimising rough sleeping continue to be our priorities, together with a greater emphasis on developing clear pathways and effective preventive interventions.

Since publication in 2013, there has been significant progress through the implementation of South Nottinghamshire's first homelessness strategy through stronger partnership working between the three Councils and our partners.

The strategy was based on the following main strategic objectives:

- No one should have to sleep rough in South Nottinghamshire
- All local authorities will work with partners to reduce the number of homeless applications they need to consider year on year
- All councils will minimise the use of Bed & Breakfast accommodation for homeless households, with the long term aim of ending it altogether
- Knowing that there is insufficient social housing to meet demand, all potentially homeless clients will get the help they need to access private rented housing
- All young people in South Nottinghamshire should learn about homelessness, realistic housing options, domestic abuse and healthy relationships in school
- All client groups with special needs will have clear and up to date referral pathways so that it is clear which agency is responsible for providing services to them at what time

Key Achievements

The three Councils have worked effectively to improve homelessness services over recent years, examples of these achievements are outlined below:

- Delivering over 500 affordable homes through successful partnerships during 2013 to 2016
- Successfully bidding for funding to commission research into the accommodation and support needs of 19-35 year olds to identify current gaps, further challenges through welfare reform and identify opportunities to minimise negative impacts
- As part of a Nottinghamshire-wide consortium, successfully bidding for £370,000 of funding over 2 years to provide a county-wide rough sleeper service and extend street outreach services across Nottinghamshire
- Achieving 4,645 homelessness preventions from 2013 to 2016 across the three areas
- Successful provision and support of accommodation for 56 Syrian Refugees as part of the Syrian Vulnerable Person's Resettlement Programme and Vulnerable Children's Relocation Programme
- Successfully delivering Private Landlords partnership events, attended by over 60 landlords and letting agents
- Working with Broxtowe Youth Homelessness to deliver educational sessions to over 6,000 year 10 and 11 students in South Nottinghamshire to raise awareness, challenge stereotypes and equip young people with the knowledge to make informed housing choices and access support

- Utilisation of temporary accommodation at Hound Lodge and Elizabeth House to meet housing need across the three areas
- Contributing to the development of the County-wide Housing & Health Commissioning Group and the development of the Health and Wellbeing Plan, including identification of best practice pilot schemes
- Reviewed the implementation of the new Housing Allocations Policy and the Choice Based Letting system to ensure that it is accessible and meeting the needs of local residents

The three South Nottinghamshire Boroughs of Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe have a strong track record of collaborative working between the three areas and with other partners to prevent and relieve homelessness. This includes operating with a joint choice based lettings system for the three areas and broadly aligned allocations policies. The three Councils also collaborate closely on issues such as the provision of temporary accommodation. Additionally, the Councils work closely with Nottinghamshire County Council which has responsibility relating to a range of functions linked to homelessness, such as relating to younger persons supported accommodation as they hold the duty to assist under 18 year olds.

The South Nottinghamshire Councils are fully aware that effective partnership working is essential to delivering this homelessness strategy. There are a range of partnerships in place to deliver and monitor the strategy. Notably, the South Nottinghamshire Inter Agency Homelessness Forum was established in July 2012 to bring together a wide range of statutory and voluntary agencies involved in preventing homelessness and providing services to homeless people. The shared strategy and its action plan are far from being the only or main reason for the forum, but they are intended as a focal point to which all partners can contribute their actions and achievements and build a joined-up picture of the services available. The authorities have undertaken to report

progress against the action plan to the forum on a regular basis, making it transparent and accountable, and avoiding the possibility that the action plan could be “left on the shelf”.

We fully rely on effectively working with our partners; our local communities; large and small private sector bodies ranging from developers and construction companies to private landlords; the broader public sector and our local third sector.

We recognise that we are all working to achieve the same goals and that it is in everyone’s interests for South Nottinghamshire to have homes where people can thrive. However, we also understand that each of our partners will have their own considerations to take into account which may require a different approach to reflect local circumstances. Effective partnerships across all sectors built on a foundation of trust and mutual respect will enable partners to meet the key challenges identified in this strategy.

The last five years has provided very significant challenges with regard to preventing and relieving homelessness. Most notably, a reduction in the availability of support services has meant that housing options teams are dealing with increasingly complex workloads and clients with often very significant needs, including mental health. The reduction in support services means that clients who previously could approach specialist support services at an early stage are now approaching housing teams when they are at crisis point.

This means that it is more important than ever to ensure that the existing services are effective at rising to new and increasing challenges underpinned by strong partnerships.

Homelessness Reduction Bill

The increased Government focus on homelessness prevention is welcome. The Homelessness Reduction Bill, reforms the homelessness duties placed on local authorities to intervene at earlier stages to prevent homelessness which more closely reflects current legislation in Scotland and Wales.

The Bill is seeking to amend Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 and requires local authorities to provide new homelessness services to all individuals affected, not just those protected under existing legislation. Its measures include:

- An extension of the period during which an authority should treat someone as threatened with homelessness from 28 to 56 days.
- Clarification of the action an authority should take when someone applies for assistance having been served with a section 8 or section 21 notice of intention to seek possession from an assured shorthold tenancy.
- A new duty to prevent homelessness for all eligible applicants threatened with homelessness, including providing a personal housing plan and keeping such assessments under review until any accommodation duty is discharged.
- A new duty to relieve homelessness for all eligible homeless applicants.
- A new duty on public services to notify a local authority if they come into contact with someone they think may be homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.
- Provision of personal assessments.

The new duties will have a significant impact on the way in which homelessness prevention services are delivered and how services will link to wider support such as training, employment and health to increase resilience to homelessness.

Homelessness in South Nottinghamshire – Key Findings

The extract data below provides a summary of housing need in South Nottinghamshire which has helped to inform the key priorities for action. Whilst this data provides a base of information for the purposes of the Strategy, it should be noted that a host of evidence is considered when making decisions as to where to allocate resources.

Housing Register Data (as at 17 February 2017)

Total numbers on the housing register

	Broxtowe	Gedling	Rushcliffe
Total number on housing register	1028	828	496
Of which band 1	32	46	11
Of which band 2	140	182	76
Of which band 3/4	856	600	409

Of those on the housing register, current housing situation

	Broxtowe	Gedling	Rushcliffe	Total
Bed and Breakfast	1	0	4	5
Council Tenant	324	11	47	382
HM Forces	2	0	0	2
Housing Association Tenant	95	277	136	508
In Social Services Care/Foster Care	3	1	1	5
Living in Hostel	15	7	4	26

Living with Family/Friends	130	113	73	316
Lodging	8	9	10	27
No Fixed Abode/Sofa surfer	26	31	14	71
Non secure tenancy – leased property	6	0	1	7
Non secure tenancy – own stock	1	1	2	4
Owner Occupier	102	108	64	274
Private Rented Tenant	299	244	111	654
Shared Ownership	1	4	2	7
Sleeping Rough	3	1	5	9
Tied Tenant	1	3	2	6
(blank)	11	18	20	49
Total	1028	828	496	2352

Of those on the housing register, current housing situation

	Broxtowe	Gedling	Rushcliffe	Total
Couple	54	34	32	120
Couple + Pregnant	8	6	2	16
Elderly Couple	95	97	51	243
Elderly Single	190	219	141	539
Family + 1 Child	132	92	39	263
Family + 1 Child + Pregnant	9	5	2	16
Family + 2 Children	105	70	26	201
Family + 2 Children + Pregnant	12	5	1	18
Family + 3 Children	72	44	16	132
Family + 3 Children + Pregnant	3	4		7
Family + 4 Children	19	14	7	40
Family + 4 Children + Pregnant		1		1

Family + 5 or more Children	3	8	2	13
Single	294	191	157	640
Single + 1	21	24	12	57
Single + Pregnant	10	11	6	27
Single with overnight carer	1	3	2	6
Total	1028	828	496	2352

Homelessness Data

Broxtowe

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Homeless decisions	39	34	26	25
Acceptance decisions	10	9	9	11
Of acceptance decisions, main reasons with numbers	Parents no longer willing or able to accommodate (2)	Parents no longer willing or able to accommodate (2)	Loss of rented or tied accommodation: Termination of assured shorthold tenancy (2); of rented or tied accommodation: Reasons other than termination of assured shorthold tenancy (2)	Rent arrears on: Private sector dwellings (2); Loss of rented or tied accommodation: Termination of assured shorthold tenancy (2)
Of acceptance decisions, age breakdown with numbers	16-24 (3) 25-44 (6) 45-59 (1)	16-24 (4) 25-44 (4) 45-59 (1)	16-24 (1) 25-44 (6) 45-59 (2)	16-24 (3) 25-44 (6) 45-59 (2)
Of acceptance decisions, number with	6	7	8	9

children or pregnant				
Of acceptance decisions, number placed in temporary accommodation	10	9	4	8
Number of cases where homelessness was prevented or relieved	401	453	445	427
Of which, main specific reasons homelessness prevented and client was able to remain in own home - with numbers	Resolving housing benefit problems (28); Negotiation or legal advocacy remaining in private rented accommodation (5); Providing other assistance remaining private or social rented accommodation (3)	Resolving housing benefit problems (20); Providing other assistance remaining private or social rented accommodation (12); Debt advice (6)	Providing other assistance remaining private or social rented accommodation (16); Resolving housing benefit problems (12); Conciliation including home visits for family / friend threatened exclusions (9)	Providing other assistance remaining private or social rented accommodation (29); Conciliation including home visits for family / friend threatened exclusions (27); Resolving housing benefit problems (14)
Of which, main reasons homelessness was assisted to find alternative accommodation - with numbers	Offer of Local Authority own accommodation or nomination to a Registered Provider (186); Supported accommodation (59); Private rented sector accommodation without landlord incentive scheme (54)	Offer of Local Authority own accommodation or nomination to a Registered Provider (207); Private rented sector accommodation without landlord incentive scheme (69); Private rented sector accommodation with landlord incentive	Offer of Local Authority own accommodation or nomination to a Registered Provider (178); Private rented sector accommodation without landlord incentive scheme (61); Supported accommodation (59)	Offer of Local Authority own accommodation or nomination to a Registered Provider (162); Private rented sector accommodation without landlord incentive scheme (69); Supported accommodation (51)

		scheme (64)		
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Gedling

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Homeless decisions	85	74	125	112
Acceptance decisions	53	60	83	88
Of acceptance decisions, main reasons with numbers	Violence: Violent breakdown of relationship involving associated persons (12); Loss of rented or tied accommodation: Termination of assured shorthold tenancy (11); Parents no longer willing or able to accommodate (8)	Loss of rented or tied accommodation: Termination of assured shorthold tenancy (16); Violence: Violent breakdown of relationship involving associated persons (16); Non-violent breakdown of relationship with partner (6)	Loss of rented or tied accommodation: Termination of assured shorthold tenancy (25); Violence: Violent breakdown of relationship involving associated persons (19); Parents no longer willing or able to accommodate (13)	Loss of rented or tied accommodation: Termination of assured shorthold tenancy (25); Parents no longer willing or able to accommodate (11); Violence: Violent breakdown of relationship involving associated persons (8)
Of acceptance decisions, age breakdown with numbers	16-24 (24) 25-44 (20) 45-59 (8) 64-74 (1)	16-24 (20) 25-44 (31) 45-59 (9)	16-24 (30) 25-44 (47) 45-59 (6)	16-24 (29) 25-44 (53) 45-59 (6)
Of acceptance decisions, number with children or pregnant	31	37	54	60
Of acceptance decisions, number placed in temporary accommodation	23	27	24	26

Number of cases where homelessness was prevented or relieved	263	313	177	192
Of which, main specific reasons homelessness prevented and client was able to remain in own home - with numbers	Negotiation or legal advocacy remaining in private rented accommodation (9); Mediation using external or internal trained family mediators (9); Providing other assistance remaining private or social rented accommodation (7)	Providing other assistance remaining private or social rented accommodation (18); Negotiation or legal advocacy remaining in private rented accommodation (13); Mediation using external or internal trained family mediators (4); Resolving housing benefit problems (4)	Providing other assistance remaining private or social rented accommodation (9); Resolving rent or service charge arrears in the social or private rented sector (7); Mediation using external or internal trained family mediators (5); Negotiation or legal advocacy remaining in private rented accommodation (5)	Providing other assistance remaining private or social rented accommodation (7); Negotiation or legal advocacy remaining in private rented accommodation (5); Conciliation including home visits for family / friend threatened exclusions (4)
Of which, main reasons homelessness was assisted to find alternative accommodation - with numbers	Offer of Local Authority own accommodation or nomination to a Registered Provider (84); Private rented sector accommodation without landlord incentive scheme (77); Supported	Offer of Local Authority own accommodation or nomination to a Registered Provider (134); Private rented sector accommodation without landlord incentive scheme (66); Supported	Offer of Local Authority own accommodation or nomination to a Registered Provider (60); Private rented sector accommodation without landlord incentive scheme (35); Supported	Offer of Local Authority own accommodation or nomination to a Registered Provider (62); Private rented sector accommodation without landlord incentive scheme (49); Supported

	accommodation (19)	accommodation (20)	accommodation (22)	accommodation (21)
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Rushcliffe

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Homeless decisions	36	37	26	34
Acceptance decisions	21	17	17	21
Of acceptance decisions, main reasons with numbers	Parents no longer willing or able to accommodate (7); Violence: Violent breakdown of relationship involving partner (6); Loss of rented or tied accommodation: Reasons other than termination of assured shorthold tenancy (3)	Parents no longer willing or able to accommodate (4)	Violence: Violent breakdown of relationship involving partner (8); Parents no longer willing or able to accommodate (2); Non-violent breakdown of relationship with partner (2); Loss of rented or tied accommodation: Termination of assured shorthold tenancy (2)	Harassment, threats or intimidation: Other forms of harassment (4); Parents no longer willing or able to accommodate (4); Violence: Violent breakdown of relationship involving partner (4)
Of acceptance decisions, age breakdown with numbers	16-24 (7) 25-44 (9) 45-59 (4) 65-74 (1)	16-24 (5) 25-44 (11) 45-59 (1)	16-24 (4) 25-44 (11) 45-59 (2)	16-24 (3) 25-44 (15) 45-59 (3)
Of acceptance decisions, number with children or pregnant	15	10	12	12
Of acceptance decisions, number placed in temporary	16	14	18	15

accommodation				
Number of cases where homelessness was prevented or relieved	217	256	276	225
Of which, main specific reasons homelessness prevented and client was able to remain in own home - with numbers	Resolving housing benefit problems (5); Providing other assistance remaining private or social rented accommodation (5); Resolving rent or service charge arrears in the social or private rented sector (3)	Sanctuary scheme measures for domestic violence (9); Resolving rent or service charge arrears in the social or private rented sector (4); Providing other assistance remaining private or social rented accommodation (4)	Resolving housing benefit problems (10); Conciliation including home visits for family / friend threatened exclusions (8); Providing other assistance remaining private or social rented accommodation (6)	Resolving housing benefit problems (9); Conciliation including home visits for family / friend threatened exclusions (7)
Of which, main reasons homelessness was assisted to find alternative accommodation - with numbers	Offer of Local Authority own accommodation or nomination to a Registered Provider (107); Private rented sector accommodation without landlord incentive scheme (55); Supported accommodation (23)	Offer of Local Authority own accommodation or nomination to a Registered Provider (161); Private rented sector accommodation without landlord incentive scheme (29); Supported accommodation (28)	Offer of Local Authority own accommodation or nomination to a Registered Provider (125); Private rented sector accommodation without landlord incentive scheme (70); Supported accommodation (31)	Offer of Local Authority own accommodation or nomination to a Registered Provider (108); Private rented sector accommodation without landlord incentive scheme (44); Supported accommodation (33)

Rough Sleepers

The three Boroughs undertake a count of rough sleepers every year as a single night snapshot in partnership with a range of local organisations. This data is submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government in order to provide a national overview of the extent of rough sleeping. Data for the three Boroughs is as follows:

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Broxtowe	0	0	0	1
Gedling	0	0	0	0
Rushcliffe	1	0	3	0
England	2,414	2,744	3,569	4,134

Whilst the snapshot rough sleeper survey provides a useful overview of the extent of homelessness on a given night, the Nottinghamshire Homeless Watch survey provides a more comprehensive overview of the extent of rough sleeping in the County. The last survey report is available at:

http://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/media/rushcliffe/media/documents/pdf/housing/HLG_finalHWreport2015.pdf

Private Rental Costs

Broxtowe – lower quartile rents and Local Housing Allowance (LHA)

	Rents 1 October 2015 – 30 September 2016 (£ per month)	LHA (£ per month)	Shortfall (£ per month)
Shared room	255	289.21	(-34.21)

1 bedroom	395	393.90	1.10
2 bedrooms	475	469.13	5.87
3 bedrooms	550	521.26	28.74
4+ bedrooms	700	656.50	43.50

Gedling – lower quartile rents and Local Housing Allowance (LHA)

	Rents 1 October 2015 – 30 September 2016 (£ per month)	LHA (£ per month)	Shortfall (£ per month)
Shared room	282	289.21	(-7.21)
1 bedroom	395	393.90	1.10
2 bedrooms	475	469.13	5.87
3 bedrooms	550	521.26	28.74
4+ bedrooms	773	656.50	116.50

Rushcliffe – lower quartile rents and Local Housing Allowance (LHA)

	Rents 1 October 2015 – 30 September 2016 (£ per month)	LHA (£ per month)	Shortfall (£ per month)
Shared room	303	289.21	13.79
1 bedroom	400	393.90	6.10
2 bedrooms	525	469.13	55.87
3 bedrooms	635	521.26	113.74
4+ bedrooms	895	656.50	238.50

Nottingham City (for comparison) – lower quartile rents and Local Housing Allowance (LHA)

	Rents 1 October 2015 – 30 September 2016 (£ per month)	LHA (£ per month)	Shortfall (£ per month)
Shared room	312	289.21	22.79
1 bedroom	425	393.90	31.10
2 bedrooms	475	469.13	5.87
3 bedrooms	516	521.26	(-5.26)
4+ bedrooms	600	656.50	(-56.50)

Source: Valuation Office Agency (VOA)

*Whilst LHA rates do not reflect exact geographical borders of the Borough Councils, the LHA rate which applies to the majority of the Council boundary has been used.

An evaluation of lower quartile market rents identified shortfalls in LHA levels against lower quartile rents across the South Nottinghamshire Boroughs, with the only property types falling within LHA levels being shared properties in Broxtowe and Gedling. There are shortfalls in LHA levels for 1,2,3 and 4+ bed properties across the South Nottinghamshire Boroughs, especially on larger properties, with the most extreme example being a shortfall of £283.50 per month on 4 bed properties in Rushcliffe. This shortfall appears to be an emerging trend in the South Nottinghamshire Boroughs. The disparity between LHA and average rents means that for people on housing benefits, many properties, are unaffordable, resulting in people with least disposable income being in poor quality, insecure accommodation.

Where we want to be: the Challenges, Opportunities and Priorities:

The Challenge in South Nottinghamshire

Within South Nottinghamshire, we wish to work in partnership to reduce homelessness and minimise the negative impacts on our resident's lives. In order to achieve this, we have consulted widely with our partners to establish five key challenging but achievable objectives as stated below.

The objectives have been agreed in the context of current challenges and opportunities including relating to welfare reform; reductions in wider support for people at risk of homelessness and an increasing need to focus on prevention.

Priorities

The priorities within the strategy are based on the following principles:



1. Minimising Demand

We will work on a strong multi agency basis to minimise the demand for homelessness services. We will deliver interventions to ensure that households know where to access advice and support at the appropriate time that assists them to avoid or deal with issues that could lead to homelessness. We will seek to work with partners to engage with young people to provide a consistent message about the difficulties of leaving home at a young age, the realities of housing choice, including affordability and the likelihood of needing to share accommodation.

Outcomes: How we will know we are there:

- There will be a choice of homes and tenures which meet a range of housing needs including for people with mental and physical health issues
- There will be effective engagement with young people around homelessness and its consequences
- There will be less homelessness
- The impact of welfare reform will be mitigated through the early identification and provision of interventions for affected households

To achieve this, we will:

- Work in partnership across the three Boroughs and with other partners to educate people in the reality and risks of being homeless
- Monitor the impact of Welfare Reform to both households and the housing sector and seek to minimise negative consequences
- Ensure good quality information and advice is available to prevent homelessness
- Ensure that our Allocations Schemes are easy to use and appropriately prioritise people in housing need
- Continue to work effectively and in a collaborative way across all three Boroughs and with other partners relating to homelessness prevention

- Work with partners to promote independent living skills and prevent relationship breakdown
- We will work with landlords across tenures to enable them to accommodate people in housing need, including those with support needs including mental and physical health issues
- We will seek housing and support solutions for people with specific needs and ensure there is equality of access

2. Reduce Crisis Presentations

Agencies across South Nottinghamshire have opportunities to reduce housing crisis amongst their core client groups. This can be achieved by working in a more joined up way to identify those households at high risk of homelessness by making sure agencies can recognise the indicators of housing stress and be able to act appropriately to prevent homelessness. Every opportunity should be taken as early as possible to prevent homelessness.

Outcomes: How we will know we are there

- There will be a more straightforward and transparent system to access affordable homes of all types
- There will be a reduction of households presenting as 'homeless tonight'
- there will be no 16 - 17 year olds placed into Bed and Breakfast accommodation
- There will be fewer families placed in to emergency accommodation

To achieve this, we will:

- Seek to offer consistent advice and assist at the earliest opportunity
- Ensure Homelessness Services are approachable and easy to access
- Advise and enable mediation within families to facilitate a return home to allow for a planned move rather than one in crisis, where appropriate

- Utilise evidence to assess and seek to minimise future housing issues

3. Deliver Effective Services at the Point of Contact

We will ensure that households who approach services across South Nottinghamshire will be able to access effective advice and assistance to prevent homelessness, either by enabling them to remain where they are or by facilitating a move into more appropriate accommodation.

Homeless households will be able to access pro-active homelessness prevention services, an assessment of need and a range of advice and options that will enable access to short stay or longer stay accommodation. These services will also provide access to other services promoting education, training and employment opportunities, health services, life-skills, debt and financial advice benefits advice. These will strengthen people's chances of resolving their housing problems.

Outcomes: How we will know we are there

- There are a range of housing pathways in place that enable people to resolve their housing difficulties
- There will be a reduction in the numbers of households entering temporary accommodation
- There will be effective services available by partners to assist people with a range of physical and mental health issues
- There is improvement in the health of homeless households and a reduction in the numbers accessing Accident & Emergency and other more acute services
- There will be effective and joined up services available for people with mental health issues who are discharged from hospital or care

To achieve this we will:

- Seek to ensure that services are approachable
- We will take a proactive preventative approach to make every contact matter and easy to access
- Engage with partners to ensure that services are effective and joined up
- Undertake a full assessment of need
- Provide housing advice, facilitating access to short and longer stay accommodation and support
- Provide clear and meaningful housing and support pathways
- Work with a range of partners to provide access to other services that promote health and wellbeing, employment, education and training opportunities

4. Provide Appropriate Accommodation Options

It is crucial that partners are able to facilitate access to appropriate accommodation to prevent and resolve homelessness in the short, medium and long term. To effectively achieve this, we need to:

- Facilitate access to the Private Rented Sector for all groups. Landlords should feel confident that tenancies are sustainable
- Ensure that allocations of housing in the social sector are needs led through the Homesearch Choice Based Lettings system
- Ensure that there are appropriate pathways into supported housing and also appropriate pathways into move on accommodation where this is appropriate.

Outcomes: How we will know we are there

- There will be a clear pathway in place to enable people to progress to secure and sustainable accommodation

- There will be fewer failed tenancies
- There will be effective engagement with the Private Rented Sector
- There will be less incidences of homelessness
- There will be fewer households in temporary accommodation

To achieve this we will:

- Seek to ensure that people have access to appropriate accommodation
- Continue to work effectively across the three Boroughs in the provision of temporary accommodation
- Ensure that a range of housing options are available and are used effectively
- Work with partners to support people to develop their independent living skills where appropriate
- Effectively engage with partners, including County Council, to further develop youth homelessness services
- Develop and strengthen partnerships with a range of housing providers and landlords, particularly the Private Rented Sector to build upon the range of housing and support options available to residents

5. Move People Away from Homelessness

It is essential that we seek to reduce incidences of repeat homelessness through enabling a range of options that will assist people in accessing education, training, employment or other appropriate support. This will assist people to move away from homelessness.

Outcomes: How we will know we are there

- Appropriate support will be in place to enable people to improve and maintain their independence
- There will be fewer incidences of repeat homelessness

- Opportunities will be taken to engage with partners to maximise projects relating to work and apprenticeships
- More homeless people will access education, training and employment opportunities

To achieve this we will:

- Seek to ensure people have access to appropriate housing and support
- Ensure that there are sufficient move on options from supported accommodation
- Seek to ensure that there is accessible support if tenancies start to fail
- Ensure there are clear links to health promotion, education, training and employment opportunities

Delivering the Strategy

The South Nottinghamshire Homelessness Strategy has been developed through the South Nottinghamshire Inter Agency Homelessness Forum, bringing together a wide range of statutory and voluntary agencies involved in preventing homelessness and providing services to homeless people. The action plan will be progressed, reviewed and updated by the Forum annually to measure progress through the South Nottinghamshire Inter Agency Homelessness Forum, which meets quarterly. The action plan will also take account of changes in Government policy and at a County level.

Delivery against the plan will be reported to Members in each of the three Councils and an annual update will be available on each Council website. The overall Homelessness Strategy action plan will be developed in partnership with partner organisations and will be in line with the priorities outlined above.

South Nottinghamshire Homelessness Strategy Action Plan 2016-17

The South Nottinghamshire Homelessness Strategy Action Plan is a live document and is updated at least annually through the South Nottinghamshire Inter-Agency Homelessness Forum to reflect changes in national and local priorities and resources.

What we will do	How we will do it	By when	Lead organisations
Work in partnership across the three Boroughs and with other partners to educate people in the reality and risks of being homeless	Continue to work with partners such as Broxtowe Youth Homelessness to develop the peer support offer in local schools to educate school children in the realities of the housing market	On-going	Broxtowe Youth Homelessness Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe Borough Councils
Monitor the impact of Welfare Reform to both households and the housing sector and seek to minimise negative consequences	Work with partners such as the Department of Work and Pensions; Registered Providers and with our Housing Benefit Teams to identify and minimise impacts of welfare reform	On-going	Registered Providers Department of Work and Pensions Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe Borough Councils
Ensure good quality information and advice is available to prevent homelessness	Attend monthly prison housing surgeries to give housing options advice to prison leavers Explore common information and advice through leaflets and on the internet on a range of housing issues across South Nottinghamshire	On-going December 2017	Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe Borough Councils

Ensure that our Allocations Schemes are easy to use and appropriately prioritise people in housing need	Upgrade the Abris Enhanced Housing Options module to enable a more effective allocations system and identification of wider housing options	March 2018	Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe Borough Councils
Continue to work effectively and in a collaborative way across all three Boroughs and with other partners relating to homelessness prevention	Continue to utilise the South Nottinghamshire Inter Agency Homelessness Forum to share best practice and scope responses to emerging policy changes such as the Homelessness Reduction Bill	On-going	South Nottinghamshire Inter Agency Homelessness members
Work with partners to promote independent living skills and prevent relationship breakdown	Continue to work through agencies such as Broxtowe Youth Homelessness to support tenancy training and mediation	On-going	Broxtowe Youth Homelessness Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe Borough Councils
Work with landlords across tenures to enable them to accommodate people in housing need, including those with support needs including mental and physical health issues	<p>Fully engage with landlord representative organisations including the National Landlords Association (NLA); Decent and Safe Homes (DASH) and East Midlands Property Owners (EMPO) to maximise opportunities to utilise accommodation for people in housing need in the Private Rented Sector</p> <p>Hold at least one major private landlord event covering South Nottinghamshire every 12 months</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>Annually</p>	<p>Private Landlords</p> <p>Registered Provider partners</p> <p>EMPO; DASH; NLA</p> <p>Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe Borough Councils</p>

	Continue to fully engage with Registered Provider partners to maximise accommodation for people in housing need	On-going	
Seek housing and support solutions for people with specific needs and ensure there is equality of access	Fully engage with County colleagues regarding understanding and meeting the housing and support needs of clients with specific needs	On-going	Nottinghamshire County Council Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe Borough Councils
Seek to offer consistent advice and assist at the earliest opportunity	Continue to work through the South Nottinghamshire Inter Agency Homelessness forum to provide effective and consistent homelessness services Deliver upgrade the Arbritas Choice Based Lettings system which will provide and enhanced housing options offer	On-going December 2017	South Nottinghamshire Inter Agency Homelessness members
Ensure Homelessness Services are approachable and easy to access	Explore the introduction of satisfaction monitoring of homelessness services. Pilot a mystery shopping exercise of homelessness services in one Borough	December 2017 December 2017	Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe Borough Councils
Utilise evidence to assess and seek to minimise future housing issues	Continue to work in partnership to understand the key issues around homelessness in the South of the County, including benchmarking homelessness	On-going	Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe Borough Councils

	<p>data and sharing best practice at the South Nottinghamshire Inter Agency Homelessness Forum</p> <p>Commission a study across South Nottinghamshire to better understand the gaps in the provision of housing and support for 19-35 year olds and to enable an assessment of the implications for welfare reform on this group</p> <p>Maximise opportunities through required changes in P1E homelessness data collection to improve data collection</p>	<p>September 2017</p> <p>On-going</p>	
Take a proactive preventative approach to make every contact matter and easy to access	Upgrade the Arbritas choice based lettings system to provide an enhanced housing options service in order to develop the prevention offer	March 2018	Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe Borough Councils
Engage with partners to ensure that services are effective and joined up	<p>Where possible, develop joint working protocols to ensure a consistently high quality of homelessness services across South Nottinghamshire</p> <p>Develop service standards across the three Boroughs to ensure that customers are clear on the level of service they can expect</p>	September 2017	Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe Borough Councils

Provide clear and meaningful housing and support pathways	Develop full homelessness procedure guides for front line homelessness staff to ensure a consistent provision of services	September 2017	Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe Borough Councils
Work with a range of partners to provide access to other services that promote health and wellbeing, employment, education and training opportunities	Through the South Nottinghamshire Inter Agency Homelessness Forum, explore every opportunity to work with partners to increase resilience to homelessness by supporting clients to access health, training and employment services	On-going	Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe Borough Councils South Nottinghamshire Inter Agency Homelessness Forum members
Seek to ensure that people have access to appropriate accommodation	Work with partners to identify and meet specialist housing provision needs including relating to mental health, learning disabilities, drug and alcohol usage, ex-offenders, physical disability	On-going	Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe Borough Councils South Nottinghamshire Inter Agency Homelessness Forum members and other partners as appropriate
Continue to work effectively across the three Boroughs in the provision of temporary accommodation	<p>Improve cold weather emergency provision in all 3 boroughs by investigating arrangements with the faith sector and use of Temporary Accommodation voids</p> <p>Provide a consistent inspection process for B&B accommodation to ensure good quality provision</p> <p>Continuing to work across the three authorities in the provision of temporary</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>On-going</p>	Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe Borough Councils

	accommodation to minimise Bed and Breakfast usage		
Seek to improve the support for rough sleepers	Work closely with partners across the County (including City) to improve the support offered to rough sleepers, including through providing improved access to health care.	On-going	All Authorities in Nottinghamshire Framework Housing and other partners as required
Effectively engage with partners, including County Council, to further develop youth homelessness services	Continue to engage with the Youth Homelessness Forum and County Council colleagues to implement the recommendations of the Joint Work Protocol to identify housing needs and opportunities to meet need	On-going	Nottinghamshire County Council Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe Borough Councils South Nottinghamshire Inter Agency Homelessness Forum members and other partners as appropriate
Seek to maximise funding to secure additional supported accommodation where a need can be evidenced	Engage with voluntary sector partners to identify suitable properties and funding for supported accommodation	On-going	Nottinghamshire County Council Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe Borough Councils South Nottinghamshire Inter Agency Homelessness Forum members and other partners as appropriate
Develop and strengthen partnerships with a range of housing providers and	Maximise opportunities to provide support to unlock opportunities in the Private Rented Sector where appropriate	On-going	Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe Borough Councils South Nottinghamshire Inter

landlords, particularly the Private Rented Sector to build upon the range of housing and support options available to residents	Seek to identify opportunities to reconfigure lower demand properties where appropriate to meet needs	On-going	Agency Homelessness Forum members Registered Providers Private Landlords County Council Other partners as appropriate
Seek to ensure people have access to appropriate housing and support	Reduce repeat homelessness by providing appropriate support Explore opportunities to develop floating support services	On-going	Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe Borough Councils
Ensure that there are sufficient move on options from supported accommodation	Ensure that allocations policies are regularly reviewed to ensure that provision of move on opportunities are maximised as appropriate Work with the Private Rented Sector to maximise opportunities for good quality move on accommodation	On-going On-going	Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe Borough Councils



Report to Cabinet

Subject: South Nottinghamshire Homelessness Strategy

Date: 6 April 2017

Author: Joint report of the Service Managers for Economic Growth and Regeneration and Revenues and Welfare Support

Wards Affected

All

Purpose

The Council is legally required to publish a homelessness strategy at least every five years. This report sets out to update Members on the development of the South Nottinghamshire Homelessness Strategy 2017-2021 and provides an opportunity for input following wider consultation and prior to final drafting.

It is proposed that a presentation is made to Cabinet in the Autumn with the final draft.

Key Decision

Yes

Background

- 1.1 The three Boroughs of Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe have strategic responsibility for meeting our legislative requirements under the Homelessness Act 2002.
- 1.2 Section 1(4) of the Homelessness Act 2002 requires Local Authorities to publish a new homelessness strategy within a period of 5 years beginning with the day on which their last homelessness strategy was published.
- 1.3 This is the second joint homelessness strategy for the three Boroughs. The last joint homelessness strategy was published in 2013. The three Councils have utilised the joint homelessness strategy and action plan to promote and focus effective partnership working across the three areas including multi agency working through the South

Nottinghamshire Inter Agency Homelessness Forum, the body which monitors progress on the action plan.

The Homelessness Strategy sets out a pro-active approach to preventing homelessness, working in partnership with neighbouring Councils and other key partners including those with a skills, education and training remit to ensure a holistic approach. This is at a time of increasing pressure on homelessness services brought about by a number of factors including welfare reform, a reduction in the number and range of support services provided by partner agencies and pressures on the continued supply of social rented affordable housing. It is also at a time of significant change in the way that homelessness services will be delivered, as shown in the Homelessness Reduction Bill.

- 1.4 The Strategy builds on the achievements of the previous Homelessness Strategy and sets out a framework for continued improvements.

Key achievements include:

- Delivering over 150 affordable homes through successful partnerships since 2013 in the Borough
- Successfully bidding for funding to commission research into the accommodation and support needs of 19-35 year olds to identify current gaps, further challenges through welfare reform and identify opportunities to minimise negative impacts
- As part of a Nottinghamshire-wide consortium, successfully bidding for £370,000 of funding over 2 years to provide a county-wide rough sleeper service and extend street outreach services across Nottinghamshire
- Achieving over 1,000 homelessness preventions since 2013 in the Borough
- Successful provision and support of accommodation for Syrian Refugees in the Borough as part of the Syrian Vulnerable Person's Resettlement Programme and Vulnerable Children's Relocation Programme
- Successfully delivering Private Landlords partnership events, attended by over 60 landlords and letting agents
- Working with Broxtowe Youth Homelessness to deliver educational sessions to year 10 and 11 students in South Nottinghamshire to

raise awareness, challenge stereotypes and equip young people with the knowledge to make informed housing choices and access support

- Contributing to the development of the County-wide Housing & Health Commissioning Group and the development of the Health and Wellbeing Plan, including identification of best practice pilot schemes

2.1 **Proposal**

The strategy adopts a structured approach and broadly follows the themes identified in the previous strategy which reflect the three primary objectives identified in the Homelessness Act 2002:

- Prevention of homelessness by enabling people to access adequate and appropriate housing advice
- Help at the point of homelessness to prevent rough sleeping
- Enabling the move away from homelessness, including support to live in new move-on accommodation.

The strategy expands on the primary objectives in the areas where we need to do more to prevent and tackle homelessness.

An action plan has been developed around the five priority areas identified below and will be monitored and updated through the South Nottinghamshire Inter Agency Homelessness Forum to reflect emerging priorities, challenges and opportunities, including further welfare reform measures, and the implementation of the Homeless Reduction Bill.

2.1.1 **Minimising demand** – to work with partners to reduce the demand for homelessness services through delivering interventions to ensure that households know where to access advice and support at the appropriate time that assists them to avoid or deal with issues that could lead to homelessness. This will include further engagement with young people on the realities of housing choice.

2.1.2 **Reducing the extent of crisis presentations** – working in a more joined up way to identify those households at high risk of homelessness by making sure agencies can recognise the indicators of housing stress and be able to act appropriately to prevent homelessness.

2.1.3 **Delivering effective services at the point of contact** – ensuring that households who approach services across South Nottinghamshire will be

able to access effective advice and assistance to prevent homelessness, either by enabling them to remain where they are or by facilitating a move into more appropriate accommodation. These services will also provide access to other services promoting education, training and employment opportunities, health services, life-skills and benefits advice. These will strengthen people's chances of resolving their housing problems.

- 2.1.4 **Providing appropriate accommodation options** – ensuring that partners are able to facilitate access to appropriate accommodation to prevent and resolve homelessness in the short, medium and long term, including the Private Rented Sector and that there are appropriate pathways into housing with support and move on accommodation where appropriate.
- 2.1.5 **Moving people away from homelessness** - reducing incidences of repeat homelessness through enabling a range of options that will assist people in accessing education, training, employment or other appropriate support. This will assist people to move away from homelessness.
- 2.2 The Strategy has been developed through the South Nottinghamshire Inter Agency Homelessness Forum, which includes representatives from all three Boroughs; County Council and a number of partner organisations with a homelessness remit. The strategy has undergone extensive consultation over a 12 week period (11 November 2016 – 6 February 2017) and provided opportunities for partners to contribute to the development of the strategy. Consultees included neighbouring Councils; County Council; Social Landlords; Nottinghamshire Public Health and third sector organisations dealing with homeless clients. Responses were received from a wide range of partner organisations including Nottinghamshire County Council; the Probation Service; Homelessness Charities; other Councils; local colleges; the NHS and private landlord representatives. A summary of responses is available as appendix 2.
- 2.3 Overall, the responses confirmed that the priorities contained within the draft strategy were appropriate. Significantly, responses very much confirmed the need to ensure appropriate homelessness prevention services are in place and that opportunities to bolster access to wider support through partners, including relating to training opportunities and health, are maximised.
- 2.4 The strategy also takes account of data trends across the South Nottinghamshire area relating to homelessness.
- 2.5 The Strategy strongly focuses efforts on preventing homelessness. This is reflective of the emerging Government priorities and statutory obligations for local authorities contained in the Homelessness Reduction Bill which is currently being considered in the House of Lords. The Bill

seeks to refocus English local authorities on efforts to prevent homelessness. As such, the Government propose that additional resources will be made available to housing authorities to comply with the new statutory requirements.

2.6

The progress of the Bill will be monitored in order to ensure that the homelessness strategy and delivery plan fully reflects new requirements and maximises opportunities to bolster efforts to prevent homelessness.

2.7

Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) – An Equalities Impact Assessment will be undertaken prior to the final strategy being published.

Alternative Options

3.1 It is a legal requirement to publish a new homelessness strategy at least every 5 years, therefore, in order to comply with legal requirements, the strategy must be published by the end of the 2017 calendar year.

3.2 Gedling Borough Council could produce a stand-alone Homelessness Strategy. However, we work closely with Broxtowe and Rushcliffe Borough Councils in many aspects of housing and are able to pool resources; many statutory and voluntary sector agencies work across the area so they only need a single channel of engagement rather than three separate relationships and Nottinghamshire County Council treats the three boroughs as a single area for the purposes of commissioning housing related support services. The strategy could be produced on an individual authority basis, however, this would reduce the opportunities for joint working across the three authorities and also have capacity implications

Financial Implications

4.1 Delivery of the annual Action Plan will be contained within existing approved budgets. Any additional plans/projects will be delivered subject to securing budget approval and will identify external funding streams as appropriate.

Appendices

5.1 South Nottinghamshire Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan

5.2 South Nottinghamshire Homelessness Strategy consultation responses

Background Papers

6.1 South Nottinghamshire Homelessness Strategy 2013-2017

Recommendation(s)

To note progress on the South Nottinghamshire Homelessness Strategy and comment as appropriate. Comments will be used to inform the final homelessness strategy document.

That the strategy is presented again to Cabinet later in the year in its final format so seek approval to publish once the implications of the Homelessness Reduction Bill are fully known

Reasons for Recommendations

The South Nottinghamshire Homelessness Strategy seeks to:

Raise awareness among Members, officers, partners and the public about the homelessness challenges facing the Borough and wider South Nottinghamshire area and the Council's actions in response.

Focus resources on priorities that make a practical difference with a strong focus on preventing homelessness.

Production of a Homelessness Strategy at least every 5 years is a statutory requirement.

To accord with the Council's Corporate Plan.

Summary of responses to the homelessness strategy consultation

20 responses received. Of these, 18 agreed that the overall priorities are appropriate; 1 disagreed; 1 did not respond

Overall priorities If you disagree, what should the priorities be?	Think minimising demand should be called "prevention of homelessness". Minimising demand suggests prevention of demand by those homeless. Within priorities 1,3 and 4 there needs to be arrangements for people with NRPF who require urgent life saving treatment (for example for active TB as set out in the NICE guidance). Should articulate addressing the causes of homelessness in the priorities: minimising demand is an insufficient description.
Response	<p>It is encouraging that the overwhelming majority of respondents agreed with the overall approach of the strategy, therefore the priorities will remain as per the draft.</p> <p>With regard to the very specific mention of people with No Recourse to Public Funds, whilst lower tier Authorities are very restricted to the extent of support that can be given to people with NRPF, we will continue to work with County colleagues and colleagues in charitable organisations to provide support where required. The strategy makes reference to working with partners and this will be included within this broader context.</p>
MINIMISING DEMAND	Pg 24 of the Strategy
Does the priority give a reasonable overview of what we need to do? If not, what is missing?	<p>18 agreed</p> <p>Comments</p> <p>Need to work with partners in the prevention of mental and physical health problems (Making Every Contact Count approach). Keeping people well will reduce the need for housing support.</p> <p>Work with partners to intervene with families where behaviour (may be around budgeting or ASB or may be the behaviour of others) is likely to lead to homelessness.</p> <p>Identifying people with specific health needs where homelessness is not an option. Patients with pulmonary tuberculosis need direct access to accommodation so that their treatment can be maintained and monitored to ensure treatment completion.</p> <p>This not only protects the individual but reduces the risk of transmission of the disease within the public and other vulnerable groups. This accommodation would be need to be provided for 6 months minimum, the standard treatment course for TB. However, for cases of multi drug resistance this could be up to two years</p> <p>We should also ensure that housing provision is health promoting, not just appropriate for specific mental and physical health needs.</p> <p>More content on how you will work with landlords would be helpful, particularly around tenant needs.</p> <p>Yes, but in addition:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no mention of debt and the impact debt has on homelessness • no mention of housing/welfare benefits advice and prevention/reduction of homelessness • how to ensure funding for debt management/financial capability/housing and welfare benefits advice provision • how will you ensure there is a continuing, robust multi agency approach when many third sector agencies are faced with funding issues
Response	<p>The strategy recognises the importance of providing support and linkages relating to both physical and mental health and wellbeing – this has been further strengthened within the strategy as a result of consultation</p> <p>The specific comments relating to tuberculosis – engagement has commenced with County public health to better understand the issues and requirements for action which will be reflected as part of broader work</p> <p>The need to work effectively with private landlords is acknowledged and has been strengthened in the Strategy as a result of consultation.</p>
What have been the main achievements relating to this priority in South Nottinghamshire since the last Homelessness Strategy was published in 2013?	<p>The opening of Framework's Transition South hostel for young people on Trent Boulevard</p> <p>Demand for supportive living accommodation has increased alongside a reduction in available supportive accommodation</p> <p>Some additional social housing for single people is available.</p> <p>Regular Forum meeting</p>
Response	Noted
What do you see as the main challenges or opportunities relating to this priority over the next 5 years?	<p>Getting preventative support to the households that need this support with minimal funding for agencies to provide this provision.</p> <p>The Public Space Protection Order in Rushcliffe as homeless people may be fined for sleeping rough. Not having enough affordable housing</p> <p>The main challenge I see over the next 5 years is the increasing demand for 1 bed properties and the increasing gap between housing benefit rates and private rental rates for such properties.</p> <p>Resource in terms of people and funds</p> <p>Reduction in financial allocation across all partnerships with consequence being that financial allocation is for one year only with a reduction in the next year. Opportunity for partners to work together</p> <p>Lack of adequate funding. Insufficient resources in staff and housing</p> <p>Rising private rents or landlords seeking to cash in on rising house prices. Lack of social housing & need to replace stock sold due to right to buy. Payment of Housing Benefit to claimant now being more widely used are challenges. Opportunities could be the conversion of 'business' accommodation eg pubs into smaller residential units, some of which could be supported.</p> <p>Making co-ownership (part rental part purchase) a possibility for first time buyers more widely available - this might release some of the rental stock.</p>

	<p>Educating young people that you can't just get a place to live because you fall out with your parents</p> <p>Housing is the greater challenge as private renting in this area is prohibitive for a lot of people.</p> <p>Where patients have no recourse to public funds and have health issues such as pulmonary Tuberculosis. Individuals with TB need rapid access to housing even if they have no recourse to public funds see NICE TB Pathway Underserved Groups http://pathways.nice.org.uk/pathways/tuberculosis And the Care Act ... The Care Act 2014 requires local authorities to promote an adult's wellbeing in each decision that it makes, and this must include considering the adult's social and economic wellbeing, suitability of living accommodation and physical and mental health and emotional wellbeing.</p> <p>The challenge that I am aware of relates to homeless single men who have NRPF and require a accommodation to enable treatment for active TB. The scenarios that have emerged over the past 5 years have meant that people have not been able to be discharged from hospital or treatment has been stopped mid way through a 6 to 12 month treatment regime. The issues in these scenarios relate to meeting NICE guidance to support access to appropriate live saving treatment, prevent delays in hospital discharge and reduce the personal impact of failed treatment and the global impact of failed treatment in relation to the rise in antibiotic resistant TB and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)</p> <p>Supply of affordable rental properties along with a workable and reactive care system to quickly deal and manage tenant problems. You know what you would like to achieve and you now have the opportunity to lay the foundations to ensure the infrastructure is put into place effectively.</p> <p>Gaining interest from PRS landlords could be a challenge.</p> <p>Funding streams for LA's and the third sector will continue to be under threat risking a robust multi agency approach.</p> <p>On the other hand there are potential opportunities for cross sector partnerships to maximise funding opportunities – whilst also ensuring services are not duplicated.</p> <p>For example debt and benefits advice is specialist work and agencies who can carry out financial capability, regulated by the FCA to do DROs and bankruptcies and who can also provide benefits advice including tribunal work (for example CABx) could have a County wide fund for this covering the County and the City. We would then take referrals from other agencies to do this work.</p> <p>Particularly important would be to have links with housing associations across the County to prevent evictions. If benefits stop it sometimes takes weeks and intensive work to get them re-started. For vulnerable people they need intensive advocacy work to achieve this and in the meantime rent and council tax arrears will be accumulating – often resulting in unnecessary eviction processes starting and even evictions taking place which in the long term costs statutory agencies more money.</p>
Response	<p>The comments above are supportive of the priorities within the Strategy. Where appropriate, the strategy has been bolstered to reflect the comments made. With regard to people with NRPF, as previously stated, discussions have commenced with County colleagues around what additional mechanisms can be put in place to support the c1 case of people in the County with NRPF with Tuberculosis annually.</p>
What should be the key	Funding provision identified for a generic floating support provision.

<p>actions to enable this priority to be taken forward over the next 5 years and how do you think you/ your organisation can help to take the action forward?</p>	<p>Put in a strategy to ensure homeless people found sleeping rough are helped to find accommodation not fined Be proactive in building affordable homes</p> <p>Assurances and public awareness raising in understanding the work and depth of the STP.</p> <p>Early identification and provision of interventions for affected households in order to prevent homelessness</p> <p>The main actions are to prevent people from becoming homeless. Talks to teenagers. More social liaisons to spot and stop people leaving home.</p> <p>Families at risk of homelessness or inappropriately accommodated due to ASB or poor budgeting skills could be referred to Family Service.</p> <p>notice boards/roadshows</p> <p>Providing properties in brown field sites that can be converted to minimal accommodation facilities.</p> <p>I would like to discuss the inclusion in the housing criteria to enable a rapid response to people who have a diagnosis of active TB who have No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF).</p> <p>A full understanding on what each agency can deliver so expectations are realised. My organisation would like to have a robust charter outlining what measures would come into play to support a landlord who finds themselves with a non compliant tenant.</p> <p>1. Offer a lease on PRS properties to landlords. 2. Treat a Section 21 Notice as a trigger for homelessness.</p> <p>3. Provide dedicated support to landlords with regards to tenant issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • debt and the impact debt has on homelessness should be included in strategic and operational plans • homelessness prevention through high quality housing advice and support for people in private and public sector housing should be maintained and increased across the county – this is essential from a fiscal cost reduction but also in the reduction/ prevention of the emotional/physical/mental impact on families and individuals • access to LA services has reduced drastically – the third sector is bridging that gap but can only do so with continued funding <p>CA have a strong track record of delivering debt advice across the region.</p> <p>CA in Broxtowe have strong track record of delivering housing advice and support</p>
<p>Response</p> <p>Which are the key organisations organisations/ contacts that are essential to driving this priority forward?</p>	<p>Agreed, these comments are reflected within the Homelessness Strategy priorities and delivery plan</p> <p>Commissioners of services.</p> <p>Borough and county councils, the police, housing associations, developers, homelessness charities</p> <p>Social services CCG Hospitals Police Drug serv Alcohol County and borough authorities</p> <p>Mental Health teams, social housing providers, Framework and other support service providers, private landlords</p> <p>Collaborative / partnership working via the STP</p> <p>District Councils, Public Health, ASCH, mental and physical health CCG commissioners and providers, Voluntary Sector, Fire in their role as Improving Wellbeing</p> <p>Local Authorities.</p>

	<p>District Staff to make referrals Laura.archer@centralnottingham.ac.uk As listed above In relation to the scenarios described please contact Dr Jonathan Gribbin Consultant Public Health and Sally Handley Senior Public Health Manager based at County Hall Not qualified to answer this question very well Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizens Advice • Nottinghamshire County Council • Borough Councils (ie Broxtowe) • Other voluntary agencies such as Framework/Hope Nottingham/ • Other statutory agencies such as the Fire Service / Police /Social Services /NHS in making referrals into services for vulnerable clients. Even GPs are well placed to see if someone is struggling with other issues affecting their mental health such as debt/housing/benefits. They need to know where to refer for specialist help.
Response	Noted. Whilst there is already strong partner engagement, the above comments help to ensure we are able to identify possible gaps in engagement. Where there are gaps, partners will be contacted to increase engagement
Do you have any other comments specifically relating to this priority?	<p>Need to think about how we overcome the issue of homeless people not being able to register (and thus access primary care/prevention) with general practitioners. My key message is all about providing a level of "Wrap around care" to quickly and efficiently deal with tenant problems when they occur.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid duplication of services to make any relevant funding more targeted and effective. • Map out what help is out there not only for general help (think this has already been done – ie Notts help yourself etc) but for specialist help. Signposting often doesn't work with vulnerable clients – they need specific referrals – date/time and in a location they can reach. For example Eastwood people would find it difficult to access services in the City or even in Beeston which is their own borough – it is 2 bus rides away.
Response	Noted and will be considered as part of action plan updates
REDUCE CRISIS PRESENTATIONS	Pg 26 of the Strategy
Does the priority give a reasonable overview of	Need to facilitate a return home that is safe, i.e. in cases domestic violence and/or abuse. Also, the focus is on families, need to extend the approach to include single homelessness if you are going to prevent crisis presentations.

what we need to do? If not, what is missing?	<p>Looks fine - it would be good if a reduction in B&B for all groups could be a target, the accommodation on offer is usually poor and would not be acceptable within the 'normal' B&B market.</p> <p>with TB patients there will always be crisis presentations. As a nurse working with these patients I need to have direct access to housing in crisis situations to place a patient in suitable accommodation see NICE TB Pathway Underserved Groups http://pathways.nice.org.uk/pathways/tuberculosis And the Care Act ... The Care Act 2014 requires local authorities to promote an adult's wellbeing in each decision that it makes, and this must include considering the adult's social and economic wellbeing, suitability of living accommodation and physical and mental health and emotional wellbeing.</p> <p>Again</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no mention of debt and the impact debt has on homelessness • no mention of housing/welfare benefits advice and prevention/reduction of homelessness • how to ensure funding for debt management/financial capability/housing and welfare benefits advice provision • how will you ensure there is a continuing, robust multi agency approach when many third sector agencies are faced with funding issues
Response	<p>Response on TB previously stated</p> <p>The Strategy now includes stronger reference to debt and financial advice</p> <p>Within the Strategy the aim of reducing and ultimately ending the use of B&B accommodation is stated</p>
What have been the main achievements relating to this priority in South Nottinghamshire since the last Homelessness Strategy was published in 2013?	<p>Development of young persons supported housing provision in the 3 boroughs.</p> <p>Reduction in 16-17 year olds in B&B</p> <p>Regular Forum meeting</p>
Response	Noted
What do you see as the main challenges or opportunities relating to this priority over the next 5 years?	<p>The young persons service meeting demand, there is a high need for this service due to the number of young people coming out of Looked After Services requiring housing.</p> <p>Main challenge - Putting in place the straightforward and transparent system to access affordable homes of all types</p> <p>Again financial allocation</p> <p>Main challenge is the change to welfare benefits and the growing sense that many people in work are struggling to keep within the budget that they have available.</p> <p>Impact of Welfare Reform</p> <p>Funding streams for LA's and the third sector will continue to be under threat risking a robust multi agency approach.</p> <p>On the other hand there are potential opportunities for cross sector partnerships to maximise funding opportunities</p>

Response	Noted. The challenges stated above are reflected within the Strategy
What should be the key actions to enable this priority to be taken forward over the next 5 years and how do you think you/ your organisation can help to take the action forward?	<p>Ensure high quality service provision and ensure levels of throughput within the service contract are been met.</p> <p>Partnership approach</p> <p>Where families are under financial and housing stress this will impact on family - Family Service may be able to help here.</p> <p>Provision of good short term supported accommodation. Minimum standards for B&B</p> <p>debt and the impact debt has on homelessness should be included in strategic and operational plans</p> <p>homelessness prevention through high quality housing advice and support for people in private and public sector housing should be maintained and increased across the county – this is essential from a fiscal cost reduction but also in the reduction/ prevention of the emotional/physical/mental impact on families and individuals</p> <p>areas like Eastwood have high deprivation and low investment</p> <p>access to LA services has reduced drastically – the third sector is bridging that gap but can only do so with continued funding</p> <p>CA (Citizens Advice) have a strong track record of delivering debt advice across the region.</p> <p>CA in Broxtowe have strong track record of delivering housing advice and support</p>
Response	Noted. The actions stated above are reflected within the Strategy
Which are the key organisations organisations/ contacts that are essential to driving this priority forward?	<p>Family Service</p> <p>District Councils</p> <p>Referral from housing staff</p> <p>Citizens Advice</p> <p>Nottinghamshire County Council</p> <p>Borough Councils (ie Broxtowe)</p> <p>Other voluntary agencies such as Framework/Hope Nottingham/</p> <p>Other statutory agencies such as the Fire Service / Police /Social Services /NHS in making referrals into services for vulnerable clients. Even GPs are well place to see if someone is struggling with other issues affecting their mental health such as debt/housing/benefits. They need to know where to refer for specialist help.</p>
Response	Noted. Whilst there is already strong partner engagement, the above comments help to ensure we are able to identify possible gaps in engagement. Where there are gaps, partners will be contacted to increase engagement
What are the key national/ local drivers/ policies or strategies linked to this priority?	<p>Housing of refugees/Asylum seekers between 16-21 who are been allocated to Nottinghamshire.</p> <p>No Health without Mental Health (National Strategy and Local Framework for Action) Suicide Prevention</p> <p>(National Strategy and Local Framework for Action) Mental Health Crisis Concordat Mental Health Five Year Forward View</p> <p>Welfare reforms; current financial situation of local government</p>

	<p>NICE TB Pathway Underserved Groups http://pathways.nice.org.uk/pathways/tuberculosis And the Care Act ...</p> <p>The Care Act 2014 requires local authorities to promote an adult's wellbeing in each decision that it makes, and this must include considering the adult's social and economic wellbeing, suitability of living accommodation and physical and mental health and emotional wellbeing.</p> <p>LA funding and funding priorities</p> <p>Third sector funding</p> <p>National government policy/legislation change</p>
Response	<p>Stronger reference has been included in the Strategy relating to linkages to mental health as a result of consultation feedback.</p> <p>Other points noted.</p>
Do you have any other comments specifically relating to this priority?	<p>People leaving institutions such as hospitals and prisons should have the opportunity to engage with housing options team members before their release to try to ensure that they do not find themselves homeless when they leave. Those with previous rent arrears who are homeless should not automatically be excluded from the housing list as there may have been circumstances beyond their control i.e. mental health issues where support could have prevented eviction, or someone sent to prison and not closed down tenancy properly but had previously been fully up to date with their rent etc.</p> <p>Again</p> <p>Avoid duplication of services to make any relevant funding more targeted and effective.</p> <p>Map out what help is out there not only for general help (think this has already been done – ie Notts help yourself etc) but for specialist help. Signposting often doesn't work with vulnerable clients – they need specific referrals – date/time and in a location they can reach. For example Eastwood people would find it difficult to access services in the City or even in Beeston which is their own borough – it is 2 bus rides away.</p>
Response	<p>The need to ensure services are mapped out is clear and will be taken forward through the revision of the action plan. Provision is made within allocations policies relating to discharge from institutions – specific reference is made to joining up services within the Strategy</p>
Deliver Effective Services at the Point of Contact	<p>Pg 27 of the Homelessness Strategy</p>
Does the priority give a reasonable overview of what we need to do? If	<p>Excellent bespoke model and sits well with prevention. Missing is financial management training and support a support pathway to provide quick access to housing for TB patients with or without recourse to public funds</p> <p>Again as described in Priority 1 there needs to be a clear pathway for people diagnosed with active TB who are homeless and</p>

not, what is missing?	<p>have NRPFs as set out in the NICE Pathway -TB in under served groups see link http://pathways.nice.org.uk/pathways/tuberculosis</p> <p>Yes, but areas like Eastwood do not have an easy point of contact re homelessness/housing – this is only currently available through local CABx in Eastwood hosting housing/homelessness appointments with LA/HA housing dept/providers</p>
Response	Reference to financial management support has now been included Regarding clients with NRPF – response as previous
What have been the main achievements relating to this priority in South Nottinghamshire since the last Homelessness Strategy was published in 2013?	<p>A Single homelessness needs assessment was undertaken. The full needs assessment needs to include all aspects of homelessness.</p> <p>Mediation for young people at risk of being asked to leave home is good.</p>
Response	Noted
What do you see as the main challenges or opportunities relating to this priority over the next 5 years?	<p>Identifying services which can meet this need.</p> <p>Challenge – accessing sufficient stock to meet demand in a timely manner. Opportunity to liaise with house builders on the type of accommodation that is most in demand, and encouraging them to build housing options to help meet that demand i.e. the major developments taking place in the Rushcliffe area at the moment are all 2,3 or 4 bed executive homes, not accessible for single people or families on low income or benefits.</p> <p>Challenge again is reduce financial allocation – to be effective commissioners need to put in Contract Variations to deliver alongside this model</p> <p>Increasing numbers of younger adults with disabilities requiring independent accommodation. Also very concerned about the older but not old adult with disability who requires supported accommodation – they often end up in provision for the elderly, so inappropriate. Funding for Care in the Community may increase with the additional budget from 2020</p> <p>In relation to supporting people with active TB and NRPF to be able to receive life saving treatment over a 6 to 12 month period, therefore a housing pathway that recognises the need of this very small minority of people to support access to treatment in a timely and responsive way. For this the person requires a stable place to live and eat to enable consistent treatment regime to be achieved.</p> <p>Impact of Welfare Reform/other national policy changes</p> <p>Funding streams for LA's and the third sector will continue to be under threat risking a robust multi agency approach.</p> <p>On the other hand there are potential opportunities for cross sector partnerships to maximise funding opportunities</p>

Response	Noted. The Strategy recognises these issues
What should be the key actions to enable this priority to be taken forward over the next 5 years and how do you think you/ your organisation can help to take the action forward?	To get partnership by in – need to pilot the model and evaluate the outcomes
Response	The Strategy recognises the importance of partnership working in delivering the priority outcomes
Which are the key organisations organisations/ contacts that are essential to driving this priority forward?	Local Authority Housing Departments, Public Health and TB treatment service NUH Citizens Advice Nottinghamshire County Council Borough Councils (ie Broxtowe) Other voluntary agencies such as Framework/Hope Nottingham/ Other statutory agencies such as the Fire Service / Police /Social Services /NHS in making referrals into services for vulnerable clients. Even GPs are well place to see if someone is struggling with other issues affecting their mental health such as debt/housing/benefits. They need to know where to refer for specialist help.
Response	Noted as previous
What are the key national/ local drivers/ policies or strategies linked to this priority?	Welfare reforms, Care in the community packages NICE TB Pathway Underserved Groups http://pathways.nice.org.uk/pathways/tuberculosis And the Care Act ... the Care Act 2014 requires local authorities to promote an adult's wellbeing in each decision that it makes, and this must include considering the adult's social and economic wellbeing, suitability of living accommodation and physical and mental health and emotional wellbeing. NICE Pathway -TB in under served groups see link http://pathways.nice.org.uk/pathways/tuberculosis The Care Act 2014 requires local authorities to promote an adult's wellbeing in each decision that it makes, and this must include considering the adult's social and economic wellbeing, suitability of living accommodation and physical and mental health and emotional wellbeing. LA funding and funding priorities Third sector funding National government policy/legislation change

Response	Noted as previous
Do you have any other comments specifically relating to this priority?	Avoid duplication of services to make any relevant funding more targeted and effective. Map out what help is out there not only for general help (think this has already been done – ie Notts help yourself etc) but for specialist help. Signposting often doesn't work with vulnerable clients – they need specific referrals – date/time and in a location they can reach. For example Eastwood people would find it difficult to access services in the City or even in Beeston which is their own borough – it is 2 bus rides away.
Response	Noted as previous
PROVIDE APPROPRIATE ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS	Pg 28 of the Strategy
Does the priority give a reasonable overview of what we need to do? If not, what is missing?	quick, effective and appropriate housing options for patients with pulmonary TB or multi drug resistant TB so they can be monitored until treatment completion. Expected standard for TB completion rates are over 85% to protect both patient and public and avoid transmission of the disease and death Again relating to people requiring treatment for active TB who have NRPFs see details in priority 1 and 3 Landlords should be encouraged to provide health promoting housing, which would entail awareness-raising and information. Yes, however more detail on how engagement with the PRS will be rolled out. Yes, but Areas like Eastwood do not have an easy point of contact re homelessness/housing – this is only currently available through local CABx in Eastwood hosting housing/homelessness appointments with LA/HA housing dept/providers
Response	Noted as previous.
What have been the main achievements relating to this priority in South Nottinghamshire since the last Homelessness Strategy was published in 2013?	Regular Forum meeting

Response	Noted
What do you see as the main challenges or opportunities relating to this priority over the next 5 years?	<p>Supported housing sector is not growing in line with demand, main challenge is to encourage supported housing providers to set up new accommodation options in the area.</p> <p>As previously stated</p> <p>Availability of rental property, welfare reform, effective communication challenges</p> <p>Impact of Welfare Reform/other national policy changes</p> <p>Funding streams for LA's and the third sector will continue to be under threat risking a robust multi agency approach.</p> <p>On the other hand there are potential opportunities for cross sector partnerships to maximise funding opportunities</p>
Response	This is recognised within the Strategy
What should be the key actions to enable this priority to be taken forward over the next 5 years and how do you think you/ your organisation can help to take the action forward?	<p>Ensure that a range of housing options are available and are used effectively</p> <p>work with partners to support people to develop their independent living skills where appropriate</p> <p>To include a pathway and prioritisation of accommodation for homeless people who have NRPFs and have a diagnosis of active Tb that requires accommodation and stability to proceed with a 6 to 12 month treatment regime. See details set out in priority 1 and 3.</p> <p>A joined up approach on what is required from the PRS and how the process of housing the homeless will be supported by the LA.</p> <p>Again:</p> <p>debt and the impact debt has on homelessness should be included in strategic and operational plans</p> <p>homelessness prevention through high quality housing advice and support for people in private and public sector housing should be maintained and increased across the county – this is essential from a fiscal cost reduction but also in the reduction/ prevention of the emotional/physical/mental impact on families and individuals</p> <p>areas like Eastwood have high deprivation and low investment</p> <p>access to LA services has reduced drastically – the third sector is bridging that gap but can only do so with continued funding</p> <p>CA have a strong track record of delivering debt advice across the region.</p> <p>CA in Broxtowe have strong track record of delivering housing advice and support</p>
Response	Response on TB previously stated
Which are the key organisations/ contacts	

that are essential to driving this priority forward?	
What are the key national/ local drivers/ policies or strategies linked to this priority?	<p>NICE TB Pathway Underserved Groups http://pathways.nice.org.uk/pathways/tuberculosis And the Care Act ...</p> <p>The Care Act 2014 requires local authorities to promote an adult's wellbeing in each decision that it makes, and this must include considering the adult's social and economic wellbeing, suitability of living accommodation and physical and mental Health and emotional wellbeing.</p> <p>Tuberculosis in under served groups NICE Pathway http://pathways.nice.org.uk/pathways/tuberculosisThe Care Act 2014 requires local authorities to promote an adult's wellbeing in each decision that it makes, and this must include considering the adult's social and economic wellbeing, suitability of living accommodation and physical and mental health and emotional wellbeing.</p> <p>Increased costly local and national regulation will impede this priority as additional cost reduces profit and therefore the ability of landlords to house low income tenants</p>
Response	<p>Response on TB previously stated</p> <p>As stated in the Strategy, we will ensure continued engagement with private landlords and their representatives to seek to ensure opportunities to utilise the private rented sector are maximised.</p>
Do you have any other comments specifically relating to this priority?	<p>Support to enable a more generic client group make their households a success & sustainable.</p> <p>It would be a quick win to sort this protracted problem out the volume is low but the impact on the individual is high and could very easily be resolved with inclusion of a specific pathway for this in frequent scenario that has serious life course impact (death of the person not enabled to access treatment and the risk of cross infection of others of this reportable infection).</p>
Response	<p>Noted</p> <p>Response on TB previously stated</p>
MOVE PEOPLE AWAY FROM HOMELESSNESS	Pg 31 of the Strategy
Does the priority give a reasonable overview of what we need to do? If not, what is missing?	<p>Need to include financial management training and support</p> <p>As previous</p>
Response	Noted as previously
What have been the main	

achievements relating to this priority in South Nottinghamshire since the last Homelessness Strategy was published in 2013?	
What do you see as the main challenges or opportunities relating to this priority over the next 5 years?	Challenge - having sufficient infrastructure and funds to provide appropriate level of support to tenancies that are starting to fail. Opportunities - engage more with voluntary sector. As previous
Response	Agreed. As previously stated, we will seek to ensure full engagement with partners through the delivery of this Strategy.
What should be the key actions to enable this priority to be taken forward over the next 5 years and how do you think you/ your organisation can help to take the action forward?	As previous
Which are the key organisations/ contacts that are essential to driving this priority forward?	As previous
What are the key national/ local drivers/ policies or strategies linked to this priority?	As previous
Do you have any other comments specifically relating to this priority?	As previous

Do you have any final comments relating to the South Nottinghamshire Homelessness Strategy?

The model is comprehensive. Need to be clear on what effectively can be delivered in the financial envelope so the expectations of those at risk of homelessness are not let down

Noted – the action plan is carefully developed to ensure challenging but realistic actions

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EQUALITY IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Policy/Service/Procedure to be assessed	South Nottinghamshire Homelessness Strategy 2017-21
Assessment completed by:	John Sheil (Housing Strategy and Development Officer)

Aims/objectives of the Policy/Service/Procedure

The Council is legally required to publish a homelessness strategy at least every five years. A review of homelessness services across South Nottinghamshire took place during the latter part of 2016 prior to a twelve week consultation with a wide range of stakeholders from November 2016 – February 2017, the results of which fed into the final document.

The key aim of the Strategy is to set out the principles to ensure effective partnership working across the three South Nottinghamshire Boroughs of Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe working to reduce homelessness and minimise the negative impacts on our resident's lives.

Specifically, the aims of the strategy are to:

Set out the approach across South Nottinghamshire (Broxtowe, Gedling, Rushcliffe) relating to preventing and tackling homelessness

Establish an action plan, which will be implemented and monitored by the South Nottinghamshire Inter Agency Homelessness Forum (comprising representation of Borough Councils, Nottinghamshire County Councils and other public sector and community organisations with a homelessness remit).

Key Performance Indicator	Current Performance	Target
Figures below relate to latest available data for Gedling BC area		
Preventing homelessness – number of households who considered themselves as homeless. Who approached the council, and for whom housing advice resolved their situation (1 st April – 30 th June 2017)	56	55
Band 1 housing applications (at 31 st August 2017)	39	NA
Band 2 housing applications (at 31 st August 2017)	199	NA
LI 140 Band 3 housing applications (at 31 st August 2017)	671	NA
LI051 Average time to process homelessness applications (working days) (1 st April – 30 th June 2017)	13.62	12 days

Average length of time spent in temporary accommodation (weeks) (1 st April – 30 th June 2017)	8.3	8
Number of homelessness applications received (1 st April – 30 th June 2017)	36	NA
New cases joining the housing register (August 2017)	130	NA
Households eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need (1 April 2016 – 31 st March 2017)	100	NA

Who are the customers and stakeholders of this service?

Principally, anyone that is currently experiencing or facing homelessness, also people who may become homeless in the future.

The Strategy has been developed through the South Nottinghamshire Inter Agency Homelessness Forum which comprises of representation outlined previously. The Strategy also acknowledges the importance of involving wider stakeholders relating to increasing homelessness resilience such as through improving mental and physical health and wellbeing, access to employment, and skills and training). For this reason, the strategy has undergone extensive consultation over a 12 week period (11 November 2016 – 6 February 2017) and provided opportunities for partners to contribute to the development of the strategy. Consultees included neighbouring Councils; County Council; Social Landlords; Nottinghamshire Public Health and third sector organisations dealing with homeless clients. Responses were received from a wide range of partner organisations including Nottinghamshire County Council; the Probation Service; Homelessness Charities; other Councils; local colleges; the NHS and private landlord representatives. This provided valuable opportunity for equalities issues to be considered.

Detail below what information you already have about the impact this policy/service/procedure has on the following groups including results from consultation, complaints, census:

Race

The proportion of ethnic breakdown of residents in Gedling is as follows (census 2011)

Residents who are White	93.1%
Residents who are Asian/Asian British	2.9%
Residents who are Mixed/multiple ethnic groups	2.3%
Residents who are Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	1.5%
Residents who are Other ethnic group	0.2%

Data from the Housing Register shows the following composition shows the following breakdown by ethnicity

Asian or Asian British	1.5%
Black or Black British	3%
Chinese	.5%
White and Asian	.5%
White and Black	2%
White other	2.5%
White British	84%
White Irish	1%
Other	1%
Not stated	4%

	<p>Of the 100 eligible homeless applicants (1 April 2016 – 31st March 2017), ethnicity comprised as follows:</p> <table> <tr> <td>White</td><td>89 (89%)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Black</td><td>4 (4%)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Asian</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr> <td>Mixed</td><td>6 (6%)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Other</td><td>1 (1%)</td></tr> </table>	White	89 (89%)	Black	4 (4%)	Asian	0	Mixed	6 (6%)	Other	1 (1%)
White	89 (89%)										
Black	4 (4%)										
Asian	0										
Mixed	6 (6%)										
Other	1 (1%)										
Sex	Housing register data shows that 60.5% of lead applicants are women.										
Gender reassignment	One applicant (equating to 0.1%) declared gender reassignment.										
Disability	<p>Of the 100 eligible homeless applicants (1 April 2016 – 31st March 2017), the following number reported a disability:</p> <table> <tr> <th>Vulnerability</th><th>Number</th></tr> <tr> <td>"Due to physical disability"</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr> <td>"Due to mental illness or handicap"</td><td>9</td></tr> </table>	Vulnerability	Number	"Due to physical disability"	2	"Due to mental illness or handicap"	9				
Vulnerability	Number										
"Due to physical disability"	2										
"Due to mental illness or handicap"	9										

Sexual orientation	<p data-bbox="284 1234 320 1653">Housing register data shows</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="360 929 544 1653"> <tr><td>Bisexual</td><td>0.8%</td></tr> <tr><td>Gay man</td><td>0.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>Gay woman</td><td>0.7%</td></tr> <tr><td>Heterosexual</td><td>84%</td></tr> <tr><td>Prefer not to say</td><td>14%</td></tr> </table>	Bisexual	0.8%	Gay man	0.5%	Gay woman	0.7%	Heterosexual	84%	Prefer not to say	14%				
Bisexual	0.8%														
Gay man	0.5%														
Gay woman	0.7%														
Heterosexual	84%														
Prefer not to say	14%														
Religion and belief	<p data-bbox="560 450 596 1653">Data from the Housing Register shows the following composition breakdown by faith</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="628 929 895 1653"> <tr><td>Buddhist</td><td>0.4%</td></tr> <tr><td>Christian</td><td>49.3%</td></tr> <tr><td>Hindu</td><td>0.2%</td></tr> <tr><td>Jewish</td><td>0%</td></tr> <tr><td>Muslim</td><td>2%</td></tr> <tr><td>Sikh</td><td>0.2%</td></tr> <tr><td>None/ undeclared</td><td>47.9%</td></tr> </table>	Buddhist	0.4%	Christian	49.3%	Hindu	0.2%	Jewish	0%	Muslim	2%	Sikh	0.2%	None/ undeclared	47.9%
Buddhist	0.4%														
Christian	49.3%														
Hindu	0.2%														
Jewish	0%														
Muslim	2%														
Sikh	0.2%														
None/ undeclared	47.9%														
Age	<p data-bbox="975 383 1011 1653">Data from the Housing Register shows the following composition breakdown by age band</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1043 929 1275 1653"> <tr><td>18-24</td><td>9.6%</td></tr> <tr><td>25-44</td><td>27.1%</td></tr> <tr><td>45-59</td><td>23.5%</td></tr> <tr><td>60-64</td><td>9%</td></tr> <tr><td>65-74</td><td>16.2%</td></tr> <tr><td>75+</td><td>14.5%</td></tr> </table> <p data-bbox="1347 259 1394 1653">Of the 100 eligible homeless applicants (1 April 2016 – 31st March 2017), age of the lead applicant</p>	18-24	9.6%	25-44	27.1%	45-59	23.5%	60-64	9%	65-74	16.2%	75+	14.5%		
18-24	9.6%														
25-44	27.1%														
45-59	23.5%														
60-64	9%														
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75+	14.5%														

	<p>was as follows:</p> <table> <tr> <th>Age</th><th>Number</th></tr> <tr> <td>16-24</td><td>33 (33%)</td></tr> <tr> <td>25-44</td><td>56 (56%)</td></tr> <tr> <td>45-59</td><td>9 (9%)</td></tr> <tr> <td>60-64</td><td>1 (1%)</td></tr> <tr> <td>65-74</td><td>1 (1%)</td></tr> <tr> <td>75+</td><td>0</td></tr> </table>	Age	Number	16-24	33 (33%)	25-44	56 (56%)	45-59	9 (9%)	60-64	1 (1%)	65-74	1 (1%)	75+	0
Age	Number														
16-24	33 (33%)														
25-44	56 (56%)														
45-59	9 (9%)														
60-64	1 (1%)														
65-74	1 (1%)														
75+	0														
Pregnancy and maternity	<p>Data from the Housing Register shows that 4% of applicants of the Homesearch scheme who were pregnant at the time of application</p> <p>Of the 100 eligible homeless applicants (1 April 2016 – 31st March 2017), 13 households were identified as including a pregnant woman</p>														
Marriage and civil partnership	<p>The 2011 census shows that 46,124 Gedling residents were married or in a same sex civil partnership</p> <p>Currently, applicants onto the housing register are not asked specifically if they are in a same sex civil partnership.</p>														

How will this policy/service/procedure impact on the following groups:		
	Positive impact	Negative impact
Race	Whilst the number of B&ME residents presenting as homeless in Gedling are relatively small in number, presentations from residents from Black and mixed ethnic backgrounds are marginally over-represented. A strong focus of preventing and tackling homelessness will positively impact.	None identified
Sex	The Strategy seeks to provide an effective approach to preventing and tackling homelessness for men and women	None identified
Gender reassignment	The strategy seeks to improve homelessness services for all residents	Due to the very low numbers of people identifying themselves as transgender (one housing applicant, equating to 0.1% of the total), the strategy does not consider specific services. This potentially means that there is an unmet need.
Disability	Whilst the Strategy does not specifically focus attention and give detail with regard to people with disabilities, a strong focus of preventing and tackling homelessness will positively impact. Additionally, provision is made specifically for a proportion of temporary accommodation to be wheelchair accessible. Also, the homelessness service is heavily engaged with mental health services to support residents with mental health issues.	None identified
Sexual orientation	Whilst the Strategy does not specifically focus attention and give detail with regard to	Due to the relatively low numbers of people on the housing register having stated that they are gay or

	residents who are gay, lesbian or bisexual, a strong focus of preventing and tackling homelessness will positively impact.	bisexual (2%), the strategy does not focus resources specifically for services which would meet any specific needs of this group.
Religion and belief	Whilst the Strategy does not specifically focus attention and give detail with regard to people with from different faiths, a strong focus of preventing and tackling homelessness will positively impact.	None identified
Age	The strategy seeks to have in place effective measures relating to preventing and tackling homelessness regardless of age.	None identified
Pregnancy and Maternity	The strategy seeks to prioritise services to those most in need. Through the allocation policy, pregnant women are a priority	None identified
Marriage and partnership	The strategy seeks to have in place effective measures relating to preventing and tackling homelessness based on need across all groups.	Currently, housing applicants are not asked if they are in a civil partnership, therefore, there could be gaps in provision

What changes could be made to the policy/service/procedure to address any negative impacts?			
<p>As a result of the Equalities Impact Assessment, a recommendation will be made to the Inter-Agency Homelessness Forum for each of the three Councils to report back to the Forum on what equalities monitoring has been undertaken relating to homeless clients on the implementation of the homelessness strategy on an annual basis.</p> <p>Currently, data is collated annually with regard to equalities statistics relating to residents on the housing register. It is proposed that further equalities information is collated specifically relating to households who approach partners in South Nottinghamshire with a homelessness application.</p> <p>Currently, no data is collated with regard to civil partnerships. We will explore amending the housing application form to include this.</p>			
What monitoring will be carried out to ensure this policy/service/procedure meets diverse needs			
<p>The strategy will be implemented and monitored through the South Nottinghamshire Inter Agency Homelessness Forum which comprises of representatives from Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe Borough Councils; Nottinghamshire County Council and a range of community and public sector organisations with a homelessness remit.</p> <p>A key element of the role of this Forum is to ensure that provision meets the diverse needs of our communities.</p> <p>As stated, a recommendation will be made to the Nottinghamshire Inter Agency Homelessness Forum for equalities data relating to homelessness to be reviewed by the group on at least an annual basis. Where gaps are identified, members of the group should identify actions to address. As part of this, Gedling Borough Council will present analysis on an annual basis focussed on residents who present as homeless.</p>			
What actions will be included in your service plan arising from this assessment?			
Action		Outcome	Date? Who?
To recommend to the South Nottinghamshire Inter Agency		An increased focus on equalities issues relating to the delivery of the homelessness strategy and a mechanism	By end of November John Sheil, Housing

Homelessness Forum that an annual assessment of equalities issues relating to homelessness is undertaken by all members and that the results are presented back to the Forum with recommendations for change where gaps are identified.	identified to ensure services are equitable.	2017	Strategy and Development Officer, GBC
To identify a lead to collate equalities data specifically relating to people presenting as homeless	To ensure that a mechanism is in place to collate equalities data relating to homeless applicants in order to ensure delivery of services meet the needs of our diverse communities	By end of November 2017	John Sheil, Housing Strategy and Development Officer, GBC
Explore including a category on the housing application form around civil partnerships	To ensure an awareness of the extent of civil partnerships to monitor services and ensure no gaps in provision	By end of January 2018	John Sheil, Housing Strategy and Development Officer, GBC
Are you satisfied that all aspects of this policy/service/procedure have been thoroughly assessed for all the strands of diversity and that no further investigation is required? Y If no then a fuller impact assessment is required.			

Signed.....

A. Stevenson

(manager) Signed *A. Stevenson*

.....(Corporate Equality Representative)



Report to Cabinet

Subject: Gedling Conversation 2017

Date: 7 December 2017

Author: Director of Organisational Development & Democratic Services

Wards Affected

Borough-wide.

Purpose

To give feedback to Members on the Gedling Conversation 2017.

Key Decision

This is not a key Decision.

Background

- 1.1 In June 2017 the Council began the fourth annual Gedling Conversation. The Gedling Conversation represents a set of consultations aiming to seek the views of our community about how our performance has been over the previous years and what our priorities should be over the coming year.

The approach in 2017 was slightly different to previous years and a combined consultation exercise was organised, using the following methods:

- Roadshows
- Residents Satisfaction Survey
- Focus groups for those residents whose responses are under represented

- 1.2 In order to make the Council visible to as many residents as possible, the roadshows were held in every ward in the borough. Representatives from Senior Leadership Team and service managers were present at each of the roadshows and ward councillors were invited to attend the roadshow held in their ward.

- 1.3 The main theme for talking to residents was 'Life in Gedling Borough' and 2 roadshows were held each day over a 2 week period in July 2017.
- 1.4 The majority of feedback from the roadshows was positive about the Council and living in the borough. On the whole, residents were satisfied and made many positive comments about the place. Specific comments were made about individual wards, however there are several common themes in the feedback:

- Poor condition of roads
- Speeding traffic
- Availability of public transport
- Anti-social behaviour.

These issues are also reflected in the feedback received in the Satisfaction Survey results.

- 1.5 A copy of the satisfaction survey was delivered to each household in the borough. It was also available to be completed online. The survey had a very good response rate of 3,422 responses. This represents 6.7% of households, which is a good result for this type of consultation. By way of comparison, in 2015 the Council received 2,271 responses representing 4.2% of households. In addition the residents' satisfaction surveys carried out by the County Council in 2015 and 2016 both had 1,069 responses across the county.
- 1.6 Members will recall that social media was actively used this year to promote the survey; share information to a wider audience and target under-represented groups. Although the majority of replies were returned by post, 26.3% of replies were completed online, which is an increase on the 7% completed online in 2015.
- 1.7 The profile of the respondents in terms of ethnicity and gender seems fairly proportionate to the profile of the borough. As with previous surveys the age profile of the respondents, on the other hand, suggests that the sample is skewed towards the older population. However, for the first time, the responses from 35-54 year olds are fairly proportionate to the profile of the borough. In view of the fact that the younger population is under-represented in the responses, the Youth Council is being consulted to seek views of young people about life in the borough.
- 1.8 The results of the satisfaction survey will be reported to Cabinet in the form of a presentation at the meeting.

Proposal

- 2 It is proposed that Cabinet notes the feedback on the Gedling Conversation 2017.

Alternative Options

- 3 Not to note the feedback on the Gedling Conversation.

Financial Implications

- 4 None directly arising from this report.

Appendices

- 5 None.

Background Papers

- 6 Satisfaction Survey results.

Recommendation

THAT: the feedback on the Gedling Conversation 2017 is noted.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 7 To ensure Members are informed about the views of our community obtained through the Gedling Conversation 2017.

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Report to Cabinet

Subject: Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) Annual Audit and Update

Date: 7th December 2017

Author: Director of Organisational Development and Democratic Services

Wards Affected

Not applicable

Purpose of the Report

To update Members in relation to the Council's use of powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) from April 2016 – March 2017, in accordance with the policy.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

Background

- 1.1 Under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) local authorities have the power to authorise directed surveillance (usually covert cameras or covert observations by officers) and the use of Covert Human Intelligence Sources (CHIS) (essentially undercover officers conducting surveillance) if the authorisation is necessary for the prevention and detection of crime or preventing disorder and if the surveillance is proportionate to the aims it seeks to achieve. In respect of directed surveillance, save for a small number of licensing offences, any crime or disorder being prevented or detected using RIPA must be a criminal offence which attracts a minimum of 6 months in custody, the so-called "serious crime" threshold. The authorisations under RIPA can only be given by Directors or the Chief Executive, and the entire process is overseen by the Director of Organisational Development and Democratic Services as the Senior Responsible Officer for RIPA (SRO) with

assistance from the RIPA Co-ordinating Officer, the Service Manager for Legal Services. Since 1st November 2012, any RIPA authorisations or renewals must also have judicial approval from a Justice of the Peace. This is done at the Nottingham Magistrates' Court.

- 1.2 The Council's RIPA process is subject to intense scrutiny and roughly every three years, the Council is inspected by the OSC to ensure that its RIPA processes, procedures, policies and practices are sound. The Council was inspected by an Inspector from the OSC on 18th April 2016. The Inspector concluded that Gedling Borough Council is a good performing Council. The recommendations made by the Inspector following the inspection were reported to Cabinet on 4th August 2016.
- 1.3 As part of the Council's RIPA policy, members are required to consider and review the Council's use of RIPA powers and its policy and guidance at least once a year. Cabinet last received a report in August 2016 in relation to RIPA usage and powers. There is also a requirement under the policy that internal reporting to members is done throughout the year to update on RIPA usage. The Council's RIPA Co-ordinating officer provides updates throughout the year to the Portfolio Holder for Public protection in relation to the Council's RIPA usage.

Internal Audit

- 1.6 In addition to the external inspection by the OSC, the RIPA Co-ordinating officer also carries out annual audits of RIPA usage. In 2016-17 there were no authorisations given for directed surveillance or the use of covert human intelligence sources.
- 1.7 Whilst the Council's use of RIPA powers has declined, there are offences which the Council investigate, for example fly-tipping offences which do cross the serious crime threshold and officers can still use the RIPA powers in certain circumstances for such investigations where it is necessary and proportionate to do so.
- 1.8 Even where the Council's current RIPA usage is low, it is still essential that the Council keep the RIPA processes and procedures under close scrutiny. The Council will continue to be subject to inspection in relation to its use of the powers by the OSC and as such the Council's policy, processes, training and review of RIPA usage must continue to ensure our processes remain fit for purpose.

Training

- 1.8 As part of the Council's RIPA policy, and to ensure authorising officers and investigating officers keep up to date and knowledgeable in respect of RIPA powers, officers receive annual training in relation to RIPA. In March 2017 authorising officers, investigating officers and the Portfolio Holder for Public Protection received RIPA training from an external trainer. The training was a useful update and provided some interesting discussion around the use of surveillance in investigations and the necessity for RIPA authorisations when surveillance is carried out through the use of social media, for example repeated surveillance of open source sites such as Facebook, where no privacy settings are applied. Whilst one look on an individual's Facebook page as part of an investigation would not be classed as surveillance, repeated checks of the site to establish information about an individual in relation to an investigation is likely to require authorisation under RIPA.

Social Media and RIPA

- 1.9 The use of social media as part of investigations is something that the OSC have highlighted as an area of concern. In March 2017, the OSC wrote to all local authorities suggesting that they carry out an internal audit of the use of social media and the internet for investigations and official business. Whilst using the internet as a one off, as part of information gathering on an individual will not necessarily amount to surveillance, as explained above, repeated use of the internet and social media sites to gather information about an individual in relation to a particular issue, may amount to surveillance. In addition, if the individual is unaware that the information is being accessed repeatedly as part of an investigation or otherwise, the surveillance is likely to be covert.
- 1.10 If covert surveillance is taking place of an individual, and the investigation relates to a crime which passes the serious crime threshold then a RIPA authorisation should be obtained. If the covert surveillance is in relation to an issue which does not pass the serious crime threshold, for example debt recovery, the protection of a RIPA authorisation cannot be obtained. In those circumstances, consideration needs to be given as to whether it is necessary and proportionate to essentially interfere with an individual's right to privacy for the purposes of debt recovery. Article 8 of the Human Rights Act 1998 – a person's right to respect for their private and family life, home and correspondence, is a qualified right which a local authority can "interfere" with if it is necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety or the economic well-being of the country, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others. The threshold for such interference is high, essentially an authorisation under RIPA demonstrates that the interference with an individual's human rights satisfies the terms of the qualification, so it is necessary, and in relation to

local authorities, the only ground on which an authorisation can be given is that it is necessary for the prevention and detection of crime. A RIPA authorisation therefore essentially deems the interference with the right lawful. Without such an authorisation, any activity which interferes with an individual's human rights may not be considered to be lawful. As such, local authorities need to be cautious about using the internet or social media sites in this way. The OSC have made it clear that even though the sites may be open source and the individuals may not have certain privacy settings in place, that does not mean they are consenting to surveillance being carried out on them.

- 1.11 In accordance with the OSC's proposals, an internal audit has been undertaken of all departments to establish their use of the internet and social media for investigation and Council business. Whilst many departments confirmed they do use the internet as part of their business, there is no use of the internet, according to the audit results, which would amount to surveillance. Those departments which have investigatory powers as part of their business, for example public protection may use social media and the internet as part of an investigation but this tends to be one off checks to gather information, a "drive by" rather than repeated use on each case. Officers in this section are trained in RIPA and have been advised to seek legal advice if they feel surveillance will be required as part of an investigation.
- 1.12 Another way in which social media may be used as an investigative tool is if for example, a Council officer, as part of an investigation created a Facebook page pretending to be an individual in order to establish a relationship with a perpetrator for the purposes of gathering information relating to an offence. Such activity is known as using a covert human intelligence source (CHIS). Authorisation for use of a CHIS can be given under RIPA. The results of the audit revealed that no such activity is being undertaken within the Council. Again, those departments who may wish to use such an investigative technique are fully aware of the RIPA powers and are also advised to seek legal advice before undertaking such activity.
- 1.13 It is important that RIPA awareness is maintained throughout the organisation even if authorisations are not being obtained. The Senior Responsible Officer and RIPA Co-ordinator will continue to monitor, review and report on RIPA usage in line with the legislation and the Council's policy.

Proposal

- 2.1 Following the audit, and consideration of the Council's policy, it is proposed that no changes are required to the policy document at this time

and that members therefore note the details of the work that has been undertaken in respect of RIPA outlined in this report.

Alternative Options

- 3.1 An alternative option is that Members do not receive and consider feedback in respect of the RIPA audits and activity. This would go against the Council's RIPA Policy which requires annual review of the Council's Policy and procedure by Members. This would also be contrary to recommendations from the OSC.
- 3.2 Members could choose to recommend amendments to the RIPA Policy or processes. However, having reviewed the policy and processes, it does remain fit for purpose in its current form.

Financial Implications

None arising from this report.

Appendices

None

Background Papers

None identified.

Recommendation

THAT:

- (a) Members note the contents of the report.

Reasons for Recommendation

- (a) To ensure the Executive is updated in respect of the Council's use of RIPA in line with the Council's current RIPA Policy document.
- (b) To ensure the Executive is updated in relation to scrutiny of the Council's RIPA processes and procedures.

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Report to Cabinet

Subject: Change to Outside Body Representation

Date: 7 December 2017

Author: Service Manager Democratic Services

Wards Affected

Borough-wide

Purpose

To enable Cabinet to authorise a change in Gedling Borough Council's representation on the Nottingham Express Transit Development Board.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

Background

- 1.1 The Labour Group has advised that Councillor Clarke is to replace Councillor Hollingsworth as the Council's representative on the Nottingham Express Transit Development Board.

Proposal

- 2.1 To authorise that Councillor Clarke is appointed to the Nottingham Express Transit Development Board in place of Councillor Hollingsworth with immediate effect.

Alternative Options

- 3.1 Not to authorise a change of the Council's representative. This would result in Councillor Hollingsworth carrying on as the Council's appointee.
- 3.2 To appoint an alternative representative to the Board.

Financial Implications

- 4 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Appendices

- 5 None.
-

Background Papers

6 None identified.

Recommendation

THAT:

Councillor John Clarke is appointed as Gedling Borough Council's representative on the Nottingham Express Transit Development Board in place of Councillor Hollingsworth.

Reason for Recommendations

7 To ensure that the Council continues to be represented on outside bodies that are considered important to the Borough and its residents.