

Report to Cabinet

Subject: South Nottinghamshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy
2022 – 2027

Date: 8 December 2022

Author: Housing and Welfare Manager

Wards Affected

Borough wide

Purpose

To seek approval to adopt the new South Nottinghamshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.

Key Decision

This is a key decision, as 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.

Recommendations

THAT Cabinet:

- 1) Approves the adoption of the South Nottinghamshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022 - 2027 (shown in Appendix 1), in light of the public consultation undertaken, as detailed in this report.

1 Background

Context

- 1.1 Gedling Borough Council transferred its housing stock to Gedling Homes in 2008, and so is no longer stock holding. However, the statutory duty to provide a homeless function was retained by the Council.

- 1.2 The Homelessness Act 2002 places a legal requirement on local authorities to undertake a review of homelessness within their area, and develop and publish a strategy to prevent homelessness, based on the findings of the review. The strategy must be reviewed at least every 5 years.
- 1.3 Gedling Borough Council works in partnership with both Broxtowe and Rushcliffe Borough Councils to produce and deliver a joint strategy for South Nottinghamshire. The three Boroughs face many common challenges and work closely together to provide joint interventions to help prevent and relieve homelessness and rough sleeping. Notably, the South Nottinghamshire Inter Agency Homelessness Forum which was established in 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 Covid 19 pandemic also brought many challenges and the “Everyone In” initiative, announced in March 2020, aimed to provide safe and self-contained accommodation for those sleeping rough. The 3 authorities have worked closely together to secure funding to provide 13 units of accommodation which includes ongoing care and support. Other key achievements include an aligned winter provision offer and the joint funding of a domestic violence worker from Juno Women’s Aid and a privately rented sector worker from Nottingham Community Housing Association, who seeks to secure long term accommodation for those residents who have been placed temporarily into bed and breakfast accommodation.
- 1.4 The current strategy was approved in 2017, and then amended in 2019 to make specific reference to the needs of rough sleepers, in light of the Government’s National Rough Sleeping Strategy 2018, which aimed to half rough sleeping by 2022, and end it by 2027.
- 1.5 Following the introduction of the National Rough Sleeping Strategy 2018, the Rapid Rehousing Pathway and Rough Sleeping Initiatives were introduced which encouraged Councils to submit funding bids to help address this specific cohort. Appendix 4 provides details of these schemes along with the funding secured and the skilled specialised services commissioned to address rough sleeping within the County.
- 1.6 The current South Nottinghamshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy (2017-21) focussed on effective service delivery to increase prevention opportunities to reduce the risk of crisis presentations that could make access to appropriate accommodation options difficult. The new proposed Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and accompanying action plan focuses around the emerging challenges that Councils face and

some of the new challenges and objectives set by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

- 1.7 The current South Nottinghamshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy (2017-21) requires reviewing to take into account significant legislative and socio – economic changes.

The key pieces of legislation are :

- The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017
- The National Rough Sleeping Strategy 2018
- The Domestic Abuse Act 2021

- 1.8 The proposed South Nottinghamshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy went out for public consultation between October and December 2021. The review process required a minimum of an 8 week consultation exercise, conducted with:

- Registered Providers Partners
- Neighbouring Local Authorities
- Members of the public
- Voluntary sector organisations
- Statutory sector organisations

Broxtowe Borough Council were the lead authority on the new South Nottinghamshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-2027 and undertook the consultation exercise. The responses to the consultation are found at Appendix 5.

- 1.9 The consultation was undertaken using Survey Monkey and was available on each of the South Nottinghamshire Borough's websites. Key questions drawn from the following sources were asked:

- The strategic review of homelessness across the three boroughs over the last three fiscal years
- The objectives of The National Rough Sleeping Strategy 2018, which focusses on prevention, intervention and recovery.
- The impact of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2018
- The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

1.10 The strategy focuses its actions around 6 identified key themes, these are:

- Early intervention through partnership working
- The provision of accessible, agile and responsive homelessness services
- Access to affordable and quality accommodation across all sectors
- Tackle rough sleeping by developing and improving pathways
- Link health, well-being and housing together to improve the life chances and aspirations of those affected
- Deliver long term support solutions to sustain tenancies for the most vulnerable

1.11 Please see Appendix 1, which contains the final South Nottinghamshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022 – 2027, and shows the changes resulting from the consultation.

1.12 The revised South Nottinghamshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022 – 2027 was consulted on for an 8-week period. During this time a total of 40 comments were received and these were generally supportive. The consultation results are detailed in Appendix 5.

1.13 The South Nottinghamshire Homeless and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022 – 2027 has now had Council approval at both Rushcliffe and Broxtowe Borough Councils and is in operation in those areas.

2 Proposal

That the draft_South Nottinghamshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022 – 2027 is adopted.

2.1 Officers are therefore seeking Cabinet approval to implement the South Nottinghamshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022 - 2027, in line with the consultation feedback received.

3 Alternative Options

3.1 The Homelessness Act 2002 places a legal duty on local authorities to undertake a review of homelessness within their area, and develop and publish a strategy to prevent homelessness, based on the findings of their review, so there is no alternative option, or the option of doing nothing in view of this statutory requirement.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 The consultation and production of the final strategy can be delivered within existing budgets.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Homelessness Act 2002 places a legal duty on local authorities to produce a Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, and review it at least every 5 years.

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 An equality impact assessment can be found at Appendix 6

7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

- 7.1 There are no carbon reduction or environmental sustainability implications as a result of this report.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – South Nottinghamshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022 – 2027
- 8.2 Appendix 2 – South Nottinghamshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022 – 2027 Action Plan
- 8.3 Appendix 3 – South Nottinghamshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022 – 2027 Review
- 8.4 Appendix 4 – Funding streams
- 8.5 Appendix 5 – Consultation outcomes
- 8.6 Appendix 6 – Equalities Impact Assessment

9 Background Papers

- 9.1 None

10 Reasons For Recommendations

- 10.1 To ensure that the Council has a comprehensive Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy which fully complies with legislative requirements and delivers an effective range of services for those who are homeless, at risk of homelessness or rough sleeping.

Statutory Officer Approval

Approved by:	
Date:	
On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer	
Approved by:	
Date:	
On behalf of the Monitoring Officer	