

Portfolio Holder Report

Subject: Supported Housing Strategy and Homeless Strategy Action Plan

Date: 30/07/2026

Author: Paul Whitworth – Assistant Director of Housing & Resettlement

Wards Affected:

All Wards

Purpose: To seek approval for Gedling Borough Council to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the six Nottinghamshire districts and borough councils. The MoU will formalise pooled funding, governance and joint delivery partnership arrangements for the development of a local Homelessness Strategy Action Plan, aligned to the Government's National Plan to End Homelessness due for submission to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) by 1st December 2026, and the preparation and implementation of a countywide Local Supported Housing Strategy by 31 March 2027, as required under the Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023.

Key Decision:

This is not a key decision

Recommendation:

That the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Place approve Gedling Borough Council entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the six Nottinghamshire districts and borough councils to formalise pooled funding, governance and joint delivery partnership arrangements for:

- **The development of a local Homelessness Strategy Action Plan, including local targets aligned to the national Outcomes Framework, temporary accommodation procurement priorities and regular progress reporting, for submission to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) by 1st December 2026; and**
- **The preparation and implementation of a countywide Local Supported Housing Strategy by 31 March 2027, in accordance with the Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023.**

1 Background

- 1.1 Local housing authorities are required under the Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023 to prepare and publish a Local Supported Housing Strategy by 31 March 2027. The strategy must be informed by an assessment of current provision, unmet need and future demand, and should be developed with relevant housing, health, social care, provider and community partners.
- 1.2 The Government has provided new burdens funding to support councils in meeting these requirements, including the development, monitoring and review of Local Supported Housing Strategies.
- 1.3 In addition, the Government's National Plan to End Homelessness requires local authorities to develop Homelessness Strategy Action Plans with clear local targets aligned to the national Outcomes Framework. Action Plans are expected to support a stronger focus on prevention, temporary accommodation reduction, partnership working and measurable local outcomes. Action Plans must be submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) by 1st December 2026.
- 1.4 Across Nottinghamshire, the Chief Executives of the seven district and borough councils have agreed in principle to work collaboratively to form a partnership to produce a countywide Local Supported Housing Strategy and associated Homelessness Strategy Action Plan. This approach recognises that supported housing need and homelessness pressures frequently cross administrative boundaries and are closely linked to wider housing, health and social care systems.
- 1.5 The seven councils have agreed in principle to pool the available funding to establish shared programme capacity, reduce duplication and support consistent delivery. Ashfield District Council has been identified as the Lead Partner Authority to administer the pooled funding and coordinate delivery, building on its experience of managing similar countywide arrangements. Each authority will be required to sign a MoU which will: -
 - confirm each authority's commitment to pool funding;
 - enable Ashfield District Council to administer funding and coordinate delivery on behalf of the partner authorities;
 - establish governance and decision-making arrangements;
 - set out the purpose, scope and governance arrangements for the collaboration; and
 - provide a formal mechanism for managing pooled funding, programme oversight and delivery across the participating partner authorities.
- 1.6 Ashfield District Council will enter into Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with partner organisations hosting roles within the cross-council team, including Nottinghamshire County Council and Newark & Sherwood District Council, to support delivery of the agreed programme of work using the pooled Supported Housing Strategy new burdens funding. Service Level Agreements (SLAs) are therefore required to:

- define the scope and expectations of the roles hosted by partner organisations
- establish financial arrangements for the use of pooled funding
- clarify responsibilities and accountability; and
- ensure appropriate governance and performance management are in place.

Without an MoU or SLA's, there would be no agreed mechanism for managing pooled funding or coordinating delivery across the authorities. This would increase the risk of duplication, delay and inconsistent implementation.

2 Proposal

- 2.1 It is proposed that Gedling Borough Council enters into the MoU with the Nottinghamshire district and borough councils to support a countywide approach to developing and initially implementing the Local Supported Housing Strategy and associated Homelessness Strategy Action Plan. Under the proposed arrangement, Ashfield District Council would act as Lead Authority for pooled funding administration and programme coordination.

The proposed approach is recommended because it:

- supports compliance with the statutory duty to produce a Local Supported Housing Strategy and enables the Council to contribute to the Homelessness Strategy Action Plan within the required timescales;
- reflects the cross-boundary nature of supported housing need and homelessness and supports a coordinated partnership response across housing, health and social care systems;
- makes best use of new burdens funding through pooled arrangements, reducing duplication and providing capacity through a shared cross-council partnership delivery team;
- provides a clear governance framework through the Memorandum of Understanding, including accountability for funding, delivery and performance management; and
- is more efficient and lower risk than each authority developing separate arrangements for strategy development and implementation.

3 Alternative Options

- 3.1 Option 2 – The Council could choose not to enter into the countywide Memorandum of Understanding and instead develop its own local arrangements to produce a Gedling-only Local Supported Housing Strategy and Homelessness Strategy Action Plan. This option is not recommended because:

- It would require additional internal capacity and resource at a time when the pooled countywide model is designed to provide shared programme support.
- It would be less efficient and could duplicate work already being undertaken collectively across Nottinghamshire.
- It would risk weaker alignment with neighbouring authorities and partner agencies where supported housing need and homelessness issues cross administrative boundaries.

- It may increase the risk of delay in meeting the statutory deadlines for the Local Supported Housing Strategy and Homelessness Strategy Action Plan.

3.2 Option 3 – The Council could decide not to participate in the proposed arrangements at this stage and take no immediate action. This option is not recommended because it would create a significant risk of non-compliance with statutory and national policy requirements, forgo the benefits of shared capacity and partner expertise, and expose the Council to greater operational, financial and reputational risk than the proposed collaborative model.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 Government has provided new burdens funding to each authority to support delivery of these requirements. This was announced in February 2026. The total pooled funding across the seven Nottinghamshire district and borough councils is £724,306 over four years, including indicative future allocations.

Gedling Borough Council's indicative contribution is £97,035, based on the allocations shown below. The 2025/26 funding was allocated with Councils asked to commit and spend by the end of the 2026/27 financial year, with additional funding expected in 2028/29 & 2029/30.

This is to ensure councils have the resources active right up until the statutory strategy publication deadline of 31 March 2027.

Authority	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29 (indicative)	2029/30 (indicative)	Total
Ashfield	£54,778	£0	£0	£28,830	£28,830	£112,438
Bassetlaw	£51,516	£0	£0	£27,113	£27,113	£105,742
Broxtowe	£45,891	£0	£0	£24,153	£24,153	£94,197
Gedling	£47,273	£0	£0	£24,881	£24,881	£97,035
Mansfield	£55,210	£0	£0	£29,058	£29,058	£113,326
Newark & Sherwood	£53,954	£0	£0	£28,397	£28,397	£110,748
Rushcliffe	£44,246	£0	£0	£23,287	£23,287	£90,820
Total	£352,868	£0	£0	£185,719	£185,719	£724,306

5 Legal Implications

The proposed arrangement is a collaborative, horizontal arrangement between local authorities. It is therefore not a procurement of services from an external provider, and the Council's Contract and Procurement Rules are not expected to apply. The MoU will document the purpose of the collaboration, the use of pooled funding, governance arrangements and accountability between the participating partner authorities.

The countywide drafted approach will require approval and incorporation into the authority and will need to be approved by Cabinet at a later stage.

6 Local Government Review Implications

- 6.1 The proposed countywide approach is consistent with the direction of travel arising from Local Government Review, as it supports closer collaboration between Nottinghamshire authorities, reduces duplication and establishes common evidence, governance and delivery arrangements across the county. Developing the Local Supported Housing Strategy and Homelessness Strategy Action Plan on a shared basis will provide a stronger platform for any future local government structures, helping to ensure continuity of statutory compliance, service planning and partnership working during any period of organisational change.
- 6.2 The MoU also provides a practical mechanism for maintaining delivery momentum while Local Government Review progresses. By documenting funding, accountability and programme oversight arrangements between the participating partner authorities, the proposal reduces the risk that future structural change could disrupt the preparation or implementation of the required strategies.
- 6.3 The indicative funding allocations are currently based on existing Council's boundaries which are currently subjected to Local Government reorganisation and may affect future usage and allocations.

7 Risk Appraisal

- 7.1 The principal risks associated with the proposal, together with proposed mitigating actions, are set out below.

Risk 1: Delay in delivery of the Local Supported Housing Strategy and Homelessness Strategy Action Plan

Likelihood: Medium

Impact: High

Mitigation: The countywide partnership approach provides shared programme capacity through a cross-council team, supported by pooled funding, agreed governance arrangements and Ashfield District Council acting as Lead Partner Authority to coordinate delivery against the statutory timetable.

7.2 **Risk 2: Lack of financial clarity or ineffective use of pooled funding**

Likelihood: Low

Impact: Medium

Mitigation: The MoU will set out each authority's contribution, the permitted use of pooled funding, financial administration arrangements, monitoring requirements and reporting arrangements. The Lead Partner Authority role will provide a single point of coordination for financial management, with oversight retained collectively by the participating authorities.

7.3 **Risk 3: Weak governance, accountability or decision-making across partner authorities**

Likelihood: Low

Impact: High

Mitigation: The MoU will formalise governance, reporting, decision-making and escalation arrangements. This will clarify roles and responsibilities, maintain accountability between partner authorities and support timely delivery against agreed milestones.

7.4 **Risk 4: Dependence on the Lead Authority and partner organisations to provide programme capacity**

Likelihood: Low

Impact: Medium

Mitigation: Ashfield District Council has relevant experience of managing countywide funding arrangements. The proposed model is supported by formal agreements, defined roles and shared oversight across the partner authorities, reducing reliance on any single organisation and ensuring delivery remains subject to collective monitoring.

8 **Benefits**

The proposal would deliver the following benefits:

- 8.1
 - supports compliance with the statutory requirement to prepare a Local Supported Housing Strategy by 31 March 2027 and enables the Council to contribute to the Homelessness Strategy Action Plan within the required timescales;
 - provides a coordinated countywide response to supported housing need and homelessness, recognising that these issues cross local authority boundaries and require alignment with housing, health and social care partners;
 - makes better use of new burdens funding through pooled arrangements, reducing duplication and enabling shared programme capacity through a cross-council delivery team;
 - establishes a clear framework for governance, accountability and performance management through the Memorandum of Understanding;
 - reduces operational, financial and delivery risk by using a collaborative model that is more efficient and resilient than separate arrangements developed by individual authorities; and

- builds on existing partnership working across Nottinghamshire and makes use of Ashfield District Council's experience as Lead Partner Authority for countywide arrangements.

9 Equalities Implications

9.1 Appendix 1

10 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

- 10.1 There are no direct carbon reduction or environmental sustainability implications arising from the recommendation to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding. The proposal relates to pooled funding, governance and collaborative arrangements to support preparation of the Local Supported Housing Strategy and Homelessness Strategy Action Plan.

Any future actions arising from the strategies, including commissioning, property-related activity, temporary accommodation procurement or service delivery changes, will need to consider carbon reduction and environmental sustainability implications at the appropriate stage. The countywide approach may provide indirect environmental benefits by reducing duplication between authorities, supporting shared evidence gathering and enabling more coordinated planning across Nottinghamshire.

11 Appendices

- 11.1 None

12 Background Papers

- 12.1 None

13 Reason for Recommendations

- 13.1 It is recommended that the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Place approves Gedling Borough Council entering into the Memorandum of Understanding with the six other Nottinghamshire district and borough councils. Approval is recommended on the basis that the arrangement will:
- formalise pooled funding, governance and joint delivery arrangements across the seven Nottinghamshire district and borough councils;
 - support the development and initial implementation of the countywide Local Supported Housing Strategy and associated Homelessness Strategy Action Plan;
 - make effective use of government funding by strengthening shared programme capacity and reducing duplication;
 - support coordinated delivery across Nottinghamshire, reflecting the cross-boundary nature of supported housing need and homelessness pressures; and
 - reduce the risk of delay, inconsistency or non-compliance when compared with separate local arrangements.

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by:

Date:

On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

Approved by:

Date:

On behalf of the Monitoring Officer