



**EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT COVER SHEET**

<b>Title of Report:</b>	Homelessness Strategy Renewal
<b>Meeting of:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date:</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> September 2018
<b>Is this an Executive Decision:</b>	YES
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	NO
<b>Is the Report Confidential:</b>	NO
<b>If so, please state relevant paragraph from Schedule 12A LGA 1972:</b>	[ ]
<b>Essential Signatories:</b>	
<b>ALL REPORTS MUST BE IN THE NAME OF A HEAD OF SERVICE</b>	
Monitoring Officer: <b>Angela Wakefield</b>	
Date .....	Signature .....
Chief Finance Officer: <b>Sal Khan</b>	
Date .....	Signature .....

**EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Report to Cabinet**

**Date: 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

**REPORT TITLE: Homeless Strategy Renewal**

**PORTFOLIO: Housing and Homelessness**

**HEAD OF SERVICE: Sal Khan**

**CONTACT OFFICER: Brett Atkinson Ext. No. x1123**

**WARD(S) AFFECTED: None**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

1.1. To seek approval for the draft Homelessness Strategy (Appendix 1), which has been informed by the Homelessness Review (Appendix 2).

**2. Executive Summary**

2.1. The Homelessness Strategy is a strategy for avoiding homelessness, securing the availability of accommodation, and for providing support<sup>1</sup>.

**3. Background**

3.1. The Council is required under the Homelessness Act 2002<sup>2</sup> to adopt a new Homelessness Strategy every 5 years, and our current strategy is now due for renewal.

3.2. The legislation requires that the Homelessness Strategy be based on the results of a Homelessness Review. The results of the Homelessness Review are set out in the document at Appendix 2.

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<sup>1</sup> Homelessness Act 2002 S3(1)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/7/section/1>

#### **4. Contribution to Corporate Priorities**

- 4.1. Protecting and Strengthening Communities.

#### **5. The Homelessness Strategy 2018 - 2023**

- 5.1. The draft strategy recommends that the Council maintain its commitment to delivering a high standard of homelessness service, for example by assessing the service according to the top nationally-recognised test. However there a number of points to highlight as follows:

- 5.1.1. The draft strategy is 11 pages long and is therefore concise, so it should be read in conjunction with the Homelessness Review which provides more detail on the activities listed in the strategy.

- 5.1.2. Clear reference is made to the new duties created by the Homeless Reduction Act. These include; early intervention, Personal Housing Plans and the programmes the Council has put into place to ensure compliance.

- 5.1.3. An action plan for implementation is to be produced annually, in recognition of the changing landscape in homelessness.

- 5.2. Before adopting a homelessness strategy the Council is required to consult such public or local authorities, voluntary organisations or other persons as it considers appropriate. This consultation was undertaken for 2 weeks during July 2018 and no responses were received.

#### **6. Financial Considerations**

*This section has been approved by the following member of the Financial Management Unit: Anya Murray*

- 6.1. There are no financial issues arising from this Report. The draft strategy avoids committing the Council to any particular level of future expenditure

#### **7. Risk Assessment and Management**

- 7.1. The main risks to this Report and the Council achieving its objectives are as follows:

- 7.2. **Positive** (Opportunities/Benefits):

- 7.2.1. The draft strategy is the product of consultation with partners and stakeholders, and they did not identify any concerns about the Council's services.

- 7.2.2. The strategy identifies ways in which the Council can intervene early to avoid or prevent homelessness.

- 7.3. **Negative** (Threats):

7.3.1. The draft strategy does not contain new spending commitments and it may be criticised for that.

7.4. The risks do not need to be entered in the Risk Register. Any financial implications to mitigate against these risks are considered above.

## 8. **Legal Considerations**

*This section has been approved by the following member of the Legal Team:  
Sherrie Grant*

8.1. The main legal issues arising from this Report are as follows:

8.1.1. A local housing authority is required to take its homelessness strategy into account in the exercise of its functions.

8.1.2. The County Council as social services authority is also required to take the Council's homelessness strategy into account in the exercise of its functions in relation to East Staffordshire.

8.2. There are no other legal issues arising from this Report.

## 9. **Equalities and Health**

9.1. **Equality impacts:** The subject of this Report is a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised. An equality and health impact assessment is attached at Appendix 3.

9.2. **Health impacts:** The outcome of the health screening question does not require a full Health Impact Assessment to be completed. An equality and health impact assessment is attached as Appendix 3.

9.3. The main equality or health issues arising from this Report are as follows:

9.3.1. Homelessness assistance will have a positive impact on households who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.

## 10. **Human Rights**

10.1. There are no Human Rights issues arising from this Report.

## 11. **Sustainability** (including climate change and change adaptation measures)

11.1. Does the proposal result in an overall positive effect in terms of sustainability (including climate change and change adaptation measures) N/A

## 12. **Recommendation(s)**

12.1. To adopt the draft Homelessness Strategy 2018 – 2023.

13. **Background Papers**

13.1. The Homelessness Strategy 2013 – 2018

13.2. Homeless Reduction Act Compliance Report<sup>3</sup>

13.3. Proposal to Introduce 'Jam Jar' Bank Accounts Report<sup>4</sup>

13.4. Designation of a Selective Licensing Pilot Report<sup>5</sup>

14. **Appendices**

14.1. Appendix 1: Draft Homelessness Strategy 2018 – 2023

14.2. Appendix 2: Homelessness Review 2018

14.3. Appendix 3: Equality and Health Impact Assessment

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk/council-democracy/committees/Cabinet/2018-02-12-000000>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk/council-democracy/committees/Cabinet/2017-05-15-000000>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk/council-democracy/committees/cabinet/2017-06-12-000000>