



<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Emily Spicer, Assistant Director – Wellbeing and Community Leadership
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	Emily Spicer, Assistant Director - Wellbeing and Community Leadership
<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	Gemma Johnson, Homelessness Reduction and Private Sector Improvement Manager
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Approval of the Lincolnshire Homelessness Strategy 2022-2027 2022-27
<b>PURPOSE:</b>	To seek approval for the adoption and publication of the new Lincolnshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-27
<b>KEY DECISION:</b>	Yes
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	All wards
<b>EXEMPT REPORT?</b>	No

### **SUMMARY**

The Homelessness Act 2002 requires all housing authorities to publish and maintain a strategy which sets out the current position and challenges for homelessness across the district, sets out the priorities and actions that together aims to prevent homelessness and reduce rough sleeping across the district.

The existing strategy expires this year, following a 12 month extension, and therefore a revised strategy must be published.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

To approve the adoption and publication of the new Lincolnshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-27.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Council must have a current strategy to be compliant with legislation.

The strategy will provide the priorities for the next 5 years which Lincolnshire Councils and other organisations will work together to achieve.

There will be an action plan produced setting out how the priorities will be achieved, and this will be a working document which will be updated as and when required.

The other Lincolnshire District Councils agree with having a countywide strategy.

## **OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

It is not an option to do nothing as the law requires that all local authorities have a strategy on homelessness and rough sleeping.

South Holland District Council could produce its own strategy but this would not be the preferred approach due to the established and effective partnership and positive outcomes achieved to date through collaborative working.

The South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership could produce a strategy for the 3 authorities contained within in but again, this would isolate these authorities from the other districts and given the other cross-council partnerships such as Change4Lincs, this is not a logical option.

A countywide strategy is seen as good practice and cost effective. Many of the priorities require Lincolnshire to work together to achieve better outcomes for our residents. Having a countywide strategy has also helped increase grant funding for countywide housing and homelessness initiatives. This is because it evidences the seven Lincolnshire Councils and where applicable Lincolnshire County Council can work together for the benefit of its residents.

## **1. BACKGROUND**

1.1 The Homelessness Act 2002 requires that all local authorities carry out a review of homelessness in their areas, formulate and publish a strategy based on the findings of this review, keep the strategy under review and consult with other local or public authorities and voluntary organisations before modifying or adopting a strategy.

1.2 The strategy should:

- Assess the levels of homelessness now, and the factors likely to impact on future levels of homelessness
- Ensure that there is sufficient accommodation available for people who are, or may become, homeless
- Provide services that help to prevent people becoming homeless
- Ensure that through effective partnerships, support services can be accessed for those people who are, or who may become, homeless – or to prevent them from becoming homeless again
- Promote a cultural change so that homelessness is viewed in a wider context than just lack of accommodation

1.3 This strategy is the fifth document that has been developed by all Lincolnshire Housing Authorities, in partnership with our stakeholders and has been formulated following our strategy review.

- 1.4 An extensive consultation with stakeholders collated the achievements of the last strategy and shaped the strategic direction of this document. A series of focus groups, one-to-one meetings and a survey collated vital feedback, which will enable this strategy to meet the aims of not only the seven district councils but our partners.
- 1.5 To allow us to form a collective and robust approach to homelessness, we have incorporated our Rough Sleeper Strategy into this document as opposed to having a separate document.
- 1.6 This strategy informs of the current position and challenges for homelessness across the County, sets out the priorities and actions that together aims to prevent homelessness and reduce rough sleeping across the County.

## **2. REPORT**

### Priorities

- 2.1 The strategy demonstrates that we are committed to the Government's vision that homelessness should be rare, brief and non-recurring.
- 2.2 Building on the successes of the last strategy and taking account of new challenges the new priorities for the next 5 years will be:
- PREVENT – identify those that are at risk of becoming homeless as early as possible and through the Duty to Refer to prevent homelessness or rough sleeping
  - PROTECT – identifying the most vulnerable and ensuring individuals are safe from harm, and have access to the support and services to maintain their health and wellbeing
  - PARTNERSHIPS – strengthen and maintain relationships to bring together resources and knowledge to prevent and relieve homelessness
  - PLACE – ensure accommodation is both available and suitable for those that need it and explore opportunities to increase the supply of accommodation
  - PLAN – take a proactive and joined up approach to tackling rough sleeping and homelessness and explore funding opportunities to ensure we meet the needs of all client groups
- 2.3 These priorities have been chosen to reflect the issues highlighted through the consultation process with our stakeholders and the challenges we face going forwards.
- 3.0 Developing the strategy
- 3.1 A thorough consultation with completed throughout the development of the strategy. A review of the previous strategy provided a basis on which the new strategy could be formulated along with stakeholder comments from the consultation.
- 3.1 A series of focus groups and one-to-one meetings ensured the views of our stakeholders were captured in order to highlight the challenges we face together and ideas to resolve them.
- 3.2 Strategic leads were consulted o the final draft before going out to public consultation. A total of 22 responses were received to the consultation and a collective response from Lincolnshire Council.
- 4.0 Pathways
- 4.1 There are many people that can experience or be threatened with homelessness in their lifetime all of which will have different reasons and situations. Whilst each person receives a

housing and support plan specific to their needs, the strategy identifies the main groups of people that need help and support:

- Single people
- Families
- Rough sleepers
- Those with complex and / or specific needs
- Priority groups at risk

4.2 Identifying the main barriers that these groups are facing allows us to produce tailored approaches to ensure our services offer a tailored and consistent approach across the county. These pathways are detailed in the strategy.

## 5.0 Monitoring

5.1 The strategy will be reviewed annually by both the Strategic Leads group represented by all district's councils and the Lincs Housing Partnerships Manager.

5.2 Each priority will have an action group responsible for the delivery of the ambitions and each will create a detailed implementation plan.

5.3 Representative of the actions groups will include district councils, Lincolnshire County Council, housing providers, voluntary sector and health professionals, who will work collaboratively.

5.4 The action groups will be coordinated by the Lincs Homelessness Partnership group made up of all representatives, organisations and individuals involved in the remit of homelessness across the county.

5.5 Progress on the actions from the implementation plans will be reported to Lincs Housing Health Co-Ordination Group and Housing Health Care Delivery Group.

## 6.0 CONCLUSION

6.1 The draft strategy sets out the aims of all Lincolnshire authorities to continue to address and tackle the root causes of homelessness and rough sleeping across the county over the next five years whilst continually improving the support available and supply of accommodation to all vulnerable client groups.

6.2 Policy Development Panel is requested to provide comments and recommendations for inclusion in the final strategy document to be adopted.

## EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP

This strategy will benefit the Partnership in the following ways:

- Meet statutory requirements
- Ensure that a consistent approach is applied across the Partnership and wider Lincolnshire authorities
- Support vulnerable clients across the Partnership area

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### **SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL'S PARTNERSHIP**

None

### **CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

This links to South Holland District Council's core priority of 'Your Home'.

### **STAFFING**

There are no additional staffing implications as a result of this strategy document.

### **CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

It is a legal requirement for local authorities to produce and maintain a homelessness strategy and therefore there would only be a legal implication if the Authority did not have adopted this strategy.

### **DATA PROTECTION**

None

### **FINANCIAL**

There are no additional financial implications as a result of this strategy document.

### **RISK MANAGEMENT**

All risks associated with this strategy have been considered as part of the development of the new draft strategy.

### **STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES**

An intensive consultation was carried out in three parts. Firstly, a survey was sent to all stakeholders to gather views on the successes of the last strategy and challenges for the future which shaped the review document, A series of three focus groups followed with stakeholders to inform the priorities and actions for the new strategy and individual meetings with key partners to develop the strategy. A six week public consultation followed on the draft strategy for further comments to shape the final document.

### **REPUTATION**

The strategy has a positive impact on the reputation of the Council by supporting the reduction of homelessness and rough sleeping.

### **CONTRACTS**

None

### **CRIME AND DISORDER**

This strategy will assist in ensuring that we work with relevant partners to address any crime and disorder issues that may result from homelessness and rough sleeping.

### **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING**

This strategy ensures that equality and diversity, human rights and safeguarding are all considered appropriately.

### **HEALTH AND WELL BEING**

This strategy takes account of the health and wellbeing concerns around vulnerable members of society and ensures that appropriate partnership working is taking place to provide a holistic service.

## CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None

## LINKS TO 12 MISSIONS IN THE LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER

*(Use this section to highlight any links to the 12 missions contained in the Levelling Up White Paper set out below. Delete any which are not applicable. If none, insert the word 'none'.)*

<b>MISSIONS</b>	
<b>This paper contributes to the follow Missions outlined in the Government's Levelling Up White paper.</b>	
<b>Health</b>	By 2030, the gap in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed, and by 2035 HLE will rise by 5 years.
<b>Wellbeing</b>	By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.
<b>Housing</b>	By 2030, renters will have a secure path to ownership with the number of first-time buyers increasing in all areas; and the government's ambition is for the number of non-decent rented homes to have fallen by 50%, with the biggest improvements in the lowest performing areas.

## ACRONYMS

None

<b>APPENDICES</b>	
Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -	
APPENDIX A	Review of the Lincolnshire Homelessness Strategy 2017-2021
APPENDIX B	Lincolnshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-2027

<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>	
Background papers used in the production of this report are listed below: -	
<b>Document title</b>	<b>Where the document can be viewed</b>
Lincolnshire Homelessness Strategy 2017-2021	<a href="https://www.sholland.gov.uk/media/9521/Homeless-Strategy/pdf/Homelessness_Strategy_final.pdf?m=63743104929337000">https://www.sholland.gov.uk/media/9521/Homeless-Strategy/pdf/Homelessness_Strategy_final.pdf?m=63743104929337000</a>
Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homelessness-code-of-guidance-for-local-authorities">Homelessness code of guidance for local authorities - Chapter 2: Homelessness strategies and reviews - Guidance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a>

**REPORT APPROVAL**

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Signed off by:	Emily Spicer – Assistant Director (Wellbeing and Community Leadership)
Approved for publication:	Emily Spicer – Assistant Director (Wellbeing and Community Leadership)