



Derby City Council

COUNCIL CABINET
22 January 2014

ITEM 7a

Report of the Chair of the Planning, Housing and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Board

Homelessness Topic Review Report

SUMMARY

- 1.1 At the July 2012 meeting of the Planning, Housing and Leisure Board Members expressed a desire to look in more detail at issues relating to homeless provision in the city.
- 1.2 Following an update to the PHL board on homelessness at its meeting of 19 February 2013 and information presented to members on the available homeless provision in the city ahead of the Housing Related Support cuts to be implemented in April 2013, members of the board decided it would be timely to progress with a topic review on homelessness in the city.
- 1.3 After reviewing a wide range of evidence at a special topic review meeting, the board produced draft recommendations with a view to mitigating some of the impacts of the Housing Related Support cuts and to suggest changes to the ways in which partners work together in the city to deliver services to the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless.
- 1.4 The board agreed a final version of the Homelessness Topic Review report and final recommendations at its meeting of 10 September 2013. The final report and recommendation can be found at Appendix 2 of this report.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To receive the report and consider the recommendations in the Planning, Housing and Leisure Board Homelessness Topic Review.
- 2.2 To report back to the board with a response to the topic review recommendation's and inform the board of the actions, if any, the Council Cabinet proposes to take in relation to the board's recommendations.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To inform Council Cabinet of the results of the Planning, Housing and Leisure Board's topic review on homelessness and to put forward the recommendation's resulting from this review that were agreed by the board.

- 3.2 The Planning, Housing and Leisure Board wishes Council Cabinet to respond to its recommendations resulting from the completed topic review.



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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 In June 2012, the Planning, Housing and Leisure (PHL) Overview and Scrutiny Board requested a report reviewing progress made in relation to homelessness following on from a review undertaken by the Communities Commission during the 2009-2010 municipal year. The board were particularly interested in examining the effectiveness of the recommendations that were made following the review, and had concerns about the impact of impending changes to welfare reform and increasing numbers of people finding themselves homeless, as well as the impacts of reductions in grants to homelessness service providers.
- 4.2 After an initial meeting with the Chair of the board, the Head of Housing Options and Advice Services, the Single Point of Entry Manager and the Overview and Scrutiny Officer to discuss the aims and objectives of the review, a scoping report was developed to achieve the agreed objectives. The board agreed to focus upon reviewing the ways in which first time homeless people are provided with information in the city. The review also included looking at the 'wet' provision for homeless people in the city, help with alcohol addiction and providing a safe place to sleep for those under the influence of alcohol.
- 4.3 The board collected evidence through various means including site visits and witness interviews with service providers. The board also reviewed local and national guidance, policies and other useful web sites and publications.
- 4.4 After reviewing the evidence a draft report was produced for consideration by the wider PHL Board on Tuesday 11 September 2013. The board agreed a final version of the topic review report based upon the inclusion of minor amendments requested and recorded at the meeting.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 No other options were considered.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

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| Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s) Other(s) | |
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For more information contact:
Background papers:
List of appendices:

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Homelessness Topic Review Background Information Pack
Appendix 1 – Implications
Appendix 2 – Homelessness Topic Review Report

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 Implementation of the recommendations outlined in this report may lead to financial implications, however these have not been determined at this stage.

Legal

- 2.1 Part 4 of the Council's Constitution (Rules of Procedure) set out a series of Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules. Rules OS23 and OS24 are particularly relevant to this report. Where recommendations are made by the overview and scrutiny board; rule OS23 requires the Council or Council Cabinet to consider the report of the overview and scrutiny board within one month of it being submitted to the proper officer, and rule OS24 requires the Council Cabinet to respond to the board indicating what, if any, action the Council Cabinet proposes to take. The Council Cabinet is required to respond to scrutiny recommendations within two months of receiving the report.

Personnel

- 3.1 The workload of Council personnel may increase, or priorities may be altered due to recommendations outlined in this report.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 None directly arising from this report.

Health and Safety

- 5.1 None directly arising from this report.

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.1 None directly arising from this report.

Property and Asset Management

- 7.1 None directly arising from this report.

Risk Management

- 8.1 None directly arising from this report.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 9.1 Scrutiny supports the improvement of services delivered across the Council (and by accountable external partners) to fulfil the corporate priorities and ensure the people in Derby enjoy good quality services that meet local needs.

