

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

DELEGATED EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION REPORT

Report to: Executive Member for Communities and Housing
Date: 21st November 2018
Report for: Decision
Report of: Director of Place

Report Title

Draft Homelessness Strategy 2019-2024

Summary

The Council has a statutory duty to produce a Homelessness Strategy. The current Homelessness Strategy (2015-18) expires in December 2018.

The Draft Homelessness Strategy (2019-2024) has been developed to identify the key priorities and the actions required to deliver them by the Council and other key public and private stakeholders.

The Draft Strategy identifies measures to deliver the Council’s Corporate Objectives of ‘Services Focused on the Most Vulnerable People’, ‘Economic Growth and Development’ and ‘Safe Place to Live’. It complements the Trafford Housing Strategy 2018-2023, plays a key role in delivering the priorities set in the emerging GM Housing Strategy and the requirements of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.

Recommendation(s)

That the Executive Member approves the Draft Homelessness Strategy 2019-2024 for the purposes of consultation.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Caroline Abbott (Housing Strategy & Growth Manager)
Extension: X5776
Appendix One: Draft Trafford Homelessness Strategy 2019-2024
Background Papers: None

Implications:

Relationship to Corporate Priorities	<p>The priorities detailed within the Draft Strategy meet the Council's Corporate Objectives of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services Focused on the Most Vulnerable People • Economic Growth and Development • Safe Place to Live <p>In addition, the Draft Strategy meets the Annual Delivery Plan and the Departmental Improvement Plan priorities and is complimentary to, and will play a key part in delivering elements of the Trafford Housing Strategy 2018-2023.</p>
Relationship to GM Policy or Strategy Framework	<p>The Draft Trafford Homelessness Strategy 2019-2024 is aligned with the priorities contained within the GM Strategy and the emerging GM Housing Strategy.</p>
Financial	<p>The Strategy identifies actions for the Strategic Growth Service to deliver within existing staff resources and budgets. It also identifies potential actions to be delivered in partnership with other key public and private stakeholders.</p>
Legal Implications:	<p>The Council has a duty to publish a homelessness strategy. A new homelessness strategy must be published within 5 years of the date that the current strategy was published.</p>
Equality/Diversity Implications	<p>None as a consequence of this report.</p>
Sustainability Implications	<p>None as a consequence of this report.</p>
Resource Implications e.g. Staffing / ICT / Assets	<p>Existing staff resources have been identified to support the delivery of the Strategy. Information will be made available on line and documents will be available to access through the Council's web pages.</p>
Risk Management Implications	<p>Risk to delivery of the actions detailed within the Strategy will be monitored and updated as required.</p>
Health & Wellbeing Implications	<p>None as a consequence of this report.</p>
Health and Safety Implications	<p>None as a consequence of this report.</p>

1.0 Background

1.1 The Council has a statutory duty to produce a Homelessness Strategy and the current Strategy for Trafford expires in December 2018. A Draft Homelessness Strategy (2019-2024) has therefore been produced to identify the key priorities and the actions required to deliver them by the Council and other key stakeholders. A copy of the Draft Strategy is attached as Appendix 1.

2.0 Methodology

2.1 The Draft Strategy identifies measures to deliver the Council's Corporate Objectives of 'Services Focused on the Most Vulnerable People', 'Economic Growth and Development' and 'Safe Place to Live'. It complements the Trafford Housing Strategy 2018-2023, plays a key role in delivering the priorities set in the emerging GM Housing Strategy and the requirements of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.

2.2 Production of the Draft Strategy has been undertaken in consultation with key stakeholders from the Trafford Homeless Champions Group and initial discussions have taken place with the Strategic Housing Partnership (SHP) and Stronger Communities Board (SCB). In addition, specific one to one discussions have taken place with colleagues in Housing Options Service Trafford (HOST), Children's and Families Directorate and Adult Services.

3.0 Achievements

3.1 A review of the previous Homelessness Strategy (2015-2018) and the homelessness service in Trafford (HOST) have been undertaken and a number of achievements are detailed within the Draft Strategy. The achievements since 2014/15 include:

- 2,647 households were prevented from becoming homeless
- 80,572 households received housing advice from HOST.
- 20% reduction in the number of people on the Council's Housing Register.
- 612 household or individuals were re-housed into Social Housing.
- 515 households or individuals were-houses in the Private Sector.
- 526 households were referred to supported accommodation projects.

4.0 Homelessness Review

4.1 A review of homelessness in Trafford including analysis of the data and an evaluation of the HOST service was undertaken as part of the production of the Draft Strategy. A summary of the key findings is detailed below:

- The main causes of homelessness in Trafford since 2012/13 were: the termination of an assured short-hold tenancy/Private Rented Sector tenancy, the violent breakdown of a relationship involving a partner and parents no longer willing or able to accommodate.
- Homelessness preventions increased significantly between 2013/14 and 2014/15 with an increase of 282. Preventions were highest during 2016/17 with 811 and have decreased by 157 since 2016/17.
- The number of people who made an application to HOST for homeless assistance has gradually reduced since 2012, although there was a slight increase between 2015/16 and 2016/17.

- In 2016/17, 62% of applicants accepted were homeless and in priority need, 26% were not homeless, 10% were homeless but not in priority need and 1% were homeless, in priority need but intentional. The number of people accepted as homeless and in priority need has reduced since 2012/13 by 59 applicants.
- The majority of people who were accepted as homeless and in priority need were aged 25-44. Those aged 60+ has remained low since 2012/13.
- The majority of households who were accepted as homeless and in priority need were lone parents with dependent children and this figure has increased slightly since 2015/16. The number of couples with dependent children has decreased during the same time period.

5.0 Proposed Vision, Priorities and Actions

5.1 The proposed vision for the Homelessness Strategy 2019-2024 is:

“Working Together to End Homelessness in Trafford”

5.2 The proposed strategic priorities are:

1. Prevent homelessness in Trafford.
2. Improve access to permanent affordable accommodation and supported homes, primarily through the increased supply of social housing.
3. Work towards ending rough sleeping in Trafford.
4. Aim to eradicate the use of B&B and increase the provision of good quality Temporary Accommodation for homeless people in Trafford.
5. Improve access to employment, education and training for homeless people in Trafford.
6. Improve health & wellbeing for homeless people in Trafford.

5.3 To achieve the priorities identified above, the Draft Strategy identifies a number of key actions which are separated into the six priority areas (see pages 21-43 in Appendix 1).

6.0 Wider Corporate Linkages

6.1 The actions detailed meet the Corporate Objectives of ‘Services Focused on the Most Vulnerable People’, ‘Economic Growth and Development’ and ‘Safe Place to Live’. The Homelessness Strategy coupled with the Council’s Corporate Objectives, Trafford Housing Strategy 2018-2023 and the wider GM strategic priorities, forms a comprehensive and fully joined up approach to tackling homelessness in Trafford.

7.0 Other Options

7.1 An option is not to adopt the Homelessness Strategy. The absence of an overarching Homelessness Strategy across Trafford will not provide the Council with the mechanism to tackle homelessness in the borough. In addition, it is a statutory requirement for each Local Authority to have a Strategy in place therefore the Council would be in breach of its statutory homelessness duty.

8.0 Next Steps

8.1 Consultation has already taken place internally and with the Homeless Champions Group and it is now prudent to consult wider on the Draft Strategy. It is proposed to commence an online consultation for a six week period starting early December 2018. It will be posted on the Council’s website and will be open to stakeholders and residents to submit their comments. Following the consultation, the Strategy will be amended if necessary to take account of any valid comments and an Action Plan will be developed. It is proposed that the Executive then formally approves the Homelessness Strategy and accompanying Action Plan.

9.0 Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that CLT approves that the Draft Homelessness Strategy (2019-2024) be submitted to the Executive Member for approval to consult.

Key Decision: No

If Key Decision, has 28-day notice been given? N/A

Finance Officer Clearance PC

Legal Officer Clearance TR

[CORPORATE] DIRECTOR’S SIGNATURE 

To confirm that the Financial and Legal Implications have been considered and the Corporate Director has cleared the report prior to issuing to the Executive Member for decision.

Appendix 1- *Draft Homelessness Strategy 2019-2024*



DRAFT Trafford
Council Homelessness