

## Future Housing Options Service Provision

Report of the Housing & Environmental Health Portfolio Holder

### Recommended:

1. That the financial position with regard to the Homelessness Reserves and resourcing the front line housing options service be noted.
2. That the potential consequences associated with making radical changes to local provision for the housing options service in the current climate be noted.
3. That Option 3 as set out in 5.8 to the report be approved.
4. That any items shown in Annex 1 to the report, which are unspent by 31 March 2022, be approved for carry forward into the 2022/23 revenue budget.

### SUMMARY:

- The Council receives a number of short term ring-fenced homelessness funding streams from the Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).
- This includes the Council's Flexible Homelessness Support Grant (FHSG), New Burdens Funding (this determination ended in 2019/20), and Homelessness Reduction Grant. Moreover, Private Rented Sector Access Funding was received in 2019 as a result of a successful bid to government. The scope of this report is concerned with these 4 funding streams specifically.
- Ring-fenced for the purposes of preventing and relieving homelessness, these funding streams have been directed by the Council to support local social inclusion services, and to bolster the Council's front line housing services.
- The future funding arrangements for social inclusion services during 2021/22 were the subject of a report to Cabinet in November. In November, Cabinet approved the targeted use of £55K Flexible Homelessness Support Grant (FHSG) to facilitate ongoing outreach capacity along with the continued availability of stage 2 supported housing in the borough.
- Whilst in March 2019, Cabinet approved a number of approaches that were developed during Homelessness Reduction Act implementation as 'business as usual', a number of other approvals for funding arrangements within the Council's front line housing services are due to expire in March 2021. This is the focus of this report.
- Cabinet are being asked to consider the ongoing demands on the housing service, the challenges to delivering homelessness services during a global pandemic, and to consider continuing to meet costs within the service through the ring fenced homelessness reserve.

- Cabinet has, in the past, considered the implications of the extended duties enshrined within the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, and has approved funding to the Housing & Environmental Health Service to respond proactively, in light of this legislation, which remains in force.
- A number of these arrangements were confirmed and approved by members as 'business as usual' when Cabinet met in March 2019 – these include the availability of a £48K flexible homelessness support fund that the front line service uses creatively, and in partnership, to prevent and relieve homelessness.
- The funding approvals referenced in this report, and that are due to expire in March 2021, were the subject of separate reports to Cabinet in April 2019.
- The Housing & Environmental Health Service has been able to demonstrate high performance against a backdrop of high demand. Significant analysis and consultation were undertaken during 2019, and the findings were used to develop an evidence led Preventing Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy for Test Valley.
- Whilst the world changed as the new strategy was introduced (as a result of Covid-19), the key themes and priorities remain relevant.
- The service has undergone a process of rapid adaption to new ways of working. These have kept our priorities to effectively prevent and relieve homelessness at heart. To deliver on our priorities in the future, the Council will need to continue to invest in its front line housing services.
- The recommendations in this report can be fully funded through the Housing & Environmental Health Service's base budget and within the envelope of available ring-fenced funding in the homelessness reserve as referenced above and outlined in section 8 and Annex 1 to the report.
- The report identifies that failure to maintain capacity in light of high demand, along with additional pressures resulting from Covid-19 and associated new ways of working, would risk increasing levels of homelessness locally and increasing the costs to the Council in meeting its statutory duties.

## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 On 17 April 2019, Cabinet met and considered the impacts of Hampshire County Council's review of social inclusion services along with the future needs of the Council's front line housing services.
- 1.2 At that meeting, Cabinet also considered the Housing & Environmental Health Services' successful bid to the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Private Rented Sector Access Fund.
- 1.3 On 17 April 2019 Cabinet approved:
  - That ring fenced Flexible Homelessness Support Grant funding of £346,200 should be targeted at:
  - Supporting social inclusion services, to be delivered by Two Saints through outreach support and stage 2 supported accommodation.

- Along with funding 2 FTE Housing Options Officers and a new Resettlement Service within the Council's Housing Services, during 2019/20 and 2020/21.
  - The recruitment of a Landlord Liaison Officer and Tenancy Liaison Officer to deliver the MHCLG Private Rented Sector Access Fund project.
- 1.4 The current housing options officer capacity, the Resettlement Service, and the new Test Valley Lettings Service, can only continue until the end of financial year 2020/21 based on current approvals.
- 1.5 As mentioned earlier in this report, the Council receives money from the MHCLG to support it to meet homelessness demand and our local approach to preventing and relieving homelessness has been endorsed by government through a number of competitive bidding rounds for additional funding. This has supported local innovation and bolstered our services' ability to respond to issues such as meeting the needs of people experiencing highly complex, multiple needs, and in the context of the Council's pledge to prevent rough sleeping wherever possible.
- 1.6 In December 2019, the government announced a new ring-fenced funding stream; "Homelessness Reduction Grant" (HRG). Local authorities were notified of their allocations of HRG, and those authorities who had been beneficiaries of Private Rented Sector Access Fund grant (such as Test Valley), were actively encouraged to consider how HRG could facilitate the continuation of their Private Rented Sector Access Fund projects.
- 1.7 This report considers the current position in light of Covid-19, and how the FHSG and HRG could be targeted to enable the Council to continue to deliver vital front line services to the most vulnerable members of our communities, in keeping with both the Council's strategic aims and with due regard to central government requirements.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 In March 2019, Cabinet considered a review of Homelessness Reduction Act implementation and the outcomes of a 'Developmental Pilot' in housing options. At the meeting, Cabinet approved the ongoing availability of a £48K flexible homelessness support fund that the front line service could use creatively to prevent and relieve homelessness, and the ongoing funding for an otherwise temporary housing options officer post. These ongoing initiatives are presently funded from the Council's FHSG allocation.
- 2.2 In terms of the wider network of services locally and their relationship to the Council's FHSG allocation, members will be aware that Hampshire County Council has undertaken periodic reviews of social inclusion services in Hampshire and in recent years, those reviews have resulted in a reduced level of County funding for this service cluster.
- 2.3 In April 2019, Cabinet agreed to fund £55K from FHSG as a contribution to social inclusion services, per annum, and on a pro rata basis for the period August 2019 to March 2020 and until March 2021, as a result of County Council decisions to reduce spending in this area.

- 2.4 In November 2020, Cabinet approved a further £55K from the FHSG, to enable social inclusion services to continue to be delivered at current capacity during 2021/22. This additional £55K will support the continuation of the Hampshire County Council commissioned contract with Two Saints. This contract provides a range of vital services in Test Valley that support people experiencing homelessness and rough sleeping.
- 2.5 In April 2019, Cabinet also approved the targeted use of £82K of FHSG to develop and implement an in house, TVBC Resettlement Service, along with £62K of FHSG for 2 x Housing Options Officer posts. In light of the new requirements of the Homelessness Reduction Act, along with significant increases in demand for housing services, these investments were made to bolster our ability to respond to the needs of a range of client groups, including to more proactively support households in temporary accommodation to move on to more settled housing solutions.
- 2.6 In late 2018, the Housing & Environmental Health Service submitted a bid to MHCLG for £177K to deliver a project aimed at improving access to the Private Rented Sector (PRS) across Test Valley and Winchester areas.
- 2.7 In Test Valley, and following Cabinet approval in April 2019, this PRS Access funding enabled the development of a new 'social lettings agency'. Working within the housing service, and with a new package of incentives for private landlords, "Test Valley Lettings", is being delivered by a Landlord Liaison Officer and a Tenant Liaison Officer. These 2 posts are delivered at a cost of £70K per annum with a small package of incentives that can be continued, subject to demand, at approx. £15K per annum.
- 2.8 This new service has been well received by both private landlords and private tenants, and has become more important than ever for the Council's ability to access the sector at a time when landlords are particularly nervous about creating new tenancies. This increased sense of caution has arisen in light of Covid-19 regulations protecting tenants from eviction during the pandemic, and associated concerns about taking on tenants who may be on low incomes at a time of an eviction moratorium.
- 2.9 In December 2019, the government announced a new, ring fenced, Homelessness Reduction Grant (HRG) for 2020/21. Test Valley Borough Council received approx. £99K, and all Councils who received Private Rented Sector (PRS) Access Funding, were encouraged to target this new grant to ensure the projects that had been developed under the PRS fund could continue beyond the life of that particular funding stream.
- 2.10 Without further investment from the end of March 2021, the Housing Service will be significantly reduced. Housing Options Officer capacity will drop by 2 x FTEs, the Resettlement Service (comprising 2.5 FTEs) will cease, and we will no longer be in a position to fund a Landlord Liaison and Tenant Liaison support service as we have been doing under the PRS Access Fund project.

- 2.11 The Housing Service has demonstrated high performance since the implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, and with the targeted investment of FHSG and additional success in bidding for funding, we have been able to lead on innovations that have generated interest far beyond Test Valley.
- 2.12 The Housing Options teams in Andover and Romsey are facing high demands. Since the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act, which commenced in 2018/19, the team have worked with 1,385 households who triggered the Council's duty to either prevent or relieve homelessness. Since the significant increase in demand that was reported during 2018/19, numbers of households presenting who are homeless or threatened with homelessness and requiring advice and support to resolve their housing situations, has remained consistent whilst the team have also maintained a high level of performance, preventing and relieving homelessness successfully for the majority of households who approach us for support.
- 2.13 The Housing Service is also now facing the pandemic challenge, including that of supporting the majority of their customers remotely. Covid-19 has also meant that it is no longer appropriate to place people into emergency beds in shared spaces, reducing the available supported accommodation options locally that have otherwise contributed to the prevention and relief of rough sleeping.
- 2.14 The new ways of working remotely have been successful and customers have responded with gratitude to the way the Council rapidly adapted and maintained accessible services. The changes have, however, had implications for the time it takes to support people, complete relevant paperwork and provide adequate support to resolve presenting issues. As mentioned above, the service has continued to receive a high number of customers at similar levels to those reported to members in April 2019 (when Cabinet was advised of a 44% increase in footfall for the Housing Service).
- 2.15 Against this backdrop, the housing team have been working to reduce the length of time people spend in temporary accommodation and to support people more holistically through our strengths-based approach to assessments, and to deliver sustainable personal housing plans. The 2.5 FTE Resettlement Officers have played a key role in meeting that need, and this has further supported the Council to absorb the £80K reduction in County Council funding for Community Support in the local area, by ensuring a support service remained available to those in housing need.
- 2.16 The Test Valley Lettings services has attracted 15 different landlords to work with us and enabled 25 tenancies to be created and supported in Test Valley over the last 12 months. In addition, a further 6 properties were offered to Test Valley Lettings by local landlords where the team were unable to proceed to let them due to factors that included the condition of the properties being brought forward. 3 further landlords have contacted the service with a view to working with us in the future.

- 2.17 Significantly, landlords have been actively interested in this service and the opportunity it presents for them. With a low cost high impact incentive package, Test Valley Lettings has made significant inroads to maintain our partnership working with the Private Rented Sector during a time of unprecedented crisis.
- 2.18 The PRS project was funded by MHCLG to work across Test Valley and Winchester areas, and this funding comes to an end in March 2021. The Housing Service has reviewed the scheme in light of the presenting challenges for low income households accessing the private rented sector, and it is clear that there remains a role for TVBC to target investment so that the scheme continues. In so doing, it should continue with its sole focus on the Test Valley area, and on delivering TVBCs strategic aims. This would represent an increase in capacity to deliver PRS access work in Test Valley, with officers who had been working across the 2 local authority areas (Test Valley and Winchester) focusing exclusively on Test Valley, and by continuing to resource a small package of measures that landlords have been consulted on and which have demonstrated their effectiveness in practice.
- 2.19 The HRG funding has been provided with a caveat that the Council is encouraged to consider how this funding could support the continuation of the PRS project in Test Valley, and this report demonstrates it is achievable within the envelope of our available ring fenced funds. Moreover, access to the private rented sector remains one of our biggest challenges in meeting housing need locally.
- 2.20 As a result of financial prudence, the Council has been able to deliver high quality front line housing services, whilst also creating a Homelessness Reserve of ring fenced funding that has created an opportunity, against a backdrop of various short term funding provisions, to operate in a planned way.
- 2.21 During the first year allocation of FHSG, the Council made a small call on this funding. This resulted in a safety net reserve for the Council to assist with future planning and whilst we await notification of the future for FHSG. Similarly, the provision of Homelessness Reduction Grant (£99K) was unanticipated and future years funding is unconfirmed. The HRG allocation has been held in reserve pending TVBC decisions about 2021/22.
- 2.22 The Housing & Environmental Health Service has been actively seeking to prevent local services facing an imminent funding cliff edge, as far as it has been practicably possible to do so. It has also incorporated a provision within the Homelessness Reserve, to support the Council to meet any redundancy costs that may arise from central government ceasing to fund our services in this way.
- 2.23 This means that, whilst a number of current approvals expire at the end of this financial year, and whilst we await confirmation of future homelessness funding from government, we are in a position to plan ahead for 2021/22.

- 2.24 Indeed, at the end of 2020/21, the MHCLG PRS Access Fund grant will have been used. The opening balance of the FHSG and HRG will, however, with a small amount of remaining New Burdens Funding (approx. £7K) total £415,066.
- 2.25 The recommendations contained within this report total £236,040 for financial year 2021/22. The previously approved ongoing spend referenced earlier in this report and as approved by Cabinet in March 2019, along with the additional £55K social inclusion contribution approved by Cabinet in November 2020, total £138,400.
- 2.26 In the context of FHSG and HRG, should Cabinet approve the recommendations in this report, at the end of 2021/22 - taking into account all approved and recommended expenditure - there will remain an estimated closing balance in the region of approximately £40K.

### **3 Corporate Objectives and Priorities**

- 3.1 Preventing and relieving homelessness is a high priority for Test Valley Borough Council.
- 3.2 Effective housing services contribute to achieving our Corporate Plan priorities to support town centres, communities, people and the local environment, by actively contributing to reduced instances of homelessness, supporting vulnerable people and actively contributing to the prevention of homelessness in the borough. The Council's Housing Service also supports local landlords with advice and support, and through its tenant finder and tenant support services.
- 3.3 The Council's Housing Strategy 2020 to 2025 identified four key themes. This includes preventing and relieving all forms of homelessness. This priority area is further supported by a separate Preventing Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020 to 2023.
- 3.4 Housing and homelessness remain at the top of the national policy agenda, and with a renewed focus in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, our housing services remain a vital element in our strategic approach to supporting our communities.

### **4 Consultations/Communications**

- 4.1 The Council consulted widely on a new Housing Strategy and a new Preventing Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy during 2019, and through this, built on the outcomes of the Corporate Plan consultation during 2018. The results of these wide ranging consultation exercises fed directly into the Council's new housing strategies and the recommendations in this report are aligned to key priorities that were developed in partnership and through consultation that included residents and service users.
- 4.2 Operational staff have been engaged in the delivery and review of our services locally and they have been consulted regarding potential implications of the recommendations in this report.

- 4.3 The Head of Housing & Environmental Health has liaised with colleagues across the county to discuss the future of homelessness services and in light of the implications of the Covid-19 pandemic. The ongoing investment in services that prevent and relieve homelessness remains a priority across the county, along with efforts to ensure health, housing, social care and other key elements of the wider system are better linked in order to respond to the needs of people experiencing homelessness.
- 4.4 Local social inclusion service provider, Two Saints, has been part of discussions associated with the future of local services and we continue to enjoy a close working relationship with them in the interests of delivering effective homelessness prevention and relief services.
- 4.5 The implications of this report were also discussed with the local Housing First Steering Group, including representatives of Hampshire Constabulary and Aster Housing Group. The recommendations are intended to support wider initiatives across the borough that are geared to the prevention and relief of homelessness.
- 4.6 Throughout the course of our work on homelessness, elected members have been consulted and involved in steering the direction of travel.
- 4.7 Senior managers, including Heads of Service across the Council, have been consulted regarding the contents of this report.

## **5 Options**

- 5.1 The Council must continue to meet demand and to effectively prevent and relieve homelessness. It must also continue to meet the extensive homelessness duties set out in the Housing Act 1996 (as amended, including by the Homelessness Reduction Act which received Royal Assent in 2017 before it came into force during 2018).
- 5.2 Reducing investment in front line housing services will invariably result in less capacity, with the knock on consequence for the Council being a weakened ability to prevent and relieve homelessness and rough sleeping. The Council has previously agreed to invest in housing services recognising that in so doing, it averts potentially greater costs to the public purse arising through a reactive compliance with statutory duties, including the provision of emergency temporary accommodation and associated high costs.
- 5.3 The Council has worked hard to minimise rough sleeping and to meet its pledge to make emergency accommodation available for any resident who may otherwise sleep rough, and this remains an ongoing challenge in the local area, with a significant cohort of single people experiencing highly complex, multiple needs.

- 5.4 The Housing Service, across allocations and lettings, housing options and homelessness teams, are under pressure to meet presenting need in a proactive and responsive way. They are responding positively to the needs of vulnerable people in new and creative ways in light of the global Covid-19 pandemic, and they are achieving high levels of performance in spite of the various challenges we face.
- 5.5 The pandemic has stimulated a national rethink about the way we deal with rough sleeping, including the suitability of shared sleeping arrangements to bring people in off the streets, and a national directive during the period of lockdown where local authorities were tasked with bringing all rough sleepers inside wherever practicably possible.
- 5.6 There is no clear end in sight at the time of writing in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and its impacts. The future is uncertain, in many respects, and that includes the central government exit strategy from various emergency measures that have been introduced to support people affected by the pandemic. Whilst currently unquantifiable, the ending of various protections along with any further negative economic impacts that may transpire in the coming months, may translate into additional pressures on housing services.
- 5.7 Funding is already available in the Council's Homelessness Reserve and it is subject to ring fencing for the purposes of preventing and relieving homelessness.
- 5.8 Against that backdrop, there are 3 options available to the Council:
1. Not to invest in TVBC housing services as described in this report and continue to carry forward unspent Homelessness Reserve funding.
  2. To invest in some aspects of the housing service as described in this report, but not all, and continue to carry forward unspent Homelessness Reserve funding.
  3. To invest £236K of ring fenced homelessness funding available in the Council's Homelessness Reserve, to ensure the ongoing capacity within the Housing Service to prevent and relieve homelessness, support vulnerable people, and actively work with the private rented sector to ensure it remains an option for low income households to meet their housing need. This option will result, with no additional grant from government in the meantime, in approximately £40K unspent funds in the Homelessness Reserve to be carried forwards into 2022/23.  
(Recommended)

## **6 Option Appraisal**

- 6.1 Option 1 is not recommended. The housing service is under pressure and under high demand.
- 6.2 It is clear that any reduced capacity in the Council's front line housing services will have consequences for the Council and the people it serves. It is anticipated that failure to invest ring fenced funding as described in this report will result in a significant reduction in the current level of service, and in the breadth of capacity available to the service to be proactive in various ways that have a positive impact on demand and our ability to meet it.
- 6.3 Option 1 will enable the Council to carry forward ring fenced funding for future years and to target it as may be required in future. Yet we can sensibly anticipate that without targeting the funding now, risks a future in which TVBC housing services become consumed in a reactive response to mounting short, medium and longer term pressures that would represent intractably difficult problems for the Council to reverse, and which would have negative impacts on vulnerable people.
- 6.4 Option 2 is not recommended. The housing service currently benefits from a range of expertise that facilitates a much more holistic response to people's needs. Each aspect of the service that falls within scope of this report, complements other areas of the service and directly influences the overall success of the Council in preventing and relieving homelessness.
- 6.5 In that context, it would be difficult to choose a particular aspect of the service that should not receive investment without causing harm. It is also true that all areas in scope of this report are facing increasing pressures in light of demand and emerging challenges during the global pandemic.
- 6.6 Option 2 will enable the Council to carry forward ring fenced funding for future years and to target it as may be required in future. Any reduction in these aspects of our current service delivery will, however, have negative consequences for the Council's ability to respond to homelessness pressures. Option 2 represents a middle ground between Option 1 and the recommended Option 3 – however, it still represents a significant identifiable risk; the Council will face mounting short, medium and longer term pressures with which to target the Homelessness Reserve in a reactive, rather than proactive, way.
- 6.7 Option 3 is the recommended option for the various reasons already set out in this report. Ring fenced funding is available in the Council's Homelessness Reserve and the Council has been encouraged by central government to target the funding accordingly. Option 3 has been drafted in light of the Council's Corporate Plan, Housing Strategy and Preventing Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy, and in recognition of the pressures associated with an ongoing and unprecedented, global pandemic.

- 6.8 By investing in services as described in Option 3, the Council will maintain current capacity, achieve a small increase in our capacity to work with the private rented sector with a renewed focus on Test Valley Lettings, and achieve a minimum £40K carry forward opportunity should there be no further call on the Homelessness Reserve and no further grant determinations in the context of New Burdens, FHSG or HRG.
- 6.9 In the event there is no other funding from central government - which seems unlikely but we await notification at the time of writing - the Council will need to consider carefully the future of its housing services from April 2022.

## **7 Risk Management**

- 7.1 An evaluation of the risks associated with the matters in this report has previously been reported to Members in Item 7 of the Cabinet meeting of 13 March 2019.
- 7.2 This report, and the associated recommendations, have been produced in the interests of ensuring our services remain accessible to the most vulnerable members of our communities, and in the interests of supporting the Housing & Environmental Health Service to manage key risks associated with meeting housing demand in Test Valley.

## **8 Resource Implications**

- 8.1 The Council was awarded FHSG funding as part of a 3-year determination. This current determination is due to expire in 2020/21. Whilst it is not anticipated the government will cease this grant, there is no certainty it will be an ongoing funding stream.
- 8.2 The Homelessness Reduction Grant, announced in December 2019, was part of a 1-year determination for 2020/21. It is not clear what the future of this grant will be at the time of writing.
- 8.3 In the context of this report, the comparatively smaller allocation, New Burdens Funding, was part of a 3-year determination to cover 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20. This funding has not been continued in 2020/21.
- 8.4 Costs associated with the recommendations contained within this report can be met within the available balance in the Council's Homelessness Reserve. Details are included at Annex 1 to this report.
- 8.5 The opening balance of New Burdens Funding, FHSG and HRG for 2021/22 is anticipated to be £415K. The total funding requirements for all aspects of commitments set against this reserve, and including the recommended option detailed in this report, total £374,440. Taking into account all anticipated calls on the Homelessness Reserve in light of this report, it is anticipated there will remain an unspent balance of £40K to carry forward into 2022/23.

## **9 Legal Implications**

- 9.1 The Council has statutory duties to assist those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness and must comply with the Housing Act 1996 including the amendments introduced by the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. The recommended option will support legal compliance.

## **10 Equality Issues**

- 10.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA) has been completed with regard to the recommendations of this report and issues arising.
- 10.2 Given the rural nature of Test Valley, delivering housing services to vulnerable people in our communities presents additional challenges and the EQIA has identified a potential for discrimination or adverse impact around accessibility. The EQIA notes that the new ways of working and customer expectations arising from the Covid-19 pandemic have meant that the service has developed new ways of working with customers and it is anticipated that these will have contributed to making the service more accessible in the longer term.
- 10.3 The recommendations in this report will ensure that all opportunities to promote equality will be taken and the Housing Service retains capacity to support our most vulnerable households.

## **11 Other Issues**

- 11.1 Community Safety – the recommendations in this report will contribute positively to community safety.
- 11.2 Environmental Health Issues - the recommendations in this report will contribute positively to environmental health through reduced levels of homelessness and rough sleeping, supporting people to live in decent homes and reducing street activity associated with homelessness and vulnerability.
- 11.3 Sustainability and Addressing a Changing Climate – it is not anticipated that the recommendations in this report will have a significant impact, however, the continuation of present capacity will facilitate more officers supporting people and identifying poor housing standards including issues associated with fuel poverty and seeking solutions to improve energy efficiency in residential homes.
- 11.4 Property Issues – no issues anticipated.
- 11.5 Wards/Communities Affected – no issues anticipated. The housing service is a generic service operating borough-wide.

## **12 Conclusion and reasons for recommendation**

- 12.1 The Council is subject to a complex range of legal duties associated with allocations and homelessness, and experiences a high demand for front line housing services locally.

- 12.2 The Council has, historically, invested in its front line services through the Housing & Environmental Health base budget but also through the targeted use of ring fenced central government grants to support not only its own services but those of partners operating under a common strategic umbrella.
- 12.3 The recommendations contained in this report are predicated on available ring fenced funding and are brought forward in light of the Council's key priorities and will contribute to delivering high quality services for the most vulnerable people in our communities.
- 12.4 This report is intended to facilitate legal compliance and maintain the current level of service delivery through a costed approach to meeting the needs of people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.

<u>Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)</u>			
N/A			
<u>Confidentiality</u>			
It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.			
No of Annexes:	1	File Ref:	N/A
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Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	2 December 2020