

North Tyneside Council Report to Cabinet Date: 14 October 2013

ITEM 6(c)

Title: North Tyneside
Homelessness Prevention
Strategy 2013 - 2018

Portfolio(s): Housing and Environment

Cabinet Member(s): Councillor John
Harrison

Report from Directorate: Chief Executive's Offices

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Wards affected: All

PART 1

1.1 Purpose:

This report seeks Cabinet approval for the North Tyneside Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2013 -2018.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet Approves the North Tyneside Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2013 -2018.

1.3 Forward Plan:

28 days notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 11 September 2013.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report relates to the following themes/programmes/projects in the [2013-14] Our North Tyneside:

1. Our People will:
 - B. Be supported to achieve their full potential, especially our children and young people; and
 - D. Be cared for and kept safe if they became vulnerable.

2. Our Places:
 - B. Have more quality affordable homes.

4. Our Partners:
 - B. Schools and colleges where our children and young people will receive the skills they need for the future; and

 - D. The voluntary sector, which provides support and opportunities for thousands across the borough.

1.5 Information:

1.5.1 Background

The Homelessness Act 2002 places a duty on all local housing authorities to carry out a homelessness review for their area and, in consultation with local partners and stakeholders, formulate and publish a homelessness strategy based on the results of that review, at least every five years.

The Act goes on to state that the purpose of this strategic approach is:

- To prevent homelessness in the district of the authority;
- To secure accommodation that is or will be available for people in the district who are or who may become homeless; and
- To provide support for people in the district who are or who may become homeless.

- 1.5.2 As an Authority we have a moral duty to ensure the health and wellbeing of all our residents. Homelessness can have a detrimental effect on individuals, families and communities and can undermine social cohesion.

Tackling the effects of homelessness can be costly to the public purse when compared to the costs associated with proactively seeking to prevent homelessness in the first place. Evidence demonstrates that investment in local homeless prevention services saves significant amounts of public money across local statutory agencies including housing, health, criminal justice and community safety.

- 1.5.3 A review of the North Tyneside Homelessness Strategy 2008 -2013 and additional work to understand the current picture of homelessness in the borough took place between September 2012 – March 2013. Full details of this work and the findings with future recommendations can be found in Appendix 2: A review of homelessness in North Tyneside 2008 -2013.

- 1.5.3. The strategic priorities have been identified following extensive engagement and consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, council officers, elected members, registered housing providers and third sector organisations that support people in a housing crisis. Most importantly we have listened to people who have experienced or have been affected by homelessness. The priorities set out how we will, in partnership, aim to prevent people becoming homeless by working together to address the causes of homelessness. The strategic priorities are to:

- Widen housing choice;
- Support people to secure and sustain a home;
- Provide timely and accessible housing and homelessness information; and
- Deliver excellent housing advice and homelessness services.

1.5.4 Our strategic priorities are linked with the ten challenges known as the 'gold standard' that are set out in the government report Making Every Contact Count: a joint approach to preventing homelessness that was published August 2012.

The action plan that supports the strategy identifies how the priorities help deliver the ten challenges. The action plan also highlights how the work carried out will contribute to preventing youth homelessness. The action plan includes performance indicators and will be monitored on a quarterly basis, with an annual review and revision to ensure that emerging priorities and legislative changes are taken into account.

1.6 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

Option 1

The authority is required to formulate and publish a homelessness strategy based on homelessness review results at least every five years, therefore Cabinet is requested to approve the homelessness prevention strategy.

Option 2

Cabinet may reject the strategy; however the Authority would fail to meet its duty in formulating and publishing a homelessness strategy at least every five years.

Option 3

Cabinet may request further information prior to approval of the homelessness prevention strategy being received.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

To ensure that the Authority meets its duty in carrying out a homelessness review in its area and to publish a homelessness strategy based on the results of that review, at least every five years.

To ensure that the Authority has a Homelessness Prevention Strategy in place to deliver key objectives that will contribute to preventing homelessness within the borough.

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix 1: North Tyneside Homelessness Prevention Strategy and Action Plan 2013 -2018

Appendix 2: A review of homelessness in North Tyneside 2008 -2013

Appendix 3: North Tyneside Homelessness Prevention Forum Membership

Appendix 4: North Tyneside Homeless Service Information

Appendix 5: North Tyneside Homelessness Review Consultation Report 2013

1.9 Contact officers:

Debbie Shearer, Senior Manager Housing Strategy	0191 643 6206
Linda Lacy, Principal Strategy and Development Officer	0191 643 6213
Philip Pollard, Housing Options Manager	0191 643 7570
Fiona Robson, Housing Strategy Enabling Officer	0191 643 6202
Alison Campbell, Finance Business Manager	0191 643 7038

1.10 Background information:

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

- 1) [North Tyneside Homelessness Strategy 2008 -2013;](#)
- 2) [North Tyneside Strategic Housing Partnership Plan 2013 -2014;](#)
- 3) [The Housing Act 1996;](#)
- 4) [The Homelessness Act 2002;](#)
- 5) [Homelessness performance information submitted to CLG \(P1E returns\);](#)
- 6) [North Tyneside Health Needs Audit 2012;](#)
- 7) [Feedback from service users;](#)
- 8) [Feedback from service providers;](#)
- 9) [Feedback from elected members;](#) and
- 10) [Feedback from other key stakeholders.](#)

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

The cost of compiling and publishing the Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2013 – 2018 will be managed within current budgets. It is our intention to aim to deliver the outcomes described within the action plan within current resources and any other funding requirements subsequently identified to deliver specific priorities within the Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2013 -2018 would be funded through external partnership funding or be subject to future Cabinet reports.

2.2 Legal

The Authority is obliged by section 1(4) of the Homelessness Act 2002, to review its Homelessness Strategy within 5 years from the date of publication of the last strategy.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

Internal consultation has taken place with Elected Members through attendance at all Member briefings held 2 and 3 July 2013, Economic, Prosperity and Housing Sub Committee held 23 July 2013 and circulation on Members weekly newsletter on 8 July 2013.

Council officers, including Strategic Directors and Heads of Service were invited to respond as part of the wider consultation that closed on 7 August 2013.

2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

External consultation took place with service providers and service users late 2012. The annual Homelessness Strategy Review event held January 2013 also provided an opportunity for stakeholders to inform the strategy, as did the wider consultation period that closed on 7 August 2013.

Details of the consultation and community engagement can be found in Appendix 5: North Tyneside Homelessness Review Consultation Report 2013.

2.4 Human rights

There are no human rights implications directly arising from this report.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

There are no equalities and diversity implications directly arising from this report.

2.6 Risk management

Risks associated with the Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2013 – 2018 have been considered.

2.7 Crime and disorder

The Safer Communities Partnership has confirmed that prolific offender's impact significantly on the level of crime committed in the borough. Reducing re-offending is one of the key priorities of the Partnership and the Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2013 -2018 aims to contribute to this through supporting offenders into settled accommodation.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no environment and sustainability implications directly arising from this report.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive X
- Strategic Director(s) X
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s) X
- Chief Finance Officer X
- Monitoring Officer X
- Strategic Manager Policy and Partnerships X