

Committee:	Dated:
Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub Committee	01/07/2019
Subject: Draft Homelessness Strategy 2019–23	Public
Report of: Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children’s Services	For Information
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Summary

This report presents the City of London Corporation’s draft Homelessness Strategy 2019–23 for endorsement.

This strategy sets out the vision, approach and commitment to tackle homelessness in the Square Mile in all its forms. It aligns to and delivers the aim of our Corporate Plan 2018–23 for a flourishing society in which people are safe, enjoy good health and wellbeing and can enrich their lives and reach their full potential.

The strategy defines the outcomes we will deliver, and these will shape our decision-making, service design, partnerships and resourcing.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- endorse the draft Homelessness Strategy 2019–23 set out in Appendix 1.

Main Report

Background

1. Homelessness describes being without a place to call home – whether that means sleeping on the streets, a friend’s sofa or in a squat, or occupying accommodation that is temporary, unsuitable, or in which it is not safe to remain.
2. Homelessness presents most obviously in the City of London among those seen sleeping rough on the streets. However, our services also support those at risk of homelessness or who have lost their homes and who seek our help.
3. The scale and nature of homelessness in the Square Mile is driven by and echoes the issues beyond its boundaries. Many of those who seek our help are connected to the City of London through their employment. Those who sleep on our streets have invariably come to the City – whether from other parts of London or the UK, or from outside of the UK.

4. The Draft Homelessness Strategy Supplement (Appendix 2) provides a detailed overview of homelessness in all its forms across England, London and the City of London.
5. The City Corporation is committed to a flourishing society, where people are safe and feel safe, and where they enjoy good health and wellbeing as outlined in our Corporate Plan for 2018–23. Our commitment is backed by a legal duty to prevent and relieve homelessness for some groups, and to secure a home for others. Its delivery draws on our public, private and charitable roles – and the strength of our partnerships across those sectors. Our strategy commits to tackling all forms of homelessness.
6. Operational and strategic partnerships across and beyond the City Corporation are essential to realising the ambitions of this strategy. Internally this includes the work of the Department of Community and Children’s Services (DCCS), the Department of the Built Environment, the Town Clerk’s Department, the City of London Police and City Bridge Trust. Externally, we will work with our resident and worker population, businesses in the City, the health sector, services and policy-makers in local, regional and central government, and the charities, philanthropists and good causes we work with to tackle homelessness.

Draft Homeless Strategy 2019–23

7. The draft Homelessness Strategy explains:
 - what the issues are for homeless and rough sleepers in the Square Mile
 - how we plan to address these issues
 - what we hope to achieve.
8. To develop this draft strategy we engaged and consulted with internal and external stakeholders. Within the DCCS, Homeless and Rough Sleepers, Adult Social Care and Public Health service teams all contributed. Across the City Corporation, City Bridge Trust, Safer City Partnership and the Department of the Built Environment were involved. Partners consulted with outside of the City Corporation include St Mungo’s, the Dellow Centre, City of London Police, Westminster Drug Project, Department for Work and Pensions and faith groups.
9. Those with lived experience were also engaged. A group meeting was set up and facilitated by St Mungo’s in winter 2018.
10. An Equality Impact Assessment has been drafted and is awaiting sign-off.

Vision, aim and outcomes

11. The strategy sets out the City Corporation’s vision, overarching aim and the four outcomes that we will focus on.
12. **The Vision is that:** Homelessness is prevented and, where it occurs, its impact is minimised and the resolution is rapid and sustainable.

13. **The Aim is:** To provide the interventions, services and cross-sectoral partnerships to tackle the causes and impacts of homelessness in the Square Mile, and to deliver the range of effective and rapid responses necessary to secure a sustainable end to homelessness.

14. **The four outcomes that the strategy will deliver on are:**

- Homelessness is prevented
- Everyone has a route away from homelessness
- The impact of homelessness is reduced
- Nobody needs to return to homelessness.

Delivery

15. The City's Homelessness Strategy will govern our approach until 2023. However, in a period of emerging policies and economic change, it is vital that it remains responsive. For that reason, it will be underpinned by a separate action plan that will be refreshed annually.

16. Implementation will be overseen by the Rough Sleeping Strategy Group and reported to the City Corporation's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub Committee.

Next Steps

17. The Draft Homelessness Strategy was endorsed by the Health and Wellbeing Board on 19 June 2019 and Summit Group on 25 June 2019.

18. The strategy will be sent for approval to the Community and Children's Services Committee on 12 July 2019.

Corporate Implications

19. This strategy is a key driver through which the City of London Corporation can fulfil its vision, as outlined in our Corporate Plan for 2018–23, of a 'vibrant and thriving City, supporting a diverse and sustainable London within a globally-successful UK'. The Homelessness Strategy will make a key contribution to delivering the following outcomes of the *City of London Corporate Plan 2018–23*:

- People are safe and feel safe
- People enjoy good health and wellbeing
- People have equal opportunities to enrich their lives and reach their full potential
- Communities are cohesive and have the facilities they need
- Businesses are trusted and socially and environmentally responsible.

20. This plan sits below the DCCS business plan. It contributes to the plan's delivery by mirroring its five priorities and applying them to the specific needs of our population.

21. This strategy also links to the following City Corporation strategies: Housing, Social Mobility, Joint Health and Wellbeing, Social Wellbeing, Alcohol, Safer City Partnership and the Local Plan.

Conclusion

22. The draft Homelessness Strategy 2019–23 is the overarching strategic document that guides services and activities for approaching homelessness in all its forms in the City of London. It outlines the values and principles that guide our work, our vision, and how we intend to achieve it. This report asks members to endorse the draft Homelessness Strategy 2019–23.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Draft Homelessness Strategy 2019–23
- Appendix 2 – Draft Homelessness Strategy Supplement

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