

Committee:	Dated:
Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee	09/05/2022
Subject: Rough Sleeping Performance Reporting Changes	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 2, 3, 4, 11
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
Report author: Jack Deeprise, Rough Sleeping Co-ordinator	

Summary

This report presents current issues with the data release schedule from the Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN) being misaligned with the frequency of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee meetings. The non-alignment of the CHAIN Quarter 4 (Q4) full data release with the draft deadline for the 9 May 2022 Sub-Committee has meant it is not possible to present the Q4 Rough Sleeping Performance Report to Members at this Sub-Committee.

These issues have prompted City of London (CoL) Officers to consider changes to the frequency and format in which Rough Sleeping Performance is reported across the financial year. The proposed changes include moving to a biannual reporting schedule, comprising a Rough Sleeping Annual Performance Report, followed by a Rough Sleeping Six-month Performance Review. The data points and formats of these reports will be consistent to allow for better tracking of trends. At Sub-Committee sessions where no biannual performance report is submitted, the CoL Rough Sleeping Co-ordinator will submit reports focusing on specific areas of rough sleeping work.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Note the report
- Endorse the performance report changes.

Main Report

Background

1. Quarterly Rough Sleeping performance reporting schedules, and the deadlines associated with drafting these papers for this Sub-Committee, have become increasingly out of line with the published full data releases from CHAIN. In the past, this has led to the Q3 Performance Report analysing an initial release of data by CHAIN, and not the usual full report. This initial release, while still accurate, is limited in scope when compared to the full CHAIN release available some weeks later. This does not allow for comparisons against neighbouring borough rough sleeping numbers, or more detailed breakdowns into accommodation outcomes and demographics.
2. For the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee on 9 May 2022, the publication of CHAIN data misses the draft deadline for this Sub-Committee, meaning that it is not possible to present a Q4 Performance Report to Members. This misalignment has prompted consideration and discussion between Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Officers on how best to make positive reforms to the frequency and style of rough sleeping performance reports for this Sub-Committee.

Current Position

3. The CHAIN performance data for Q4 has not been released in time for consideration at this Sub-Committee. The table below shows the CHAIN data release schedule alongside Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee draft deadlines and Committee sessions. The CHAIN data process and planned schedule is also included as Appendix 1 of this paper.

	CHAIN data releases		Sub-Committee dates	
	Initial data	Full reports	Draft deadline	Committee session
Q4	15/4/2022	29/4/2022	13/4/2022	9/5/2022
Annual Report		30/6/2022	23/6/2022	18/7/2022
Q1	15/7/2022	29/7/2022		
Q2	15/10/2022	31/10/2022	8/9/2022	3/10/2022
			5/11/2022	30/11/2022

4. As the date misalignment shows, it is not currently possible to submit performance reports at the most appropriately timed Sub-Committees.
5. At the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee held on 14 February 2022, it was noted by Members and CoL officers that the level of analysis and style of data presentation in the Q3 Rough Sleeping Performance Report was thorough, but could be confusing when presented alongside other rough sleeping reports. CoL officers have discussed amending the performance report structure and content to ensure that the data can be better communicated to Members, with more consistency across reporting periods, and better illustration of long-term trends.

6. As Q4 data is not available in time for the 9 May 2022 Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee, this report will deal with proposed solutions to the issues discussed, and how these solutions to rough sleeping performance reporting can be implemented.

Options

7. The course of action proposed to address these issues is a change in frequency of rough sleeping performance reports submitted to this Sub-Committee.

8. These reports will consist of two biannual reports:

- *Rough Sleeping Annual Performance Report*

This report will summarise CHAIN rough sleeping data for the previous financial year. It will compare performance against previous years, make comparisons against neighbouring boroughs, and illustrate changes in rough sleeping between the four quarters of the financial year.

- *Rough Sleeping Six-month Performance Review*

This report will review CoL rough sleeping CHAIN data for Q1 and Q2 of the current year. It will compare performance against the previous annual report, make comparisons against neighbouring boroughs, and illustrate any changes across the first two quarters of the year.

9. Both the annual and six-month performance reports will cover the following data points:

- total individual rough sleepers (annually and quarterly)
- annual cohort trends of new, consistent and returning rough sleepers
- quarterly cohort trends of new, living on the streets, and intermittent rough sleepers
- rough sleeper demographics
- rough sleeper support needs
- accommodation and reconnection outcomes.

These headings for data analysis will remain consistent across all future performance reports, and this will allow for better tracking and highlighting of longer-term trends.

10. At Sub-Committees at which there is neither the Annual Performance Report nor the Six-month Performance Review, papers will be presented on developments in specific areas of the work, and other data-driven updates, such as street count and Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) reviews.

Proposals

11. With the course of action described, the proposal is that the following papers are submitted at the corresponding scheduled Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committees:

18/7/2022 Sub-Committee

- 2021 Annual Street Count Performance Report
- 2021/22 SWEF Review

02/10/2022 Sub-Committee

- 2021/22 Rough Sleeping Annual Performance Report

30/11/2022 Sub Committee

- City Inn Express Progress Report

March/April Sub-Committee

- Rough Sleeping Six-month Performance Review

12. This proposed scheduling will allow more time to be dedicated to the new performance reports, which will result in more consistent and robust reporting. The non-performance reports will give insight and measure performance on other vital areas of work for the CoL Rough Sleeping team.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

13. There are no strategic implications directly related to this report:

- Financial implications – N/A
- Resource implications – N/A
- Legal implications – N/A
- Risk implications – N/A
- Equalities implications – N/A
- Climate implications – N/A
- Security implications – N/A

Conclusion

14. In conclusion, these proposed changes to frequency and method of rough sleeping performance reporting aim to address the issue of the CHAIN data releases schedule being misaligned with Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committees. The change to a biannual performance reporting will allow the publication of full data reports in good time before Sub-Committees and ensure that the Annual Performance Report and Six-month Performance Review can be submitted at the same time each financial year. Additionally, there will be reforms to the style and consistency of these reports, with shared data points and headings to improve clarity and consistency across reporting periods.
15. For Sub-Committees at which no Rough Sleeping Performance Report is submitted, there will instead be a data-driven review of specific areas of CoL rough sleeping work.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – CHAIN Quarterly and Annual Reports Process and Schedule

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