

Committee: Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub Committee	Dated: 30 th November 2022
Subject: Consultation draft of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 2, 3, 4
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	£
What is the source of Funding?	
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	Na
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
Report author: Kate Bygrave, Department of Community and Children's Services	

Summary

This report provides Members of the sub committee with the draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2027 that will be subject to wider consultation before final approval is given in 2023. The consultation will be with stakeholders including Members, residents and businesses, and key providers from the voluntary and community sector, health partners, specialist service providers and the City police. The consultation period will run from 12 December 2022 until 12 March 2023. Consultation feedback will inform the development of the final draft. The final draft will be presented to Members of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub Committee on 26 April 2023 for information and then Community and Children's Services Grand Committee on 3 May 2023 for approval.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report

Main Report

Background

1. A draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2027 has been developed for consultation. The draft was shaped by analysis of homelessness and rough sleeping in the City and current service delivery, a review of the previous strategy, engagement with key stakeholders and service providers and feedback from service users. It also reflects changes in related government

legislation, guidance, and strategy and the City Corporation's participation in the Mayor of London's Life of the Streets Taskforce.

2. The draft strategy will be subject to wider public and stakeholder consultation which will inform the final strategy draft.

Current Position

3. The City Corporation's current Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-2023 needs renewal.
4. New legislation, guidance and frameworks have also been published during this period, including the government's "Ending Rough Sleeping for Good" strategy, published in 2022, the Domestic Abuse Act published in 2021, and the governments commitments to the Homelessness Reduction Act, 2017.
5. The "everyone in" approach of the pandemic – and the City Corporation's subsequent "in for good" approach - have shaped a changed approach and focus to services.
6. Local and London-wide shows trends show increasing numbers of individuals at risk of or experiencing homelessness, and it is widely thought that economic pressures may see such trends continue.
7. The most recent full year data identified 372 people rough sleeping within the boundaries of the City in 2021/22. In the same period 428 individuals approached the City of London for advice and support and the City Corporation accepted a "prevention or relief duty" (a response set out in homelessness legislation) for 25 households.
8. The City Corporation has backed its commitment to tackling rough sleeping with the allocation of significant extra resources that will see the provision of additional complex needs accommodation, and the opening of a dedicated rough sleeping Assessment centre in the period ahead.
9. A draft strategy has been developed in response to this current context. It has been informed by wide engagement and an Equalities Impact Assessment (appended).
10. An action plan will sit underneath the strategy that will outline in detail the activities that will deliver the objectives set out. The action plan will be reviewed annually in order to ensure that the work is relevant, effective, meets the need and emerging needs of the service users and responsive to changing government and local initiatives.

Proposed Consultation

11. The consultation period will run from 12 December 2022 until 12 March 2023

12. During the consultation feedback will be sought from a range of stakeholders, including members, the square mile business and resident communities, DCCS staff, key providers in the voluntary and community sector, health and care, City police and the Safer City partnership.
13. The consultation will be run through a dedicated webpage and questionnaire, which will be promoted widely to encourage the broadest possible engagement.
14. Members will also have the opportunity to contribute further at the February 2023 meeting of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Subcommittee.
15. After the end of the consultation period a report will be drawn up outlining the results of the consultation and any amendments necessary will be made to the strategy draft. This report along with the final draft of the strategy will be presented at the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Subcommittee in April 2023.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

16. Strategic implications – The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy delivers on the objectives of the Corporate Plan.
17. Financial implications – N/A
18. Resource implications – N/A
19. Legal implications – The City of London Corporation has a statutory duty under the Housing Act (1996) to prevent homelessness and provide assistance or advice to those who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness. Under the Homelessness Act, 2002, the City of London Corporation is required to have a strategy in place covering all forms of homelessness in its locality, that must be updated at least every 5 years
20. Risk implications – Homelessness and rough sleeping is a high priority topic, and as such should the strategy not be agreed, there is a reputational risk to the City of London Corporation.
21. Equalities implications – An Equalities Impact Assessment is attached in Appendix 2. Consideration has been given to all the protected characteristics as outlined by the Equalities Act 2010. Most of the specific protected characteristics are likely to be more heavily impacted by the risk and experience of homelessness and rough sleeping, this is particularly the case for women, LGBTQ+ individuals, younger and older people and global majority communities. Without a sufficient strategy in place with consideration given to these groups the city of London Corporation
22. Climate implications – N/A
23. Security implications – N/A

Conclusion

24. The draft strategy will go out to consultation to ensure that the corporation, partners, stakeholders and interested parties are able to input into the final draft of the strategy and ensure a robust and effective strategy is in place for the period ahead.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Draft Strategy
- Appendix 2 – Equality Impact Assessment

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