

Committee(s): Community & Children's Services Committee - For Decision	Dated: 01/11/2023
Subject: Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-27	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?	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: Judith Finlay, Executive Director – Community & Children's Services	For Decision
Report author: Scott Myers, Strategy & Projects Officer, Community & Children's Services	

Summary

This report presents the City of London Corporation's draft Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-27 for approval.

This draft strategy has been endorsed by the Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee and incorporates changes they proposed.

The draft strategy sets out the vision, approach, and commitment to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping in the Square Mile in all its forms.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- **Approve the draft Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-27 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 which 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. Members of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee have been involved in the development of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-27 throughout the stages of development and public consultation, as well as after the public consultation had ended.
5. This involvement has also included involvement in development sessions with relevant Officers to investigate in more detail how the strategy outcomes and priorities would be delivered and measured for success.
6. As a result of these sessions at the request of Members of the Sub-Committee, additional changes were made to the strategy to strengthen it and include additional details on national and local legislative context and data, an update on progress achieved during the previous strategy, an expansion of why the priorities were chosen and case studies showing good practice.
7. In addition to including relevant contextual information, the strategy includes details of the various actions that will help deliver the priorities identified in the strategy and will form part of the ongoing Service Development Plan for delivery of this strategy.
8. As well as making changes to the strategy, an evidence bank showing the picture of homelessness and rough sleeping within the City of London was developed, which can be seen in Appendix 2.
9. The Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee endorsed this strategy on the 4th October 2023.

Draft Homelessness Strategy 2019-23

10. The draft strategy shown in Appendix 1 has been shaped by analysis of homelessness and rough sleeping in the City of London, 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.

11. A twelve-week public consultation period was also undertaken which informed the strategy further and resulted in positive contributions from participants on our identified priorities.
12. Promotion of the consultation was targeted to gather feedback from our partners, current service users, individuals who have experience of homelessness and or rough sleeping, and members of the public. Further input from those with experience of homelessness or rough sleeping was gathered through our commissioned partners and work with the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy Group.
13. As part of this consultation and engagement work, an up-to-date evidence bank has also been developed setting out a picture of homelessness within the City of London and can be seen in Appendix 2.

Vision

14. The draft strategy sets out the City Corporation and its partners vision for homelessness and rough sleeping services over the next four years. This vision is 'homelessness is brief, it does not reoccur, its impact on the individual, families and children, and our communities is minimised, and it is prevented where possible'.

Strategic Priorities

15. To deliver this vision, the draft strategy sets out four strategic priorities. These are:
 1. Providing rapid, effective and tailored interventions
 2. Securing access to suitable and affordable accommodation
 3. Working collaboratively
 4. Supporting beyond accommodation

Delivery

16. The City of London Corporation's Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy will govern our approach until 2027. However, as economic and political shifts could happen during this period, it will be underpinned by a Service Development Plan which will be continuously refreshed to adapt to changing priorities and demands.
17. This Service Development Plan will set out the actions we will undertake to deliver the vision and strategic priorities listed above and within the draft strategy.
18. The implementation and delivery of the Service Development Plan will be overseen by the Rough Sleeping Strategy Group and reported to the City Corporation's Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Financial implications – Within existing resources

Resource implications – Within existing resources

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.

Risk implications – None identified

Equalities implications - Developing a dedicated Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy with strong evidence on how we will deliver the strategy will work towards tackling inequality of opportunity. A dedicated Equality Impact Assessment has also been developed to demonstrate this, as inequality disproportionately impacts on those with protected characteristics. This can be seen in Appendix 3.

Climate implications – None identified

Security implications – None identified

Conclusion

15. The draft Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023 - 27 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 approve the draft Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023 – 27.

Appendices

- **Appendix 1 – Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-27**
- **Appendix 2 – Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Evidence Bank**
- **Appendix 3 – Equality Impact Assessment**

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