City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committee:	Dated:
Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee	03/02/2025
Subject:	**Public report:**
Annual Rough Sleeping Snapshot 2024 Report	For Information
This proposal: • **delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes**	Diverse Engagement Communities Proving Excellent Services
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N/A
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 of Community and Children's Services
Report author:	Kirsty Lowe, Rough Sleeping Services Manager

Summary

This report presents a local data analysis of the 2024 Rough Sleeping Snapshot that took place from midnight on 19 November 2024 to 04:00am on 20 November 2024. The City of London (CoL) final annual street count figure was 86. This number is made up of those seen bedded down on the night, people who were accommodated the same day through Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) and additional names put forward by partners in the follow-up estimate meeting.

The snapshot figure for 2023 was 61, which is a 41% increase on the 61 individuals seen on the snapshot count in 2023.This report provides an overview of previous snapshot counts and the overall upward trend from previous years.

All local authority snapshot intelligence remains embargoed, and so comparative data is limited.

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This report references the following priorities from the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023–2027:

- Priority 1 – Rapid, effective and tailored interventions
- Priority 2 – Securing access to suitable, affordable accommodation
- Priority 3 – Achieving our goals through better collaboration and partnership
- Priority 4 – Providing support beyond accommodation.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

•   Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. Since 2010 all local authorities in England have been required to conduct an annual Rough Sleeping Snapshot in the autumn months. This snapshot is a recording of a single night figure of people rough sleeping in each authority area. All local authorities must conduct their Rough Sleeping Snapshot between 1 October and 30 November each year.

2. The purpose of a Rough Sleeping Snapshot in a local authority area is to:

   - estimate the number of people sleeping rough on a single night in autumn
   - assess changes in the number of people sleeping rough over time
   - compare local authorities and regions in England
   - understand some basic characteristics about people who sleep rough.

3. For the purposes of a Rough Sleeping Snapshot, the official definition of 'people sleeping rough' is:

   'People sleeping, about to bed down (sitting on/in or standing next to their bedding) or bedded down in the open air (such as on the streets, in tents, doorways, parks, bus shelters or encampments). People in buildings or other places not designed for habitation (such as stairwells, barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, stations, or 'bashes' which are makeshift shelters, often comprised of cardboard boxes). The definition does not include people in hostels or shelters, people in campsites or other sites used for recreational purposes or organised protest, squatters or travellers.

   Bedded down is taken to mean either lying down or sleeping.

   About to bed down includes those who are sitting in/on or near a sleeping bag or other bedding'[1]

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[1] Combined Homelessness Information Network (CHAIN)

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A Rough Sleeping Snapshot is conducted by local authorities in conjunction with local commissioned and non-commissioned services, such as outreach teams, police, health services, faith sector representatives, and voluntary services. There are three different types of approaches and methods which can be taken to conduct a snapshot:

- **A count-based estimate:** A physical counting of individual rough sleepers in an area. This is conducted after midnight on the chosen day.

- **An evidence-based estimate meeting:** Evidence of rough sleeping is presented by the local authorities and rough sleeping services, and a list is submitted of rough sleepers who are likely to be out on the chosen given night.

- **An evidence-based estimate meeting including a spotlight count:** This is the same as above, but combined with a 'spotlight' count, which is a physical count also conducted after midnight, though it may not be as extensive.

  Local authorities choose which approach to take and are advised to choose an approach that will most accurately provide an on-the-night rough sleeping estimate for their area.

Current Position

4. The CoL Rough Sleeping Snapshot took place on the evening of Tuesday 19 November 2024 and carried on into the early hours of Wednesday 20 November 2024.

5. A 'evidence-based estimate meeting including a spotlight count' methodology was used for the 2024 count.

6. Due to temperatures forecast to fall to zero degrees or colder on the morning of 19 November 2024, SWEP was activated. On the day of the scheduled count City officers decided to change the methodology from a count-based estimate to an evidence-based estimate meeting including a spotlight count. The change of methodology ensured that the count would still go ahead, and that there would be sufficient staff to cover the delivery of SWEP on the day and the following morning. Staffing resources were repurposed from the evening of the street count to the day shift and the early morning shift the following day.

7. On the night of 19 November 2024, there were six teams of two people covering each ward, targeting known individuals and sleep sites. Attendees included CoL officers, CoL elected members, City outreach, CoL Police, NHS staff and independent community volunteers.

8. Eight individuals were booked into SWEP prior to the count starting and were including in the overall figure.

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9. A total of 68 individuals were seen bedded down between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 04:00am. Of those, 26 accepted SWEP and were booked into either supported accommodation or a hotel.

10. The graph below shows the CoL Rough Sleeping Snapshot trends from 2017 to 2024.

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Street Count	36	67	41	23	20	43	61	86

11. On 27 November 2024, the estimate meeting took place, hosted by City officers and attended by several City partners and a Homeless Link representative who guided the meeting and verified the final count figure.

12. In the estimate meeting, the list was reviewed including individuals seen on the night of the snapshot count and those booked into SWEP on the day. Partners were then invited to present evidence of those that were most likely rough sleeping in the Square Mile that night but weren't seen on the count. Data was scrutinised to ensure that no duplicates were present before the final figure was submitted to Homeless Link.

13. Homeless Link carried out their own checks before confirming the final figure. City officers submit this information to the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) via the online Delta account.

14. Demographic information of the 86 individuals met on the 2024 count are as follows:

Gender	
Women	2
Men	84
Not known / prefer not to disclose	0

Age	
Under 18 (add further detail below)	0
18–25	3
26 and over	65
Not known / prefer not to disclose	18

Nationality	
UK national	28
EU national (excluding UK)	22
Non-EU national	20
Not known / prefer not to disclose	16

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15. Analysis found that 26 of the 86 individuals were identified as T1000, a cohort of people with complex support needs and/or who are long-term street attached. Of those 26 individuals, 13 were City T1000s and the remaining 13 were T1000s linked to other London boroughs.

16. Further analysis found that 15 of the 86 individuals were known to have no recourse to public funds, 35 did have recourse to public funds, and the situation for the remaining 36 was unknown.

17. Castle Baynard remains the busiest ward on the night, with the highest number of individuals seen rough sleeping at Castle Baynard Street.

18. The City Outreach team have been conducting street audits since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. These night-time shifts are in place to emulate the process of a physical snapshot count. The aim is to keep a regular record of a snapshot figure, to inform CoL officers and City Outreach of likely 'on the night' figures at a given point during the year.

Steet Audit and Snapshot 2024											
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
75	81	45	45	35	42	40	39	43	31	**86**	49

19. The table shows street audit figures for 2024 with the November Snapshot figure in bold.

20. As this chart illustrates, street audit and street count numbers are variable. Overall monthly street audit numbers have gradually increased in the winter period and reduced in warmer months.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

21. **Financial implications** – See risk implications below.

22. **Resource implications** – N/A

23. **Legal implications** – N/A

24. **Risk implications** – N/A

25. **Equalities implications** – N/A

26. **Climate implications** – N/A

27. **Security implications** – N/A

Conclusion

28. The CoL saw its highest annual street count figure since records began in 2010. In addition to carrying out the annual street count, officers and partners also provided SWEP due to freezing temperatures and supported a total of 34 individuals into emergency off-the-street accommodation within 24 hours.

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29. On review of the demographic information and support needs of the individuals, a significant proportion of individuals presented with complex support needs: 22% were known T1000 clients, and at least 13% of individuals were known to have no recourse to public funds.

Appendices

- None

Background papers

- Annual Rough Sleeping Snapshot 2023 Report
- Annual Rough Sleeping Snapshot 2022 Report
- Annual Rough Sleeping Snapshot 2021 Report

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