

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<i>BBC Cabinet</i>
<b>DATE:</b>	<i>30<sup>th</sup> March 2022</i>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<i>Lincolnshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategies</i>
<b>PURPOSE:</b>	<i>To seek approval for endorsing the countywide Lincolnshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategies for a further 12 months.</i>
<b>KEY DECISION:</b>	<i>Yes</i>
<b>PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	<i>Councillor Griggs</i>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<i>Emily Spicer – Assistant Director – Wellbeing and Community Leadership</i>
<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	<i>Jason Oxby – Service Manager - Housing and Support Solutions</i>
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<i>All</i>
<b>EXEMPT REPORT?</b>	<i>No</i>

## **SUMMARY**

*The Lincolnshire Homelessness Strategy 2017 - 2021 and the Lincolnshire Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019 – 2021 have both now expired. It is a legal requirement to publish a revised homelessness strategy every five years. Due to the delay in starting this work, Cabinet is asked to approve a one year extension of the current countywide strategies.*

*The current homelessness strategy was approved November 2017 which allows time for the new combined strategy to be published within the 5 year requirement.*

*The other Lincolnshire District Councils are in agreement with a new countywide strategy.*

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

*Approve a one year extension of the current countywide strategies*

*Agree to the writing of a new countywide Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy rather than individual council or sub regional strategies*

#### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

*The extension is required to allow sufficient time for Lincolnshire Housing Authorities to jointly write and approve a new countywide homelessness and rough sleeping strategy.*

#### **OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

*The Council could adopt its own individual strategy or a joint strategy across the South East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership but would still require an extension of the current strategies.*

*Having individual council strategies or a SELCP strategy has been discounted because having a countywide strategy is seen as good practice, cost effective and has helped increase grant funding for countywide housing and homelessness initiatives. This is because it evidences the seven Lincolnshire Councils and where applicable Lincolnshire County Council can work together for the benefit of its residents.*

#### **BACKGROUND**

*The current Lincolnshire Homelessness Strategy was approved in November 2017 and covered the period up to the end of 2021. The strategy has an action plan to underpin the priorities and is led by the Strategic Leads of the seven Local Authorities across Lincolnshire.*

*The Lincolnshire Homelessness Prevention Programme Manager hosted by West Lindsey District Council had responsibility for co-ordinating the partnership and monitoring of the strategy. This later passed to the County Homelessness Partnerships Manager hosted at City of Lincoln Council whilst options for the post were explored by the District Housing Network (DHN).*

*DHN approved the appointment of a Lincolnshire Housing Partnerships role in May 2021 to take on the duties of the previous postholder, but also include a wider remit linking in with DHN priorities relating to Housing, Health and Social Care.*

*Recruitment was delayed but the postholder is now in post hosted by North Kesteven District Council and will be responsible for leading on writing the new strategy which will cover homelessness and rough sleeping.*

#### **REPORT**

*If the extension is agreed, a review of homelessness within Lincolnshire will take place to help formulate the content of the new strategy and help establish the priorities. The review will be undertaken by the Lincolnshire Homelessness Prevention Programme Manager supported by the seven local housing authorities.*

*The purpose of a review is to:*

- *establish the current level of homelessness across the county,*
- *project its likely growth (or decline) in future years,*
- *identify what is currently being done and by whom, and*
- *identify what level of resources are available to prevent and tackle homelessness in the future,*
- *identify gaps and what needs to be done to ensure a robust response to homelessness.*

## **CONCLUSION**

*The Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategies have already expired therefore there isn't any other option than an extension to the current strategies.*

*An extension would provide the required time to complete a review of Homelessness in Lincolnshire which is vital to ensure the priorities of the new strategy are accurate and the agreed actions have a positive effect on the prevention of homelessness and helping those that are already homeless.*

## **EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP**

*Extending the strategies will ensure the partnership Councils are acting legally and reduce the risk of a legal challenge from not having a current strategy.*

*Working in partnership with all seven Lincolnshire Housing Authorities increases the available resources and better enables all Councils to jointly have a stronger voice when discussing the provision of services which are required countywide. Such services that require financial input are also more likely to be affordable when sharing the costs across Lincolnshire or the partnership.*

*SELCP will ensure the key homelessness issues across the sub-region are included within the new countywide strategy and/or action plan. A sub-regional action plan across the partnership will also be produced to ensure local issues specific to SELCP that are not within the countywide strategy are identified and actions agreed.*

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### **SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL'S PARTNERSHIP**

*None*

### **CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

*The extension of the current strategies will support the Council to meet its corporate priorities:*

- *People – Invest and support growth to meet local housing needs*

### **STAFFING**

*There are no staffing requirements for the extension of the strategy.*

*The required commitment to complete the review, write the strategy and action plan can be met within existing resources.*

## **CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

*As set out in the report, the Homelessness Act 2002 Section 1 (1) requires all local authorities to complete a homelessness review and Section 1 (4) to have a Homelessness Strategy.*

*The Council could be at risk of a legal challenge if it doesn't have a current strategy. When making homelessness case decisions the Council has to take account of the Homelessness Strategy and failing to do so could result in a judicial review*

## **DATA PROTECTION**

*None*

## **FINANCIAL**

*No financial requirements in respect of extending the term of the strategies*

*Each Local Authority currently contributes to the post of Lincs Housing Partnerships Manager.*

*Any costs of completing the review and producing the Strategy will be met from within the current Housing budget.*

*Any financial commitments as a result of the new strategy/action plan would be met from Grant funding. If this were not possible, a further report seeking funding would be submitted for consideration.*

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

*Covered under legal implications*

## **STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES**

*The Portfolio holder has been consulted and in agreement with the recommendation*

## **REPUTATION**

*There is a reputational risk if the Council doesn't have a current strategy. DLUHC will expect the Council to have a current strategy*

## **CONTRACTS**

*BBC currently provides grant funding to Centrepont Outreach to support them with their activities to reduce homelessness. BBC has a contract for the provision of emergency B&B accommodation however both of these arrangements are under review.*

## CRIME AND DISORDER

*Four of the five priorities of the current strategy have a positive impact on crime and disorder.*

## EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING

*Protecting the most vulnerable from experiencing homelessness including tackling rough sleeping is a priority of the current strategy. All people who are homeless are provided with a service.*

## HEALTH AND WELL BEING

*The prevention of homelessness, provision of a decent home and referring people for support with health issues can have a positive effect on a household's health and wellbeing.*

## CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

*None*

## ACRONYMS

*NA*

### APPENDICES

*None*

### BACKGROUND PAPERS

*Background papers used in the production of this report:*

<i>BBC Cabinet report and attachment 2017</i>	<a href="https://democracy.boston.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=130&amp;Mid=1155&amp;Ver=4">https://democracy.boston.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=130&amp;Mid=1155&amp;Ver=4</a>
<i>Lincolnshire Homelessness Strategy 2017-21</i>	<a href="#">Lincolnshire Homelessness Strategy 2017-2021.pdf (mybostonuk.com)</a>
<i>Lincolnshire Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-21</i>	<a href="#">Lincolnshire Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-2021.pdf (e-lindsey.gov.uk)</a>

### CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT

*None*

### REPORT APPROVAL

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