

# Arun District Council

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>Housing and Wellbeing Committee</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Homeless strategy date extension</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Jayne Knight Housing Options Manager</b>
<b>LEAD MEMBER:</b>	Cllr Carol Birch, Chair of Housing and Wellbeing Committee
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>CORPORATE PRIORITY / POLICY CONTEXT / CORPORATE VISION:</b> The Homeless strategy is a statutory instrument we are required to have but will support the following areas of the council vision <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide a mixed housing economy within the district for all, regardless of age or circumstances, where different types of homes are available, and people can choose to rent or buy.</li><li>• Support those in our community that most need help, providing a safety net where necessary and working with people and organisations to meet different needs.</li><li>• Support those who are homeless, street homeless or at risk of homelessness in emergency or temporary accommodation to improve health outcomes.</li><li>• Support households with complex needs to secure suitable accommodation.</li><li>• Ensure the existing housing stock in the district (private sector and council owned) is maintained to a high standard</li><li>• Continue to bring empty homes back into use for the benefit of the community.</li></ul>	
<b>DIRECTORATE POLICY CONTEXT:</b> The Homeless Strategy is required to be in date by law in order that statutory homeless services can be delivered by Arun District Council. The current policy was initially adopted in 2019 to run until 2022. The policy was extended in October 2022 for a further year by Housing and Wellbeing Committee. A policy cannot be extended beyond 5 years and a new policy will need to be adopted in 2023	
<b>FINANCIAL SUMMARY:</b> N/A	

## For general release

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To request the extension of the current Homeless Strategy for one further year from October 2023 to October 2024, whilst a procurement process is

undertaken to instruct an author of a new strategy along with relevant consultation period with partners.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Housing and Wellbeing Committee agree the extension of the Homeless Strategy until 2024.

## **3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Executive Summary: The Homeless Strategy is a statutory document required by law to be in date and that statute states that authorities must publish a new strategy every five years. The local authority must make the strategy publicly available on their website.

Arun District Council adopted the current strategy in 2019 to run until 2022 and extended the term on the Strategy in October 2022 until 2023. This was to allow for a new strategy to be consulted on and written. Whilst the procurement for this work is out to tender, the strategy is not yet written and therefore in order to keep the authority legally compliant, Committee is asked to agree a further extension to 2024 to allow time for the procurement process and consultation and writing of the new strategy.

## **4. DETAIL**

Executive Summary: The Homeless strategy is a statutory document required by law to be in date and that statute states that authorities must publish a new strategy every five years. The local authority must make the strategy publicly available on their website.

Arun District Council adopted the current Strategy in 2019, to run until 2022, and extended the term on the Strategy in October 2022 to run until 2023. This was to allow for a new strategy to be consulted on and written. Whilst the procurement for this work is out to tender, a new strategy is not yet written and therefore in order to keep the authority legally compliant, the Committee is asked to agree a further extension to 2024 to allow time for the procurement process and consultation and writing of the new strategy.

The policy will require a consultation period where the council must consult with partner agencies including, children's services, adult services and other public, private and voluntary sector agencies, after which time officers will be in a position to formulate the new strategy with our appointed strategist.

## **5. CONSULTATION**

Not required.

## **6. OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

No alternatives can be considered, without the extension to the policy, the homeless function will be forced to cease to operate, and it will be contracted out.

## **7. COMMENTS BY THE GROUP HEAD OF FINANCE/SECTION 151 OFFICER**

There are no additional financial implications arising from this report.

## **8. RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

No risks other than those identified.

## **9. COMMENTS OF THE GROUP HEAD OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE & MONITORING OFFICER**

9.1 The legislative provisions governing the Council's duties in relation to homelessness are extensive.

9.2 The Homelessness Act 2002 requires local housing authorities to review homelessness in their district and prepare and publish a homelessness strategy based on the review.

9.3 The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 requires local housing authorities to take reasonable steps to prevent homelessness (when anyone is threatened with it within 56 days) and to "relieve" homelessness (through maintaining or securing accommodation) for eligible applicants who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.

9.4 Under section 3(1) of the 2002 Act a 'homelessness strategy' means a strategy formulated by a local housing authority for: (a) preventing homelessness in their district; (b) securing that sufficient accommodation is and will be available for people in their district who are or may become homeless; (c) securing the satisfactory provision of support for people in their district: (i) who are or may become homeless; or (ii) who have been homeless and need support to prevent them becoming homeless again.

9.5 In formulating or modifying a homelessness strategy a local housing authority must have regard to: (a) its current allocation scheme under section 166A of the Housing Act 1996, and (b) its current tenancy strategy under section 150 of the Localism Act 2011.

9.6 The council is required to take its Homelessness Strategy into account in the exercise of its functions. Under section 182 of the Housing Act 1996, local authorities must have regard to the Homelessness Code of Guidance for local authorities when exercising its functions relating to homelessness and prevention of homelessness.

**10. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT**

No impact identified.

**11. HEALTH & SAFETY IMPACT**

No Impact Identified

**12. PROPERTY & ESTATES IMPACT**

No impact identified.

**13. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) / SOCIAL VALUE**

No impact identified.

**14. CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT/SOCIAL VALUE**

No impact Identified.

**15. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT**

No impact identified.

**16. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT**

No impact identified.

**17. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION / DATA PROTECTION CONSIDERATIONS**

No impact identified.

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**CONTACT OFFICER:**

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**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:**

[Housing and homelessness strategy 2019 to 2023 | Arun District Council](#)