

POLICY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 10 January 2023

6.00 pm

**Committee Rooms 1 and 2,
City Hall, Beaumont Fee,
Lincoln, LN1 1DD**

Membership: Councillors Jane Loffhagen (Chair), Calum Watt (Vice-Chair),
Debbie Armiger, Rebecca Longbottom, Bill Mara, Mark Storer and
Emily Wood

Substitute member(s): Councillors Gary Hewson and Pat Vaughan

Officers attending: Democratic Services, Legal Services, Alison Timmins

A G E N D A

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1. Confirmation of Minutes - 22 November 2022	3 - 6
2. Declarations of Interest	
Please note that, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, when declaring interests members must disclose the existence and nature of the interest, and whether it is a disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI) or personal and/or pecuniary.	
3. County Homelessness Strategy	7 - 74
4. Health Scrutiny Update	Verbal Report
5. Policy Scrutiny Work Programme 2022-23 and Executive Work Programme Update	75 - 84

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Present: Councillor Jane Loffhagen (*in the Chair*),
Councillor Debbie Armiger, Councillor
Rebecca Longbottom, Councillor Bill Mara, Councillor
Mark Storer and Councillor Emily Wood

Apologies for Absence: None.

22. Confirmation of Minutes - 4 October 2022

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2022 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

23. Matters Arising

Councillor Longbottom, referred to minute number 21 and asked when the Shared Prosperity Fund would be added to the Policy Scrutiny Work Programme.

The Democratic Services Officer advised that she had liaised with Francesca Bell, Assistant Director Growth and Development who had confirmed that an All Member Briefing on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund would take place instead of presenting to Policy Scrutiny Committee.

24. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

25. Localised Council Tax Support Scheme 2023/24

Tracey Parker, Revenues and Benefits Manager:

- a. presented the proposed scheme for Local Council Tax Support for the financial year 2023/24 and accompanying Exceptional Hardship Payments Scheme, as part of the formal consultation period.
- b. gave the background to the scheme as detailed at paragraph 2 of the report and advised that there were currently 8441 residents claiming Council Tax Support in Lincoln.
- c. advised that there were 2,636 pensioners in receipt of Council Tax Support and they were protected under the legislation so that they would not be affected by any changes made to the Council Tax Support Scheme.
- d. further advised that there were 5,805 working claimants who would be affected by any changes made to the scheme, and such any potential reduction in support being provided. Unless a decision by the Council was made to apply scheme changes to vulnerable working-age customers, the localised Council Tax Scheme.
- e. highlighted the impacts of Covid-19 on the amount of Council Tax Scheme awarded, with significant increases in caseload and cost of the scheme as detailed at paragraph 3 of the report.

- f. referred to paragraph 4 of the report and gave an overview of the current Council Tax Support Scheme.
- g. advised that based on the current core elements of the existing scheme, caseload increases of 0% and 5% had been modelled, along with Council Tax increases of 1.9% and 2.5%. These were summarised in Appendix 1 of the report which gave an indication of the potential cost and savings to the City of Lincoln. Also included was the potential value for non-collection (based on projected collection in the tax base of 98.75%)
- h. explained that as a billing authority the Council could decide whether or not to amend core elements of its Council Tax Support scheme each year. Officers were proposing options for consultation to change certain core elements of the scheme which were summarised at Appendix 1 of the report.
- i. referred to paragraph 5.3 and 5.4 of the report and explained the technical amendments and assumptions that had been made in developing the modelling for each Council Tax Support Scheme.
- j. reported that the options considered for consultation by Executive on 17th October 2022 were as follows:
 - Option 1: No change to the current scheme;
 - Option 2: Introduction of a 'banded scheme' for Universal Credit recipients based on earnings income (as detailed at paragraph 5.6 of the report)
- k. referred to paragraph 5.8 of the report which detailed the Exceptional Hardship Payments Scheme and proposed an Exceptional Hardship Budget of £25,000 be put in place for 2023/24.
- l. asked for committee's consideration and comments as part of the formal consultation process.

Question: Asked if there was a banded scheme in place at the moment.

Response: There was not a banded scheme in place at the moment. Currently the Department of Work and Pensions notified the Council if there was a change in Universal Credit and therefore there would be a change to the Council Tax Support. A banded scheme had been modelled for this year, however, due to the cost-of-living crisis and the potential increases in cost to the Council it was decided not to go ahead with a banded scheme this year. The public consultation had been based on no change to the current scheme as agreed by Executive.

Question: Asked what the difference was between the banded scheme that had been modelled this year and the proposed banded scheme for next year.

Response: A banded scheme would mean that changes were made each month, this could save money in admin costs and allow residents to budget better.

Comment: It would be interesting to know how much the admin costs were next year.

Question: Asked why the banded scheme was not being brought in this year.

Response: Due to the fluctuations from month to month, it was felt that this would not be the right time to introduce the scheme due to the cost-of-living crisis.

Question: Asked why a banded scheme would be better in the future.

Response: More modelling work on a banded scheme was required to see if it was feasible in the future.

Comment: Suggested that an average bill could be issued each month and then a final bill at the end of the year.

Response: In this circumstance some customers would then be issued with a large bill at the end of the year.

Question: Referred to paragraph 5.1 of the report and asked for clarification.

Response: Clarified that pensioners were protected by legislation but working age vulnerable and non- vulnerable residents were not protected by legislation, however, the City of Lincoln Council used discretion to protect the working age vulnerable from changes to the scheme

Question: Asked if any Councils did not have a Council Tax Support Scheme.

Response: No, not that we were aware of.

Question: Asked if there were any Councils that did not operate an Exceptional Hardship Fund.

Response: No, a scheme was required by legislation.

Question: Referred to paragraph 5.6 of the report and asked if the amount of income was in relation to money received from working or money received from Universal Credit.

Response: It related to earnings received.

Question: Asked if residents who could not pay their Council Tax would qualify for the Exceptional Hardship Fund.

Response: The individuals' circumstances would be considered in this situation.

RESOLVED that

1. the 'no change' scheme for 2023/24 be supported as the preferred option.
2. That further detailed modelling of a Universal Credit banded scheme for 2024/25 be supported.
3. The Exceptional Hardship Scheme of £25,000 for 2023/24 be supported.

26. Health Scrutiny Update

The Chair of Policy Scrutiny Committee updated members of the business that had been discussed at the Health Scrutiny meeting held on 12th October 2022 and 9th November 2022 these were:

- North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust: Restoration Recovery Update and Progress on Clinical Strategy for Stamford and Rutland Hospital Site
- Lincolnshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2022
- Spalding GP Surgery Managed List Dispersal
- East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust
- Ashley House Service Change
- Replacement of Lincolnshire's Adult Acute Mental Health Wards
- Lakeside Medical Practice, Stamford – Update
- Lincoln Medical School

- Integrated Care System Clinical Care Portal Data Sharing
- General Practice Provision [Lincolnshire Local Medical Committee]
- General Practice Provision [NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board]
- Hawthorn Medical Practice Skegness – Care Quality Commission Report

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

27. Policy Scrutiny Work Programme 2022-23 and Executive Work Programme Update

The Chair:

- a. presented the report 'Policy Scrutiny Work Programme 2022-23 and Executive Work Programme Update'.
- b. presented the Executive Work Programme November 2022 – October 2023.
- c. requested councillors to submit items they wished to scrutinise from the Executive Work Programme and policies of interest.
- d. invited members questions and comments.

Members made no further comments or suggestions regarding the Policy Scrutiny work programme.

RESOLVED that:

1. the work Policy Scrutiny work programme be noted.
2. the Executive work programme be noted.

SUBJECT: COUNTY HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY

DIRECTORATE: HOUSING AND INVESTMENT

REPORT AUTHOR: ALISON TIMMINS - HOUSING SOLUTIONS MANAGER

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider the Lincolnshire Homelessness Strategy 2017-2021 review document, to consider the consultation summary document and to seek comments on the new Lincolnshire Homelessness Strategy 2022-2027

2. Background

- 2.1 The Homelessness Act 2002 requires that all Local Authorities carry out a review of homelessness in their areas, formulate and publish a strategy based on the findings of this review, keep the strategy under review and consult with other local or public authorities and voluntary organisations before modifying or adopting a strategy.

- 2.2 The strategy should:

- Assess the levels of homelessness now, and the factors likely to impact on future levels of homelessness
- Ensure that there is sufficient accommodation available for people who are, or may become, homeless
- Provide services that help to prevent people becoming homeless
- Ensure that through effective partnerships, support services can be accessed for those people who are, or who may become, homeless – or to prevent them from becoming homeless again
- Promote a cultural change so that homelessness is viewed in a wider context than just lack of accommodation

- 2.3 This strategy (attached at Appendix 1) is the fifth document that has been developed by all Lincolnshire Housing Authorities, in partnership with our stakeholders and has been formulated following our strategy review (attached at Appendix 2).

- 2.4 An extensive consultation (attached at Appendix 3) with stakeholders collated the achievements of the last strategy and shaped the strategic direction of this document. A series of focus groups, one-to-one meetings and a survey collated vital feedback, which will enable this strategy to meet the aims of not only the seven district councils but our partners.

- 2.5 To allow us to form a collective and robust approach to homelessness, we have incorporated our Rough Sleeper Strategy into this this document as opposed to having a separate document.

- 2.6 This strategy informs of the current position and challenges for homelessness across the County, sets out the priorities and actions that together aims to prevent homelessness and reduce rough sleeping across the County.

3. **Priorities**

- 3.1 The strategy demonstrates that we are committed to the Government's vision that homelessness should be rare, brief and non-recurring

- 3.2 Building on the successes of the last strategy and taking account of new challenges the new priorities for the next 5 years will be:

1. **Prevent** – identify those that are at risk of becoming homeless as early as possible and through the Duty to Refer work with them to prevent homelessness or rough sleeping
2. **Protect** – identifying the most vulnerable and ensuring individuals are safe from harm, and have access to the support and services to maintain their health and wellbeing
3. **Partnerships** – strengthen and maintain relationships to bring together resources and knowledge to prevent and relieve homelessness
4. **Place** – ensure accommodation is both available and suitable for those that need it and explore opportunities to increase the supply of accommodation
5. **Plan** – take a proactive and joined up approach to tackling rough sleeping and homelessness and explore funding opportunities to ensure we meet the needs of all client groups

- 3.3 These priorities have been chosen to reflect the issues highlighted through the consultation process with our stakeholders and the challenges we face going forward.

4. **Developing the Strategy**

- 4.1 A thorough consultation was completed throughout the development of the strategy. A review of the previous strategy provided a basis on which the new strategy could be formulated along with stakeholder comments from the consultation.

- 4.2 A series of focus groups and one-to-one meetings ensured the views of our stakeholders were captured into order to highlight the challenges we face together and ideas to resolve them.

- 4.3 Strategic leads were consulted on the final draft before going out to public consultation. A total of 22 responses were received to the consultation and a collective response from Lincolnshire County Council. The comments shaped the final version and further details can be found in the summary document at appendix 3.

5. Pathways

- 5.1 There are many people that can experience or be threatened with homelessness in their lifetime all of which will have different reasons and situations. Whilst each person receives a housing and support plan specific to their needs the strategy identifies the main groups of people that to help and support;
- Single people
 - Families
 - Rough sleepers
 - Those with complex and/or specific needs
 - Priority groups at risk
- 5.2 Identifying the main barriers that these groups are facing allows us to produce tailored approaches to ensure our services offer a tailored and consistent approach across the county. These pathways are detailed in the strategy.

6. Monitoring

- 6.1 The strategy will be reviewed annually by both the Strategic Leads group represented by all district councils and the Lincs Housing Partnerships Manager
- 6.2 Each priority will have an action group responsible for the delivery of the ambitions and each will create a detailed implementation plan.
- 6.3 Representatives of the action groups will include the District Council's, Lincolnshire County Council, housing providers, voluntary sector and health professionals who will work collaboratively.
- 6.4 The action groups will be coordinated by the Lincs Homelessness Partnership group made up of all representatives, organisations and individuals involved in the remit of homelessness across the County.
- 6.5 Progress on the actions from the implementation plans will be reported to Lincs Housing Health Co-ordination Group and Housing Health Care Delivery Group.

7. Strategic Priorities

7.1 Let's reduce inequality

Delivery of the Lincolnshire Homeless Strategy will have a positive impact on this strategic priority by working to support the most disadvantaged groups within our community.

7.2 Let's deliver quality housing

Working with partners to maximise the availability of affordable housing across the city will reduce homelessness and rough sleeping.

8. Organisational Impacts

8.1 Finance

No finance implications.

8.2 Legal Implications including Procurement Rules

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.

8.3 Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

The Public Sector Equality Duty means that the Council must consider all individuals when carrying out their day-to-day work, in shaping policy, delivering services and in relation to their own employees.

It requires that public bodies have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities

An Equality Impact Assessment has been produced on behalf of the partnership which identifies this Strategy will not have a detrimental impact on any group, rather the Strategy will positively impact disadvantaged groups.

8.4 Human Resources

It is anticipated that commitment to review the strategy and action plan can be met within existing resources. Each Local Authority currently contributes to the post of Lincs Housing Partnerships Manager, which is hosted by North Kesteven District Council on behalf of the 7 Lincolnshire Authorities.

8.5 Land, Property and Accommodation

No implications

8.6 Significant Community Impact

No Significant community impact.

9. Risk Implications

9.1 i. Options Explored

- a) Develop a City of Lincoln Homelessness Strategy

ii. Key Risks Associated with the Preferred Approach

9.2 The preferred approach is (a) as there is no associated risk. Whilst CoLC will develop its own individual homelessness action plan, which will take additional time to develop, there is an established and effective partnership in place with positive outcomes achieved to date.

10. Recommendation

10.1 It is recommended that comments are made on the Lincolnshire Homelessness Strategy 2022-2027.

Is this a key decision? Yes

Do the exempt information categories apply? No

Does Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules (call-in and urgency) apply? No

How many appendices does the report contain?

List of Background Papers: None

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Lincolnshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2022-2027



CITY OF
Lincoln
COUNCIL



North Kesteven
DISTRICT COUNCIL



SOUTH
HOLLAND
DISTRICT COUNCIL



BOSTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL



East Lindsey
DISTRICT COUNCIL

served by One Team

South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT COUNCIL



West Lindsey
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Welcome

Welcome to the fifth Lincolnshire Homelessness Strategy developed by all Lincolnshire Housing Authorities, in partnership with our stakeholders.

This strategy informs of the current position and challenges across the county and identifies the priorities and actions that together aim to prevent homelessness and reduce rough sleeping across the county.

Homeless is not just a term for someone that is rough sleeping, but covers those that are in temporary accommodation, are at risk of losing their home, are in unsuitable accommodation or cannot afford to remain in their current home.

Tackling rough sleeping and preventing homelessness is a challenge for all local authorities as homeless covers a wider range of factors and many caused by no fault of their own. Many of those rough sleeping or that are homeless are vulnerable due to having mental health issues, complex needs or substance misuse. These vulnerabilities need to be considered when planning to accommodate their needs. Additionally the impact of many economic and social factors including availability of accommodation, cost of living, housing affordability and individual circumstances which change over time add to these challenges.

Across Lincolnshire, there are many common challenges in tackling homelessness but also some more specific issues that only affect pockets of the county. As homelessness is not just about the provision of accommodation and is caused by many other factors, partnership working is key to responding to these challenges.

Having worked together as seven district councils along with Lincolnshire County Council, Housing Providers, Probation service, Voluntary and Community sector organisations and health professionals, there have been huge improvements to homeless services and many initiatives have been successfully implemented which have resulted in:

- A significant number of homelessness preventions
- Joint development of commissioned services
- Increase in access to funding opportunities
- An increase in the provision of specialist accommodation and support for those sleeping rough or at risk of becoming homeless
- More support to help individuals sustain their tenancies

Government policy focuses on the prevention of homelessness and the increasing funding available drives and enables services to be more proactive rather than reactive at point of homeless crisis. The specialist funding opportunities for rough sleepers has also contributed to reducing numbers of those on the streets.

The Covid-19 pandemic and the rise in the cost of living is now presenting new challenges especially around sustainment and availability of accommodation. The county recognises the need to continue to work together to maximise the impact of limited resources. This strategy aims to tackle these issues in a practical and effective way, recognising our roles and opportunities in working together.

We believe this strategy demonstrates that we are committed to the government's vision that homelessness should be rare, brief and non-recurring

Homelessness in Lincolnshire will be:

Rare

Brief

Non-recurring

1 Developing the Strategy

The Homelessness Act 2002 requires that all Local Authorities carry out a review of homelessness in their areas and formulate and publish a strategy based on the findings of this review. It is also required that the strategy is kept under review and consultation occurs with other local or public authorities and voluntary organisations before modifying or adopting a strategy.

The strategy should:

- Assess the levels of homelessness now, and the factors likely to impact on future levels of homelessness
- Ensure that there is sufficient accommodation available for people who are, or may become, homeless
- Provide services that help to prevent people becoming homeless
- Ensure that through effective partnerships, support services can be accessed for those people who are, or who may become, homeless – or to prevent them from becoming homeless again
- Promote a cultural change so that homelessness is viewed in a wider context than just lack of accommodation

This strategy has been formulated following the strategy review, with particular emphasis on the consultation with stakeholders on the achievements of the last strategy, and input into the strategic direction of this new strategy. A series of focus groups, one-to-one meetings and a survey collated vital feedback, which will enable this strategy to meet the aims of not only the seven district councils but also our partners. This strategy will be supported by a more detailed action plan that can evolve to reflect local and changing factors.

To allow us to form a collective and robust approach to homelessness, we will incorporate our Rough Sleeper Strategy into this this document instead of having a separate document.

2 Legal Framework

As already stated homelessness is not something that can be tackled in isolation, this is reflected further in the key legislation for tackling homelessness:

- **Housing Act 1996 (as amended) Part 7.**

The overarching piece of legislation used by councils in determining the way in which they respond to homelessness. The Act has been amended by:

- **The Homelessness Act 2002.**

Included notable changes in the way Councils use temporary accommodation, with greater emphasis on the role of prevention.

- **The Homelessness Reduction Act 2018**

Brought new legal duties to Councils so that everyone who is homeless or at risk of homelessness will have access to support, irrespective of their priority need status, as long as they are eligible for assistance.

- **The Domestic Abuse Act 2021**

Introduced to address the needs of people experiencing domestic abuse, the act imposes a duty on local authorities to provide support in safe accommodation.

- **The Care Act 2014**

Sets out a wider framework with the expectation that agencies would work together to protect children, young adults and people with care and support needs

- **The Armed Forces Bill 2021**

Places a new Duty of Due Regard on statutory authorities to recognise the Armed Forces Covenant in their policies as well as the delivery of front line services

3 National picture

Over the last six years we have seen the introduction of new government policy and initiatives for rough sleepers throughout the pandemic.

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 (HRA) was the first major piece of homelessness legislation that was introduced in 15 years. The Act places new duties on local authorities to help prevent and relieve homelessness. It is designed to provide support for anyone threatened with homelessness.

Key measures include:

- Extending the period during which an authority should treat someone as threatened with homelessness from 28 to 56 days.
- A new duty to prevent homelessness for all eligible applicants threatened with homelessness, regardless of priority need.
- A new duty to relieve homelessness for all eligible homeless applicants, regardless of priority need. This help could be, for example, the provision of a rent deposit or debt advice.
- A new duty on public services to notify a local authority if they come into contact with someone they think may be homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

The “Everyone In” initiative prompted by the Covid-19 pandemic accommodated over 37,000 individuals experiencing or at risk of rough sleeping between March 2020 and January 2021 across the UK. This early response is calculated to have prevented substantial numbers of COVID-19 infections, hospitalisations, and deaths among the target cohort.

Substantial reductions in rough sleeping of 37% and radically reduced reliance on the use of night shelters were also achieved as a result.

The pandemic response also improved joint working between the homelessness and health sectors.

The Protect and Vaccinate initiative prompted by the Plan B restrictions gave £24.9m to support all local authorities across England to find appropriate accommodation for people sleeping rough and boosting vaccination rates across this vulnerable population.

A further £3.2m was made available to encourage the uptake of vaccination amongst people sleeping rough and others at risk in the single homeless cohort.

4 Introduction to Lincolnshire



Lincolnshire is made up of 7 Councils all of which have unique characteristics and includes urban, rural and coastal areas. Due to the diverse nature of the county there are a number of challenges that all the councils face and some that are exclusive to one or two areas.

Lincoln being the city has a large University that impacts on the availability of accommodation and has high house prices due to the historic nature of the uphill cathedral area. There are many services and accommodation provisions available and many rough sleepers

migrate here to access them. This however adds pressures onto services creating supply issues.

Boston as a borough, has a high level of migrant and Eastern European workers creating a diverse population of cultures. The area has significant agricultural employment attracting seasonal workers and high levels of poor-quality housing but with disproportionately high rents. The borough has seen an increase in individuals who have no recourse to public funds, causing additional issues.

East Lindsey has coastal and rural areas presenting differing challenges of seasonal employment and access to services. The coastal towns of Skegness and Mablethorpe see an increase of rough sleepers over the summer months. The area is an appealing location for people to retire to which presents challenges in finding suitable adapted accommodation.

North Kesteven has one of the lowest rates of rough sleeping and has seen an increase in economic activity over recent years. North Hykeham which borders Lincoln is popular with developers and businesses for new housing and business parks which, has an impact on the affordability of housing. Sleaford in stark contrast has lower house prices but not many accessible services.

South Holland shares many characteristics with Boston with a high proportion of agricultural employment and migrant workers. Wages are low which presents affordability challenges. There are many employment opportunities in neighbouring Peterborough. Having seen an increase in housing development accommodation is still unaffordable to those in need which has led to an increase in rough sleeping.

South Kesteven has two main towns Grantham and Stamford which have very different housing markets and issues. Grantham has a higher level of deprivation and high numbers of rough sleepers with a variety of housing options. Stamford in contrast has very high house prices creating affordability issues.

West Lindsey also has one of the lowest levels of rough sleeping across Lincolnshire but with high levels of deprivation in some parts of the largest town of Gainsborough. House prices are lower in Gainsborough compared with the other market towns in the district but the villages on the Lincoln border present housing affordability challenges. Low turnover of social housing and lack of private rented housing presents issues with availability of suitable housing to rent.

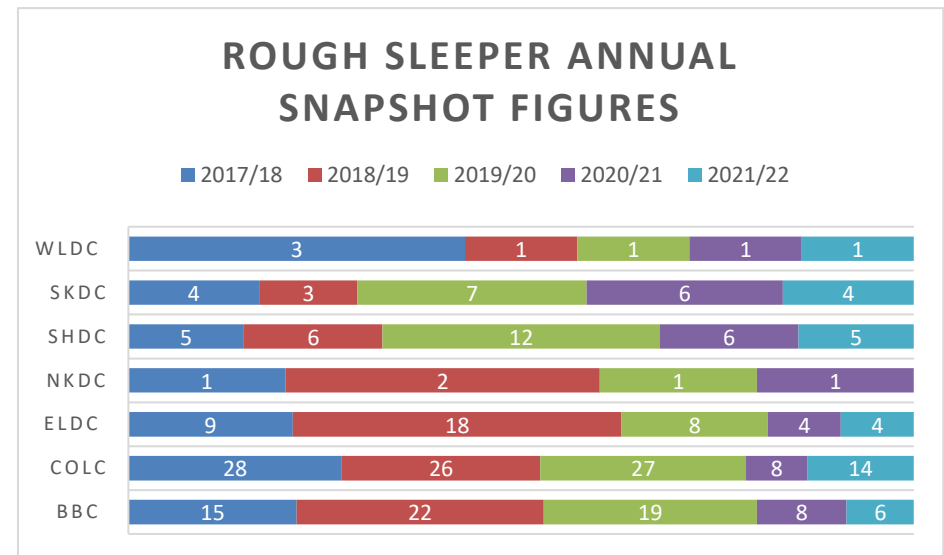
Adding to the unique challenges around access to housing and differences in housing markets, only four of the Councils still hold their own housing stock. West Lindsey, East Lindsey and Boston transferred their stock to registered providers. Despite this, all districts councils have secured new social housing including units specifically for rough sleepers and homelessness people. However, housing demand is still high and there is an ever-increasing reliance on the private rented sector for accommodation.

5 Our Data

This section provides key data to demonstrate the local position with homelessness. Reviewing the dataset of what Lincolnshire has achieved is important to identify our current position and what actions the strategy may need to address.

Rough sleeping

The number of rough sleepers is always fluctuating and cannot be predicted accurately due to the nature of homelessness and the variety of causes.



Numbers have decreased by over 50% since 2019 showing the success of initiatives to engage with individuals and to access more permanent accommodation and support. Lincoln and Boston have the highest rough sleeper numbers as they are the largest urban areas and have the most services available.

Rough sleeper numbers may be lower in Lincolnshire compared to other counties but still presents a challenge locally, particularly given the rural nature of the county in terms of provision and accessibility of services.

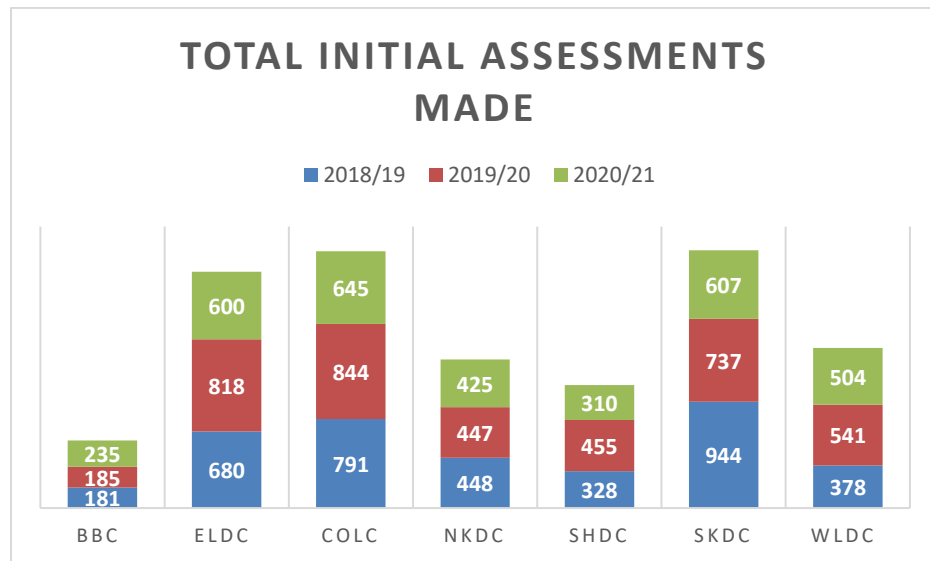
The issue, no matter how great needs to be addressed, and Lincolnshire has tackled this head on with three rough sleeper initiatives operating across the county.

Rough sleeper projections

Predicting the number of rough sleepers based on reported Rough Sleeper Autumn Count figures is difficult due to data being affected by the pandemic. Based on recent reported figures around 35-40 individuals are expected to be rough sleeping at any one time in Lincolnshire. It is worth noting that if any funding for Rough Sleeper Initiatives and/or partner organisations was reduced or unavailable then rough sleeping numbers would increase.

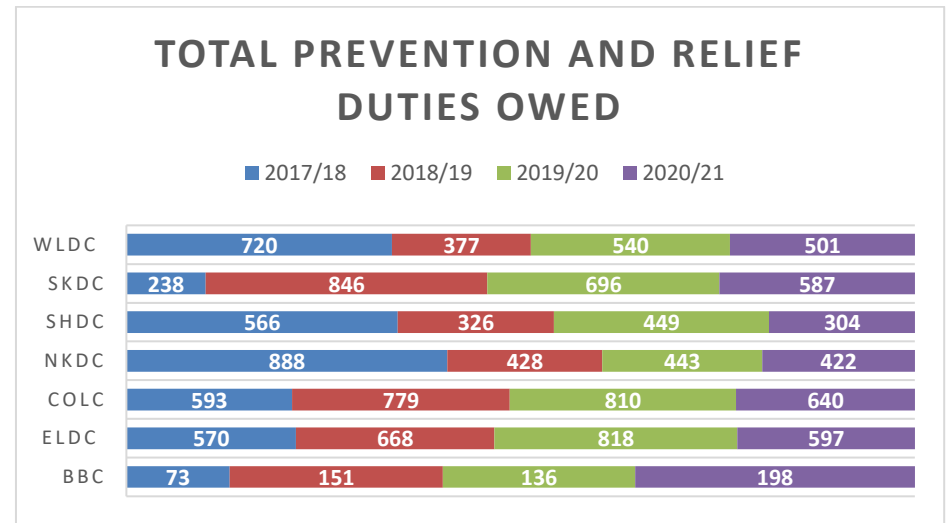
Initial assessments

A total of 11,103 initial assessments were completed between 2018 and 2021 to determine if a duty was owed to those presenting as homeless or threatened with homelessness.



Prevention and Relief of Homelessness

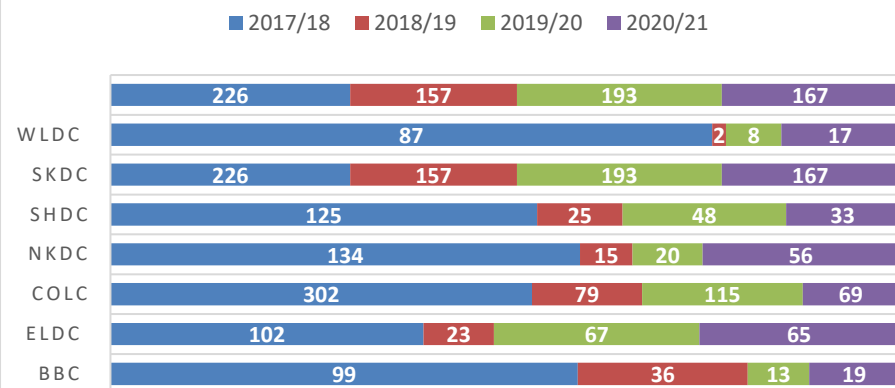
Following those initial assessments 14,364 cases were owed a prevention or relief duty to try and resolve their housing issue.



Homelessness Duty Decisions

For those whose housing situation could not be resolved by prevention or relief duties, 2,301 cases were assessed to determine an acceptance of homelessness. This shows the impact prevention duties are making as only 16% of cases did not have their housing issue resolved by a prevention or relief duty, resulting in them presenting as homeless. The number of duty decisions made have also reduced by a quarter over the 4 year period further demonstrating the impact of prevention and relief duties.

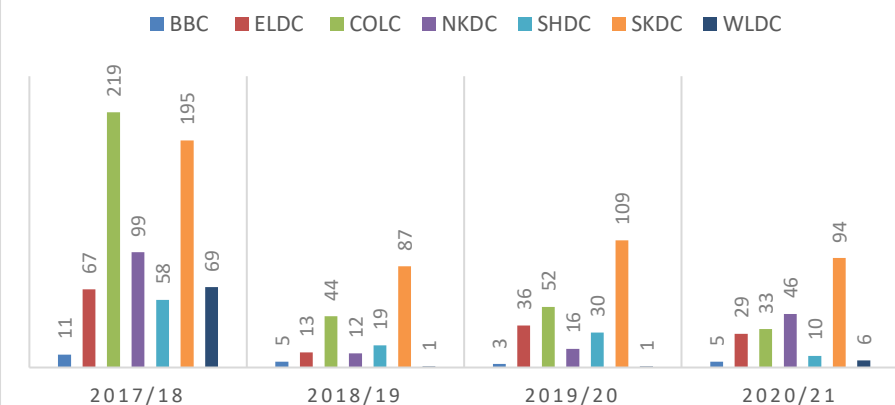
TOTAL HOMELESSNESS DUTY DECISIONS MADE



Priority Need

Of those 2,301 cases presenting of homeless 1,369 were accepted as being homeless and in priority need and owed a duty. The number of those accepted as homeless and in priority need has decreased by 31% since 2017 showing the impact of homelessness prevention.

NUMBER ACCEPTED AS HOMELESS AND IN PRIORITY NEED



6 Strategic Context

To ensure this strategy is embedded into the local strategic context its themes and priorities will complement other strategies and workstreams within Lincolnshire including:

Housing Health Care Delivery Group (HHCDG)

A commitment to working together, across local government, housing, health, care, and voluntary and community sectors to understand and respond to current and future needs in Lincolnshire. A Delivery Plan has a number of collaborative actions that are supported by each subgroup relating to each theme including homelessness.

Lincolnshire Homes for Independence Blueprint

A call for organisations to work together with the vision for people to live independently, stay connected and have greater choice in where and how they live. Aiming to address the need for a safe and warm home, enabling independent living and addressing health inequalities that make it difficult for some people to maintain a home than others.

Lincolnshire Housing Health Co-ordination Group (LHHN)

A forum supporting HHCDG for the strategic co-ordination of housing activity across the county, to drive the delivery of the housing and health priority and objectives identified in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, HHCDG Delivery Plan and Homes for Independence Blueprint.

Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Lincolnshire District Councils are committed to developing an ambitious agenda for improving health and wellbeing in Lincolnshire. To achieve this, they are focusing on a strategic, long-term approach to improving outcomes, a sense of opportunity and ambition, district collaboration, a holistic view based on social determinants, and developing system leadership.

7 Partnerships

The prevention of homelessness can only be achieved through a partnership approach due to so many causes and complexities. More than one organisation often needs to work together to highlight and resolve an individual's housing situation. Often there are health issues that lead to an individual being at risk of or experiencing homelessness which needs a multi-agency approach. Prevention includes both preventing homelessness in the first instance and also preventing recurring homelessness, which need different approaches.

District councils along with Lincolnshire County Council, housing providers, Probation Service, voluntary and community sector and health professionals work together across the sector. Through the network and strategy group many successful initiatives have been implemented, detailed in section 8. Many partnerships underpin this wider network ensuring a robust approach to tackling the challenges the county faces together. The district councils are committed to ensuring partnerships are effective through attendance of many groups as detailed below:

Voluntary and Community Sector

The voluntary sector plays a vital role in supporting rough sleepers across the county as well as supporting those that could be at risk of homelessness through the provision of support, accommodation in some areas, day centers, food and clothing provisions, showers and food banks. In severe weather the sector provides accommodation in some areas and provisions, to ensure rough sleepers are not at risk of harm during the inclement days.

Many charitable organisations across the county provide specific support for those experiencing a crisis or mental health issues, that could be related to their housing situation or could lead to them being threatened with homelessness. The district councils work closely with the sector to refer individuals to access support and respond to those signposted to them for advice on their housing situation.

Housing Related Support (HRS)

Housing Related Support is commissioned by Lincolnshire County Council and delivered by the Lincolnshire Housing Related Support Partnership led by Framework Housing.

The Partnership delivers short term Housing Related Support interventions to vulnerable people who are either homeless or threatened with homelessness, with the aim of improving their health and wellbeing, and enabling them to sustain their own tenancy and live independently.

The service is targeted at the most vulnerable and eligibility is assessed through a triage form with a minimum threshold to access support. The triage form includes questions regarding physical health, mental health, risk to self and others, substance misuse and support network.

Support is tailored to individual needs and delivered by either floating support or accommodation-based support depending on the service user's housing circumstances and needs. Accommodation-based support is supplied by the provider and includes self-contained units in hostel accommodation and dispersed 2 and 3 bed houses.

Only district council housing teams can make referrals to Housing Related Support. Other agencies wishing to refer an individual to Housing Related Support must notify the relevant district council that they are aware of someone who is homeless or at risk of homelessness (this may be part of their Duty to Refer) and the housing team will refer as appropriate.

The Operational Effectiveness Operational Group meets regularly to review capacity, voids, referrals, share information and to discuss issues relating to the partnership.

Rough Sleepers Initiatives (RSI's)

There are 3 Rough Sleeping Initiatives covering all of Lincolnshire mainly funded by Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), working to relieve and prevent rough sleeping. One RSI covers Lincoln, the second East Lindsey and Boston and the third, Change 4 Lincs, covers West Lindsey, South Kesteven, North Kesteven and South Holland hosted by South Kesteven. All have a designated team that works closely within their district council areas, but also across the county as often rough sleeper migrate to other districts.

The service targets those not in priority need that may not have qualified for assistance before the introduction of the initiative. The aim is to identify and help new and existing rough sleepers to access suitable accommodation as soon as possible, as well as helping people who are at risk of sleeping rough.

Outreach services provide help and advice to those who are rough sleeping and homeless and to those who may be at risk of becoming homeless through:

- Referrals to partner agencies or support groups
- Providing details of faith groups and charities
- Help completing housing applications
- Help and advice to find accommodation
- Wellbeing and physical health support
- Help with life skills

Through the creation of person-centered holistic support plans to address barriers and build skills individuals can work towards independent living.

Care Leavers and Young People

Under a contract agreement Nacro Lincolnshire provide supported accommodation that can be accessed by homeless young people aged 16-17 and for care leavers up to 21 years. The service supports around 70 young people at any one time helping to prevent homelessness, and supporting the councils with more complex care leaver cases. They offer long term support to young people who the district councils may struggle to support and to aid a smooth transition into accommodation.

The Youth Homelessness and Care Leavers Protocol sets out the working arrangements for Nacro, the district councils and children's services to support young people and care leavers who need advice and assistance. The aim being to support these young people to live semi-independently.

The transitions panel which meets regularly to review outcomes, discuss challenges, share information and ensure appropriate move on plans are in place for complex cases.

Prison Leavers

The Lincolnshire Prison Release Protocol is an agreement between all Lincolnshire housing authorities, the prison and the probation service. The aims of the protocol are to contribute towards the government's aims of ensuring that at least 90% of people are in accommodation upon release from prison and that at least 80% of people are in settled accommodation either three months after their release or upon receipt of a community sentence. Prison leavers who will be homeless upon release are referred to a district council up to 56 days before release, to enable a personal housing plan to be agreed to try and prevent them from becoming homeless.

A task and finish group are monitoring the implementation and success of the protocol, through performance data and research from service users, to learn from experience and further improve.

Domestic Abuse

In partnership with Lincolnshire County Council support and accommodation is available for those impacted by domestic abuse. Refuge accommodation and dispersed units are available for those fleeing domestic abuse. Providing refuge accommodation has recently become statutory responsibility with funding made available, however, this provision has already been available in Boston, East Lindsey and Lincoln. The dispersed units can be accessed by males experiencing domestic abuse and also those with larger families and families with older male children who could not previously be supported by the refuge accommodation. Each council attends the MARAC meetings (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) to put plans in place to protect victims and including target hardening on the victims home.

Vulnerable Adults Panel

Multi-agency panels and neighbourhood teams have been established across each district. They enable a joint approach to addressing the needs and risks of vulnerable and/or complex individuals that are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The panel/team consider housing options in conjunction with identifying and managing risks.

The Panels/teams are represented by a range of service providers and teams including housing providers, mental health, substance misuse, Prison Service, Fire and Rescue Service, housing benefit, Lincs Police and Adult Social Care. The model has been successfully providing more holistic and sustainable housing solutions for vulnerable customers, but further improvement is still required.

Team Around the Adult (TAA)

The Team Around the Adult pilot launched in February 2021 and supports the approach offered through the Vulnerable Adults Panel and Neighborhood Teams and work with the particularly complex cases. Usually this is where a more creative approach is required to reach out to people in the community and 'go to them', particularly if they do not wish to engage with services.

The TAA process is overseen by an appointed coordinator, it will involve the appointment of a Lead Professional who will usually be the key worker, to engage with the individual, promote multi-agency working and utilise a shared IT system.

By having a creative multi agency approach towards working with complex cases, the aim is to achieve change where more traditional engagement and intervention methods have not been as successful as anticipated, or change may not have been maintained.

A task and finish group are monitoring the pilots progress and outcomes including an in-depth analysis of cases to better understand the presentation and referral pathways across the partner organisations services.

Non-commissioned accommodation

Each council needs to have access to a number of accommodation options to utilise for those that are eligible. Partnerships have been created to enable councils to have their own temporary accommodation either through homeless units owned by the council or a contracted provider.

Move-on accommodation can also be accessed through Framework and its contracted providers in some areas. Private landlords also play a vital role in facilitating access to accommodation and Private Sector Leasing is used in some areas to supplement the supply of temporary and move on accommodation.

Funded schemes such as Rough Sleepers Accommodation Programme and Next Steps Accommodation Programme, has provided the ability to increase the provision of supported accommodation across the county, reducing the need for B&B use. However B&B's are still used regularly as the need for suitable accommodation outweighs the supply.

There are non-commissioned hostels in Lincoln, Boston and Mablethorpe providing provision and services for rough sleepers and other charitable organisations that offer accommodation for specific groups.

Drug and Alcohol Substance Misuse Service

Lincolnshire County Council has a drug and alcohol substance misuse service, and it is widely known that many rough sleepers are substance users. As part of the government's bid to end rough sleeping for good, a Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant (RSDATG) has been awarded to Lincolnshire County Council.

The grant will be used to deliver substance misuse treatment services for people sleeping rough or at risk of sleeping rough through an assertive outreach model. This will be delivered by the county's treatment and recovery providers in collaboration with housing, the voluntary sector and district councils. In addition to evidence-based drug and alcohol treatment, vital wraparound support will be provided to improve access to and engagement with treatment.

25

HHH

The Holistic Health for Homeless team in Lincoln works with individuals to conduct holistic reviews, and best support individuals with both physical and mental health. The team work alongside other clinicians and practitioners locally to ensure smooth transitions when accessing services. By having this multi-disciplinary team approach both within the small team but also linking to wider stakeholders, has ensured swift and timely responses for the individuals seeking care, reducing buffering between services and disengagement.

The team has evolved and developed since in introduction, reflective to the needs, trends, and themes they have been presented with. There are a range of clinical staff including Mental and Physical Health Practitioners, junior team members, psychiatry and GP support, administration function and a social worker too within the team.

8 Rough Sleeping

The government published a new national Rough Sleeping Strategy in 2022 setting out its vision of 'Ending Rough Sleeping for good.' The priorities in the strategy focus on four main themes-

- Prevent
- Intervene
- Recovery and transparency
- and a more joined up system.

The strategy calls for a whole system approach, recognising that rough sleepers interact with a range of different services, that need to work together to provide holistic support and collaborate across organisational boundaries.

Better prevention is needed through providing earlier support across the system aiming to ensure that nobody leaves a public institution to the streets. Lincolnshire's Prison Protocol will ensure Duty to Refer are made to secure accommodation before release.

Intervention should be swift and effective, so that people can report if they see a person sleeping rough and connect them to help to receive a tailored offer of support which meets their needs. Promotion of our RSI services and outreach model is working successfully to verify and create support plans for rough sleepers.

To aid recovery for those that need it, services need to continue to work together to deliver the help people need, to get off the streets and stay off the streets for good. The Rough Sleepers Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant will provide much needed support to break this cycle.

An increase in government funding for rough sleepers accommodation and support will be launched as part of the strategy, and recognises that provisions need to include tailored mental health and substance misuse support. This builds on the county's successful projects funded through the Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme (RSAP) and

Next Steps Accommodation Programme (NSAP). The NSAP programme aimed to provide move on accommodation for rough sleepers that were accommodated throughout the pandemic. The RSAP scheme followed in its success to further increase provision. The need for support for rough sleepers to enable them to move on to sustain tenancies was recognised and formed part of both these programmes.

A joint county bid to secure accommodation through the RSAP to provide supported accommodation for those with complex needs was successful and will be implemented in 2023. This project alongside funding for substance misuse, should go a long way to stopping the cycle of rough sleeping across the county.

Working together there has been significant progress towards ending rough sleeping. Collective efforts at the height of the pandemic saw tens of thousands of people helped off the streets in the UK with two thirds moved into long-term housing. This highlights that a problem as intractable as rough sleeping can be solved with a shared commitment to succeed.

The county will continue to create a more transparent and joined-up system by ensuring effective and honest communication happens by everyone involved. Partners should be clear on their commitment and hold each other to account whilst sharing knowledge and exploring opportunities for joint funding and commissioning.

The challenge of rough sleeping is not an easy one and is not just about accommodation but requires a long-term solution to stop the recurrence. We know that many people rough sleeping suffer from poor mental health and substance misuse and others are caught in a vicious cycle between prison and a life on the streets. We need to identify the underlying causes that have led to rough sleeping, ensure individuals know they have other options and support them throughout their journey.

9 Review of current Homelessness Strategy

The last Lincolnshire Homelessness Strategy 2017-2021, extended to December 2022, focused on five main priorities:

Priority One: Protect	Protecting the most vulnerable from experiencing homelessness including tackling rough sleeping.
Priority Two: Prevent	Preventing homelessness wherever possible to do so.
Priority Three: Partnership	Developing and maintaining strategic relationships and partnerships.
Priority Four: Place	Ensuring access to the right type of housing solution.
Priority Five: Possibility	Ensuring a sustainable future for supported housing.

We will use this section to reflect on these and our key achievements against these identified priorities:

Protect

- ✓ A decrease in rough sleeping by over 50% over the last 2 years
- ✓ Successful bid for government funding for 3 Rough Sleeper Initiative Projects that are working well across the county.
- ✓ Introduced a Severe Weather Emergency Protocol to provide emergency assistance for rough sleepers when weather conditions pose a risk to health.
- ✓ Increased the provision of single persons accommodation to improve housing options.
- ✓ During the pandemic a total of 215 rough sleepers were accommodated through the Everyone In and Protect and Vaccinate schemes
- ✓ Partners across the county system, went to great lengths to maximise take up of the Covid-19 vaccine amongst the homeless

cohort. HRS staff helped facilitate, promote, and encourage their service users to attend drop-ins too.

- ✓ Enabled all rough sleepers to have a postcode so that they can access post and the ability to setup a bank account
- ✓ Introduction of the Lincs Prison Protocol to ensure prison leavers have safe and suitable accommodation on release.
- ✓ Provision of Hospital and Housing Link Workers.
- ✓ Referring the most vulnerable to multi agency groups to ensure they can access the support they need.

Prevent

- ✓ Over 10,000 households prevented from becoming homeless over the last five years across Lincolnshire.
- ✓ Published a countywide Rough Sleeper Guide to demonstrate how accessible information contributes to homelessness prevention.
- ✓ Implemented the Controlling Migration Fund to allow EEA nationals access to work, who have no recourse to public funds and employed a countywide resettlement worker.
- ✓ Worked with private sector landlords to prevent households become homeless through a range of initiatives.
- ✓ Committed to Team Around the Adult to facilitate a partnership safety net approach for complex adults
- ✓

Partnership

- ✓ In partnership with LCC and providers implemented the Housing Related Support Service for supported accommodation and floating support for those either homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- ✓ Formed the Homelessness Strategy Partnership to work with housing providers, voluntary and community sector organisations, health professionals and Lincolnshire County Council to deliver together the actions of the Lincolnshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy
- ✓ Fully engaged an effective Homelessness Cell working group to respond together to Covid-19 Everyone In and Protect and Vaccinate government initiatives.

- ✓ Raising awareness of the needs of people who are entrenched in rough sleeping and developing health services to meet their needs through the Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group.

Place

- ✓ Implemented countywide processes and protocols to meet Duty to Refer requirements, enabling timely intervention and preventing homelessness.
- ✓ Provided additional units of accommodation through - Housing First, Next Steps Accommodation Programme and the Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme.
- ✓ Engaged with rough sleepers whilst being accommodated during the pandemic, supporting them into service provision and more settled housing.

Possibility

- ✓ Submitted a countywide bid for Rough Sleepers Accommodation Programme funding to provide accommodation for those with complex needs with dedicated support.
- ✓ Delivered the ACTion Lincs project to provide long term life changing support for an identified group of vulnerable and complex need rough sleepers, across the county using Housing First principles.

10 Looking ahead, our challenges

Looking forward our aim is aligned with central government that homelessness should be **rare, brief and non-reoccurring**. The landscape of homelessness including government policy, funding initiatives and the social and economic positions means that within a five-year strategy period, much can and will change. This presents challenges to successfully delivering this strategy, however Lincolnshire has positioned itself to be able to respond to those challenges and adapt its approach as and when the landscapes change.

The nature of homelessness

Preventing and reducing homelessness and rough sleeping is a difficult issue to address due to the many factors that can cause people to become homeless. Every individual has different circumstances and needs which prevents a one size fits all approach, and it could take a period of time to understand a person's circumstances in order to assist them in the right way. Predictability of homelessness is also an issue as numbers fluctuate but do not follow any particular trends due to a number of factors that contribute to someone becoming homeless.

The main reasons people become homeless in Lincolnshire are:

- Friends or family unable to accommodate
- Relationship breakdown
- Debt, particularly rent or mortgage arrears
- Problems with a landlord, being threatened with eviction or served notice to leave including no fault evictions
- Domestic abuse, or other forms of violence, threats or intimidation
- Loss of accommodation due to addictions, mental health issues or having complex needs.
- Discharge from hospital, care, armed forces or release from custody, with no suitable accommodation available to them.
-

Prevention

With the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act in 2017 there is a focus on earlier intervention and duties to prevent and alleviate homelessness. Key partners have a Duty to Refer individuals for assistance. This change has allowed many households to resolve their housing issues before they become homeless and not need temporary accommodation.

With public authorities referring individuals within a 56-day period of potential homelessness this gives time for partners to work together to find suitable housing options. This has led to closer working between agencies and a commitment to assisting individuals. Lincolnshire has a protocol for both prison leavers and young people and care leavers demonstrating the willingness to work together.

Whilst the focus remains on preventing homelessness there are instances where it cannot be prevented, and a crisis situation arises. An assessment would then take place to access appropriate accommodation and support. However, there are some rough sleepers that do not wish to be rehoused and some that have become entrenched. In these instances, the RSI team and district council work together to continue to offer assistance and welfare checks.

Covid-19

The pandemic put more emphasis on service delivery to be more reactive. The key focus on accommodating and protecting rough sleepers brought together local authorities, housing providers, voluntary sector organisations and health professionals across the county to create a multi-agency approach.

Whilst many of the rough sleepers were accommodated this allowed engagement with services in a way that has not previously been available and has led to many of this cohort remaining in accommodation and not returning to the streets.

Availability of accommodation

The need to accommodate all rough sleepers across the county during the pandemic further highlighted the shortage of accommodation for single people, especially those with high support needs who struggle in a hostel environment. Without the assistance of hotels and B&Bs who weren't able to use their accommodation because of Covid-19 for normal use, councils wouldn't have been able to get everyone off the streets.

As well as an anticipated increase in homelessness there are competing demands for affordable accommodation from the government's various resettlement and refugee schemes for instance those presenting as homeless due to host relationship breakdowns from the Homes for Ukraine scheme. A dispersed scheme is also due to be introduced for Asylum Seekers which will further impact availability of private sector housing.

House prices and rents increasing but the Local Housing Allowance rates are not rising in line with these increases leaving more people being unable to afford housing. Government funding for newbuild affordable housing and accommodation for rough sleepers has been utilised but the demand for this accommodation far outweighs the supply.

Need for a joined up approach

Resources are limited and with demand increasing for accommodation and support services there is a need to consider ways we can take a joint approach. Service provision is time-bound to its funding duration and planning for future provision needs to be considered. Taking a partnership approach and considering joint commissioning can result in provision that is better value for money, whilst improving access and outcomes for all.

Our partners have expertise and knowledge that is needed to successfully attract and utilise funding for the benefit of those that

need it most. There are inequalities across the county in terms of access and outcomes, so working together to evaluate what works well and what needs to change will result in better efficiency of our services and meeting needs of our client groups.

Cost of Living

The cost of living is increasing and is set to increase further, this will see more people unable to afford their current housing and add pressure to the demand for social housing. A multi-agency approach is needed to identify those struggling at an early stage and signpost to financial advice and assistance where appropriate. Demand for private rented accommodation will increase but with competing demands and affordability issues, households could resort to unsuitable, poor standard and overcrowded housing.

Holistic identification of needs

Homelessness is not just a housing issue, and to successfully prevent and ensure instances do not reoccur there is a need to look beyond the individual's housing situation, and consider the underlying causes. It is widely known that there is a direct link between housing and health. The aim is not just to ensure someone has a roof over their head but to ensure their physical and mental wellbeing is taken into account.

When assessing individuals needs it is important to consider all factors and be flexible in the approach as some information may not be available at the first point of contact. Whilst we have pathways for each group, we need to highlight that these are not prescriptive and are only paths to access. Whilst many people fit into each group, a tailored approach is given following assessment of their needs. The provision of support and service will adapt to the individual's health and wellbeing.

Hidden homelessness

Whilst we are able to monitor the number of those that present as homeless and are rough sleeping, the extent of those 'hidden' is often unknown. This includes individuals who are:

- Rough sleepers that we are not aware of
- Those staying with family or friends
- Sofa surfers
- Squatters
- Those living in tents/caravans
- Those living in unsuitable housing
- Those released from prison, care or hospital with no suitable secured accommodation
- Paying guests in B&B's/hotels which could be funded through illegal means

Often these individuals do not know what services they can access and what starts out as a temporary measure can result in a long-term cycle often resulting in declining health and wellbeing. The challenge is to identify these people so they can be referred to appropriate partners and services including the RSI's to access suitable accommodation and healthcare.

Many individuals with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) are sleeping rough, squatting or in unsuitable housing as there are no immediate solutions within current government policy to resolve their housing issues. Council's will encourage those that are eligible to apply for EU settled status in order to access benefits and assist individuals to find work to resolve their financial and housing issues.

11 Our Priorities

Building on the successes of the last strategy and taking account of new challenges the priorities for the next five years are:

1. **Prevent** – identify those that are at risk of becoming homeless as early as possible and through the Duty to Refer to prevent homelessness or rough sleeping
2. **Protect** – identifying the most vulnerable and ensuring individuals are safe from harm, and have access to the support and services to maintain their health and wellbeing
3. **Partnerships** – strengthen and maintain relationships to bring together resources and knowledge to prevent and relieve homelessness
4. **Place** – ensure accommodation is both available and suitable for those that need it and explore opportunities to increase the supply of accommodation
5. **Plan** – take a proactive, joined up and flexible approach to tackling rough sleeping and homelessness and explore funding opportunities to ensure we meet the needs of all client groups

These priorities have been chosen to reflect the issues highlighted through the consultation process with our stakeholders and the challenges we face going forward.

12 Pathways

There are many people that can experience or be threatened with homelessness in their lifetime, all of which will have different reasons and circumstances. Whilst each person receives a personal housing plan specific to their needs, we can identify the main groups of people that this strategy aims to help and support;

- Single people
- Families
- Rough sleepers
- Those with complex and/or specific needs
- Care leavers and young people
- Prison Leavers
- Those experiencing Domestic Abuse
- Armed Forces Community
- Those with No Recourse to Public Funds

Identifying the main barriers that these groups are facing allows us to produce tailored approaches to ensure our services offer a personalised and consistent approach across the county.

Single people

There is a shortage of suitable longer-term financially affordable accommodation for single people across the county which will be one reason as to why single people end up rough sleeping. Many become homeless due to friends or family being no longer able to accommodate them or they are sofa surfing and many are not in priority need. Some will have accommodation but can't manage without appropriate support which is often required long term. Others are elderly with care and support needs.

Providing access to appropriate accommodation is crucial to break the cycle of homelessness that many experience. Many single people have vulnerabilities including mental health issues, complex or specific needs, substance misuse and/or chaotic behavior. This can lead to

them being vulnerable living alone and at risk of cuckooing or harm as they need support. For others, shared accommodation is not suitable due to their behavior caused by their vulnerabilities all of which can lead to loss of accommodation.

The Rough Sleeper Initiatives and Homelessness Reduction Act have increased options for those not in priority need allowing many single people to be accommodated. However, some have become entrenched rough sleepers and do not wish to be rehoused or find the transition difficult. Finding temporary accommodation is difficult for this group but long term stays in hostels and B&B's can lead to isolation and mental health issues which in turn result in loss of accommodation.

What we will do to help this group:

- **Prevent**
Work with individuals to assess options before they become homeless and discuss assistance RSI's can offer for those not in priority need. All efforts for the individual to remain in any settled accommodation will be prioritised over offering temporary accommodation.
- **Protect**
We will assess everyone to identify any support needs and refer/signpost to appropriate agencies for personal and tenancy related support. We will utilise multi-agency groups where required to access additional support.
- **Place**
Work with housing providers and private landlords to identify suitable accommodation options to meet individual needs. Opportunities will be explored to increase accommodation through government funding.
- **Partnership**
Work together to access funding to increase accommodation options for single people.
- **Plan**
Review this pathway to ensure accommodation and services can be accessed by this group.

Families

Many families are threatened with homelessness due to affordability issues, changes in circumstances or loss of secure accommodation, often through no fault of their own. Whilst this group fall into the priority need group, options for temporary accommodation are more limited in some areas. Whilst there is a shortage of social housing for all household types and waiting times can vary, the use of private sector housing is imperative for this group.

What we will do to help this group:

- **Prevent**
Work with households to prevent loss of accommodation through liaison with landlords, signposting and financial advice and promoting awareness to seek advice as soon as homelessness is threatened.
- **Protect**
Ensure access to financial advice and creation of personal housing plans that meet the needs of the household. Make referrals for tenancy and floating support where appropriate to sustain tenancies.
- **Place**
Identify all housing options and support for families to make informed and realistic decisions based on their needs. Work with private landlords and provide assistance where appropriate. Increase the supply of family temporary accommodation to minimise the use of B&B's.
- **Partnership**
Work with housing providers and the voluntary sector to ensure access not just to accommodation but food, furniture and support for all members of the household.
- **Plan**
Review and implement initiatives to assist with the rising cost of living and landlord issues.

Rough sleepers

Due to the issues already detailed many single people and some couples inevitably end up on the streets and often in a vicious circle of rough sleeping. Rough sleeping has many health and wellbeing impacts and efforts to prevent rough sleeping should be maximised. The Rough Sleeper Initiatives along with partners including the Voluntary and Community Sector have been successful in reducing numbers and many rough sleepers that were accommodated during the pandemic have been able to access more permanent accommodation.

What we will do to help this group:

- **Prevent**
Exhaust all options to prevent individuals ending up on the streets by encouraging early notification and promoting awareness of options to assist. Ensure Duty to Refers are responded to effectively and do not result in homelessness.
- **Protect**
Respond to all reports of rough sleeping through proactive street outreach and promotion of a single number for the general public to report sightings and concerns. Make offers of temporary accommodation or hostel placements and complete regular wellbeing checks on those that do not wish to be accommodated or are ineligible.
- **Place**
Identify suitable accommodation options and work with individuals to seek the support services they require to address health, wellbeing and tenancy needs. Investigate options for additional hostel and temporary accommodation alongside single person move on accommodation.
- **Partnership**
Work with partners to increase long term accommodation options for rough sleepers and housing related support to enable cycles of rough sleeping to be broken.
- **Plan**
Pool resources and share knowledge across the county to tackle rough sleeping. Explore future funding phases and joint working opportunities.

Complex/Specific Needs

Many individuals need specific housing or support through a tailored support plan which is identified through an initial assessment. A triage is completed to determine the level of an individual's need. There is a shortage of adapted and supported accommodation across the county so utilisation of Disabled Facilities Grants and floating support is key to meeting the needs of this group. There is a need to access suitable accommodation and appropriate support for those with complex and specific needs and those discharged from hospital and mental health inpatients.

What we will do to help this group

- **Prevent**

Identify needs that are contributing to an individual's risk of homelessness, put support in place to sustain their current housing. Understand why cases become complex and put measures in place to stop cases becoming complex and leading to homelessness. Ensure those discharged from hospital and inpatients do not end up homeless through early planning. Improve education for agencies to understand the needs of people with complex needs

- **Protect**

Work with support and housing providers to ensure individual's needs are identified and diagnosed at an early stage and first contact with LCC, CCG, LPFT and TAA, in order to access suitable support. Improve access to adaptations so that people can remain in their own homes and improve their physical and mental wellbeing.

- **Place**

Work with LCC to increase the provision of supported accommodation specifically for those with learning difficulties, autism and mental health issues.

- **Partnership**

Form a multi-agency approach to learn from previous experiences to ensure individuals can access support and accommodation that is

suitable for their needs and stop future episodes of homelessness. Progress the need for dual-diagnosis for those with mental health and substance misuse forming a joint approach from services.

- **Plan**

We will map services and accommodation across the county to identify areas needing an increase in provision, especially for unsupported or low-level support options, to ensure clients can move on successfully after supported accommodation.

Care Leavers and young people

Young people who are threatened with or become homeless for a variety of reasons will be vulnerable and are likely to have no support. Ensuring their welfare through the provision of appropriate support that is centered on the young person is essential to resolving their housing issues.

What we will do to help this group:

- **Prevent**

Respond to Duty to Refers in a timely manner working with LCC, Nacro and other agencies in line with our agreed protocols.

- **Protect**

Ensure adequate and appropriate support is available from the outset by checking their leaving care status (if under 25) and utilise early help and leaving care services.

- **Place**

Provide suitable accommodation to meet the young person's needs and offer flexibility regarding local connections and individual preferences with the aim of safeguarding their welfare.

- **Partnership**

Work with LCC and Nacro to identify the best approach to meet the young person's needs.

- **Plan**

Monitor and review protocols to streamline referrals and resolve issues through the Transitions Panel, to ensure all young people and care leavers are accommodated and supported

Prison Leavers

Prison leavers should have access to appropriate and settled accommodation on release. Not all of those seeking accommodation will be released from prisons within the county, so support plans should reflect the vulnerability of this group, and a proactive multi-agency approach is needed.

What we will do to help this group:

- **Prevent**
Ensure the Duty to Refer is made and responded to in advance of the release date in line with the agreed protocol. Use escalation points to ensure no one is released to the streets.
- **Protect**
Ensure access to housing support is available on release to give individuals the best chance to settle and sustain their tenancy, recognising that support needs can change over time as individuals settle back into the community.
- **Place**
Provide access to suitable accommodation avoiding the need for temporary accommodation where possible by forward planning. Work with Probation Service to explore joint working opportunities.
- **Partnership**
Work with Probation Service and partners to tailor our approach to suit individual needs referring to services when needed.
- **Plan**
Monitor the protocols to streamline referrals and resolve any barriers in accommodating and supporting these individuals.

Domestic Abuse

All those impacted by domestic abuse need access to support and suitable accommodation. Local connection rules are extended to those fleeing abuse so good partnership working is required to secure appropriate accommodation for those that need to move in or out of the county.

What we will do to help this group:

- **Prevent**
Respond to referrals in a timely manner ensuring appropriate advice, support, target hardening or accommodation is provided, working with the referring partner and other agencies in line with the Domestic Abuse Act.
- **Protect**
Make existing accommodation safe and secure where appropriate and ensure support is available. Consider vulnerabilities, risk and safeguarding making referrals made where appropriate. Refer perpetrators to programmes that can help them change
- **Place**
Provide appropriate accommodation which is safe and avoid temporary accommodation in line with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
- **Partnership**
Engage with partners to form a multi-agency approach to support both those experiencing domestic abuse and perpetrators utilising funding available.
- **Plan**
Monitor any issues with referrals and plan to ensure adequate support and accommodation is available in line with demand.

Armed forces Community

Members of the Armed Forces community can also fall into multiple group descriptors and can become homeless due to relationship breakdowns during the transition to civilian life, domestic abuse, having complex needs due to mental health issues as well as those who leave the military at short notice.

What we will do to help this group:

- **Prevent**
Respond to all referrals in a timely manner working with the referring partner and other agencies in line with protocols.
- **Protect**
Ensure appropriate support is available to assist in the transition to civilian life and for those experiencing Domestic Abuse.
- **Place**
Identify those that are eligible using the 'think veteran' approach and avoid temporary accommodation where possible.
- **Partnership**
Engage with partners to form a multi-agency approach to meet individual needs and promote assistance we can offer.
- **Plan**
introduce protocols to streamline referrals and monitor any barriers in accommodating and supporting these individuals

Those with No recourse to public funds (NRPF)

There are individuals in some parts of the county with restricted eligibility who do not have access to public funding, they are unable to access housing and often end up rough sleeping. Some that are employed have access to accommodation, but this is often unsuitable. Many in this group were accommodated during the pandemic but are now not eligible for assistance, unless there is a risk to life.

What we will do to help this group:

- **Prevent**
Engage with individuals as early as possible to assess options to prevent them from rough sleeping.
- **Protect**
Ascertain immigration status and eligibility to apply for EUSS and assist with applications where needed. Explore options to enable individuals access to employment.

- **Place**
Provide temporary accommodation where individuals are eligible or if there is a 'risk to life.' Engage and encourage non publicly funded organisations to provide accommodation short term.
- **Partnership**
Liaise with supporting agencies and partners to assist with accommodation and support – NHS & GP Surgeries, faith groups, addiction support, and food banks.
- **Plan**
Implement a joint agency protocol for housing and support for no recourse to public funds.

13 Review and implementation plan

The strategy will be reviewed by both the Strategic Leads group represented by all district's councils, Lincolnshire County Council and the Lincs Housing Partnerships Manager.

An ambitions table in the next section has been produced using the feedback from the consultation, and review of the last strategy to inform on the outcomes we wish to achieve through this strategy. To ensure this document remains relevant throughout its lifespan, an implementation plan has not been included. Instead, a series of action groups for each priority will be responsible for the delivery of the ambitions, through more detailed implementation plans.

The groups will involve representation from a range of organisations including the seven district councils, Lincolnshire County Council, housing providers, voluntary sector and health professionals who together will achieve the aims of this strategy as we face the challenges set out in this document together.

Progress from the actions on the implementation plan will be monitored through the Lincolnshire Strategy Homelessness Partnership group and reported up to Lincolnshire Housing Health Co-ordination Group and

Housing Health Care Delivery Group.

14 Ambitions

Priority	Activity Summary	What success will look like
Prevent	<p>Ensure Duty to Refers are effective</p> <p>Ensure pathways to housing advice and prevention assistance are well promoted</p> <p>Offer access to a range of tools to prevent homelessness</p> <p>Enable access to support to sustain accommodation and avoid recurrence</p>	<p>Homelessness prevention continues to overshadow crisis situations</p> <p>County wide service delivery that focuses on prevention of homelessness through a range of activities</p>
Protect	<p>Target assistance to those most at risk</p> <p>Continue to develop existing RSI partnerships</p> <p>Ensure rough sleepers can access primary and secondary care services</p> <p>Progress a dual-diagnosis service for substance misuse and mental health.</p>	<p>Vulnerability is identified at the earliest opportunity with appropriate safeguarding in place to minimise risk of harm or detriment to wellbeing</p> <p>All relevant services react quickly to prevent homelessness.</p>
Partnership	<p>Recognise homelessness as a multi-faceted issue and not just a housing problem, working together to address the underlying causes</p> <p>Strengthen existing relationships</p> <p>Review and adapt the partnership structure to reflect needs and ensure progress with a Strategy implementation plan</p>	<p>A Partnership structure with a clear purpose that achieves effective outcomes</p> <p>Homelessness is rare, brief and non-recurring in Lincolnshire</p>
Place	<p>Map, review effectiveness and where appropriate remodel accommodation provision to meet changing needs</p> <p>Ensure there are a range of tools available to support households' access to suitable reasonable accommodation options</p> <p>Increase the provision of suitable accommodation across the county to meet identified needs</p>	<p>Suitable accommodation options available for all, with appropriate support to access and sustain that accommodation where required</p>

<p>Plan</p>	<p>Prepare and maintain datasets to readily support funding opportunities</p> <p>Actively seek funding opportunities to improve/increase service provision and/or resources in Lincolnshire</p> <p>Use of appropriate political structures to ensure awareness to local issues and access to funding opportunities</p> <p>Develop our understanding of the causes and effects of homelessness and/or sleeping rough through further research and data analysis</p> <p>Keep abreast of policy and guidance changes alongside examples of good practice across the county to ensure services can respond to change</p>	<p>Service delivery that is flexible to change in the future and meets the needs of those that need it</p> <p>A local political environment that is informed and supportive to maximise opportunities to the benefit of Lincolnshire residents</p> <p>Better understanding of needs and impacts so that service provision can be matched to demands</p>
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Review of the Lincolnshire Homelessness Strategy 2017-2021

39



Introduction

The Homelessness Act 2002 requires that all Local Authorities carry out a review of homelessness in their areas, formulate and publish a strategy based on the findings of this review, keep this strategy under review and consult with other local or public authorities and voluntary organisations before modifying or adopting a strategy.

Under section 2(1) of the 2002 Homelessness Act a homelessness review means a assessment by the local housing authority of:

- a) The levels, and likely future levels, of homelessness in their district;
- b) The activities which are carried out for any of the following purposes (or which contribute to achieving any of them):
 - i) Preventing homelessness in the housing authority's district;
 - ii) Securing accommodation that is or will be available for people in the district who are or may become homeless; and
 - iii) Providing support for people in the district: – who are or may become homeless; or – who have been homeless and need support to prevent them becoming homeless again.
- c) The resources available to the housing authority, the social services authority for the district, other public authorities, voluntary organisations and other persons for the activities outlined in (b) above.

The Lincolnshire Homelessness Strategy published in November 2017 is a joint strategy across the seven district councils (Boston, East Lindsey, Lincoln, North Kesteven, South Holland, South Kesteven and West Lindsey.) The strategy was endorsed by Lincolnshire County Council as a commitment to join working. By having a joint strategy, we could work in partnership to achieve our priorities and pool resources for countywide projects.

This Homelessness Strategy Review provides a snapshot of the people who have approached us for help during the lifespan of the Strategy. It considers what we have achieved, the pathways and partnerships that we have in place, and feedback from our stakeholders. This will inform our priorities and objectives for the new Homelessness Strategy.

We can evidence progress statistically using H-CLiC return data, but we also have qualitative data that was collated through a stakeholder survey. In partnership there have been many achievements over the last 5 years including:

- The countywide introduction of the Duty to Refer including the production of the Lincolnshire Prison protocol.
- The response to Covid-19 Everyone In and Protect and Vaccinate government initiatives to ensure rough sleepers were protected across the county, a total of 215 individuals were accommodated.
- A decrease in rough sleeping by over 50% over the last 2 years.
- A successful bid for government funding for 3 Rough Sleeper Initiative Projects that are working well across the county.

- Implemented the Housing Reduction Act preventing over 14,000 households becoming homeless over the last 5 years across the county.
- Delivered the ACTion Lincs project to provide long term life changing support for an identified group of vulnerable and complex need rough sleepers, across the county using Housing First principles.

National picture

Over the last six years we have seen the introduction of new government policy and initiatives for rough sleepers throughout the pandemic.

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 (HRA) was the first major piece of homelessness legislation that was introduced in 15 years. The Act places new duties on local authorities to help prevent and relieve homelessness. It is designed to provide support for anyone threatened with homelessness.

Key measures include:

- Extending the period during which an authority should treat someone as threatened with homelessness from 28 to 56 days.
- A new duty to prevent homelessness for all eligible applicants threatened with homelessness, regardless of priority need.
- A new duty to relieve homelessness for all eligible homeless applicants, regardless of priority need. This help could be, for example, the provision of a rent deposit or debt advice.

- A new duty on public services to notify a local authority if they come into contact with someone they think may be homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

The “Everyone In” initiative prompted by the Covid-19 pandemic accommodated over 37,000 individuals experiencing or at risk of rough sleeping between March 2020 and January 2021 across the UK. This early response is calculated to have prevented substantial numbers of COVID-19 infections, hospitalisations, and deaths among the target cohort. Substantial reductions in rough sleeping of 37% and radically reduced reliance on the use of night shelters were also achieved as a result.

The pandemic response also improved joint working between the homelessness and health sectors. The Protect and Vaccinate initiative prompted by the Plan B restrictions gave £24.9m to support all local authorities across England to find appropriate accommodation for people sleeping rough and boosting vaccination rates across this vulnerable population.

A further £3.2m was made available to encourage the uptake of vaccination amongst people sleeping rough and others at risk in the single homeless cohort.

Partnerships

District councils along with the county council, housing providers, Probation Service, voluntary and community sector and health professionals work together across the sector. Through the network and strategy group many successful initiatives have been implemented. Many partnerships underpin this wider network ensuring a robust approach to tackling the challenges the county faces together. The district councils are committed to ensuring partnerships are effective through attendance of many groups as detailed below:

Voluntary and Community Sector

The voluntary sector plays a vital role in supporting rough sleepers across the county as well as supporting those that could be at risk of homelessness through the provision of support, accommodation in some areas, day centers, food and clothing provisions, showers and food banks. In severe weather the sector provides accommodation in some areas and provisions, to ensure rough sleepers are not at risk of harm during the inclement days.

Many charitable organisations across the county provide specific support for those experiencing a crisis or mental health issues, that could be related to their housing situation or could lead to them being threatened with homelessness. The district councils work closely with the sector to refer individuals to access support and respond to those signposted to them for advice on their housing situation.

Housing Related Support (HRS)

Housing Related Support is commissioned by Lincolnshire County Council and delivered by the Lincolnshire Housing Related Support Partnership led by Framework Housing.

The Partnership delivers short term Housing Related Support interventions to vulnerable people who are either homeless or threatened with homelessness, with the aim of improving their health and wellbeing, and enabling them to sustain their own tenancy and live independently.

The service is targeted at the most vulnerable and eligibility is assessed through a triage form with a minimum threshold to access support. The triage form includes questions regarding physical health, mental health, risk to self and others, substance misuse and support network.

Support is tailored to individual needs and delivered by either floating support or accommodation-based support depending on the service user's housing circumstances and needs. Accommodation-based support is supplied by the provider and includes self-contained units in hostel accommodation and dispersed 2 and 3 bed houses.

Only district council housing teams can make referrals to Housing Related Support. Other agencies wishing to refer an individual to Housing Related Support must notify the relevant district council that they are aware of someone who is homeless or at risk of homelessness (this may be part of their Duty to Refer) and the housing team will refer as appropriate.

Rough Sleepers Initiatives (RSI's)

There are 3 Rough Sleeping Initiatives covering all of Lincolnshire mainly funded by Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), working to relieve and prevent rough sleeping. One RSI covers Lincoln, the second East Lindsey and Boston and the third, Change 4 Lincs, covers West Lindsey, South Kesteven, North Kesteven and South Holland hosted by South Kesteven. All have a designated team that works closely within their district council areas, but also across the county as often rough sleeper migrate to other districts.

The service targets those not in priority need that may not have qualified for assistance before the introduction of the initiative. The aim is to identify and help new and existing rough sleepers to access suitable accommodation as soon as possible, as well as helping people who are at risk of sleeping rough.

Outreach services provide help and advice to those who are rough sleeping and homeless and to those who may be at risk of becoming homeless through:

- Referrals to partner agencies or support groups
- Providing details of faith groups and charities
- Help completing housing applications
- Help and advice to find accommodation
- Wellbeing and physical health support
- Help with life skills

Through the creation of person-centered holistic support plans to address barriers and build skills individuals can work towards independent living.

Care Leavers and Young People

Under a contract agreement Nacro Lincolnshire provide supported accommodation that can be accessed by homeless young people aged 16-17 and for care leavers up to 21 years. The service supports around 70 young people at any one time helping to prevent homelessness and supporting the councils with more complex care leaver cases. They offer long term support to young people who the district councils may struggle to support and to aid a smooth transition into accommodation.

The Youth Homelessness and Care Leavers Protocol sets out the working arrangements for Nacro, the district councils and children's services to support young people and care leavers who need advice and assistance. The aim being to support these young people to live semi- independently.

Prison Leavers

The Lincolnshire Prison Release Protocol is an agreement between all Lincolnshire Housing Authorities, the prison and the probation service.

The aims of the protocol are to contribute towards the government's aims of ensuring that at least 90% of people are in accommodation upon release from prison and that at least 80% of people are in settled accommodation either three months after their release or upon receipt of a community sentence. Prison leavers who will be homeless upon release are referred to a district council up to 56 days before release, to enable a personal housing plan to be agreed to try and prevent them from becoming homeless.

Domestic Abuse

In partnership with Lincolnshire County Council support and accommodation is available for all those impacted by domestic abuse. Refuge accommodation and dispersed units are available for those fleeing domestic abuse. Providing refuge accommodation has recently become statutory responsibility with funding made available, however, this provision has already been available in Boston, East Lindsey and Lincoln. The dispersed units can be accessed by males experience domestic abuse and also those with larger families and families with older male children who could not previously be supported by the refuge accommodation. Each council attends the MARAC meetings (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) to put plans in place to protect victims and including target hardening on the victims home.

Vulnerable Adults Panel

Multi-agency panels and neighbourhood teams have been established across each district. They enable a joint approach to addressing the needs and risks of vulnerable and/or complex individuals that are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The panel/team consider housing options in conjunction with identifying and managing risks.

The Panels/teams are represented by a range of service providers and teams including housing providers, mental health, substance misuse, Prison Service, Fire and Rescue Service, housing benefit, Lincs Police and Lincolnshire Adult Social Care. The model has been successfully providing more holistic and sustainable housing solutions for vulnerable customers, but further improvement is still required.

Team Around the Adult (TAA)

The Team Around the Adult pilot launched in February 2021 and supports the approach offered through the Vulnerable Adults Panel and Neighborhood Teams and work with the particularly complex cases. Usually this is where a more creative approach is required to reach out to people in the community and 'go to them', particularly if they do not wish to engage with services.

The TAA process is overseen by an appointed coordinator, it will involve the appointment of a Lead Professional who will usually be the key worker, to engage with the individual, promote multi-agency working and utilise a shared IT system.

By having a creative multi agency approach towards working with complex cases, the aim is to achieve change where more traditional engagement and intervention methods have not been as successful as anticipated, or change may not have been maintained.

Non-commissioned accommodation

Each council needs to have access to a number of accommodation options to utilise for those that are eligible. Partnerships have been created to enable councils to have their own temporary accommodation either through homeless units owned by the council or a contracted provider.

Move-on accommodation can also be accessed through Framework and its contracted providers in some areas. Private landlords also play a vital role in facilitating access to accommodation and Private Sector Leasing is used in some areas to supplement the supply of

temporary and move on accommodation.

Funded schemes such as Rough Sleepers Accommodation Programme and Next Steps Accommodation Programme, has provided the ability to increase the provision of supported accommodation across the county, reducing the need for B&B use. However B&B's are still used regularly as the need for suitable accommodation outweighs the supply.

There are hostels in Lincoln, Boston and Mablethorpe providing provision and services for rough sleepers and other charitable organisations that offer accommodation for specific groups.

Drug and Alcohol Substance Misuse Service

Lincolnshire County Council has a drug and alcohol substance misuse service, and it is widely known that many rough sleepers are substance users. As part of the government's bid to end rough sleeping for good, a Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant (RSDATG) has been awarded to Lincolnshire County Council.

The grant will be used to deliver substance misuse treatment services for people sleeping rough or at risk of sleeping rough through an assertive outreach model. This will be delivered by the county's treatment and recovery providers in collaboration with housing, the voluntary sector and district councils.

In addition to evidence-based drug and alcohol treatment, vital wraparound support will be provided to improve access to and engagement with treatment.

HHH

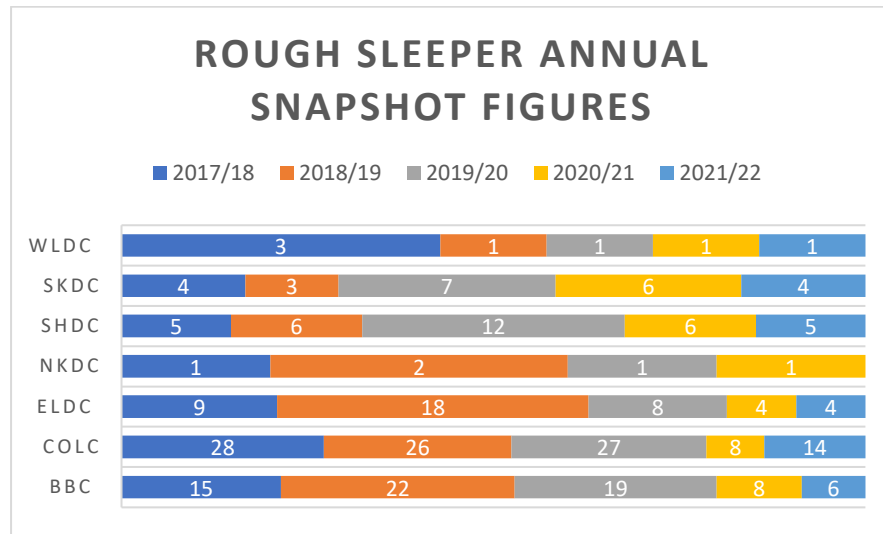
The Holistic Health for Homeless team in Lincoln works with individuals to conduct holistic reviews, and best support individuals with both physical and mental health. The team work alongside other clinicians and practitioners locally to ensure smooth transitions when accessing services. By having this multi-disciplinary team approach both within the small team but also linking to wider stakeholders, has ensured swift and timely responses for the individuals seeking care, reducing buffering between services and disengagement.

The team has evolved and developed since in introduction, reflective to the needs, trends, and themes they have been presented with. There are a range of clinical staff including Mental and Physical Health Practitioners, junior team members, psychiatry and GP support, administration function and a social worker too within the team.

County snapshot of Statistics

Rough sleeping

The number of rough sleepers is always fluctuating and cannot be predicted accurately due to the nature of homelessness and the variety of causes.



Numbers have decreased by over 50% since 2019 showing the success of initiatives to engage with individuals and to access more permanent accommodation and support. Lincoln and Boston have the highest rough sleeper numbers as they are the largest urban areas and have the most services available.

Rough sleeper numbers may be lower in Lincolnshire compared to other counties but still presents a challenge locally, particularly given the rural nature of the county in terms of provision and accessibility of services. The issue, no matter how great needs to be addressed,

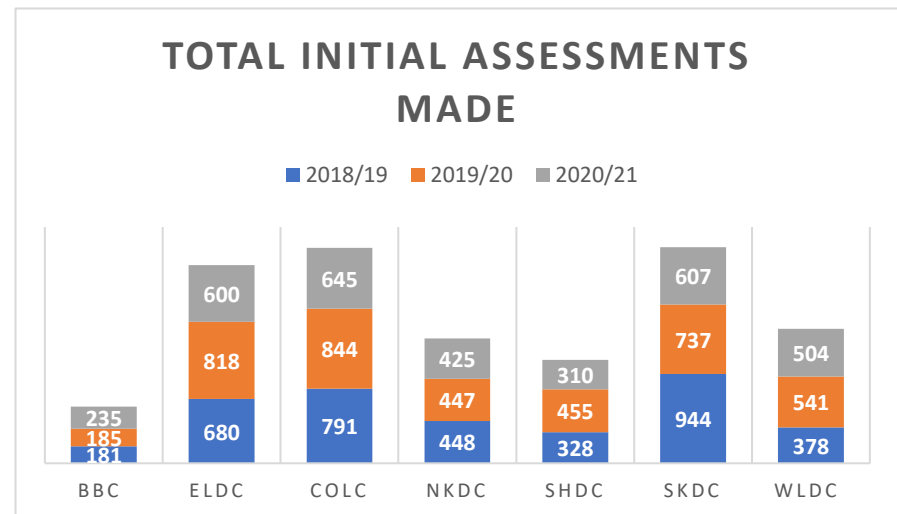
and Lincolnshire has tackled this head on with three rough sleeper initiatives operating across the county.

Rough sleeper projections

Predicting the number of rough sleepers based on reported Rough Sleeper Autumn Count figures is difficult due to data being affected by the pandemic. Based on recent reported figures around 35-40 individuals are expected to be rough sleeping at any one time in Lincolnshire. It is worth noting that if any funding for Rough Sleeper Initiatives and/or partner organisations was reduced or unavailable then rough sleeping numbers would increase.

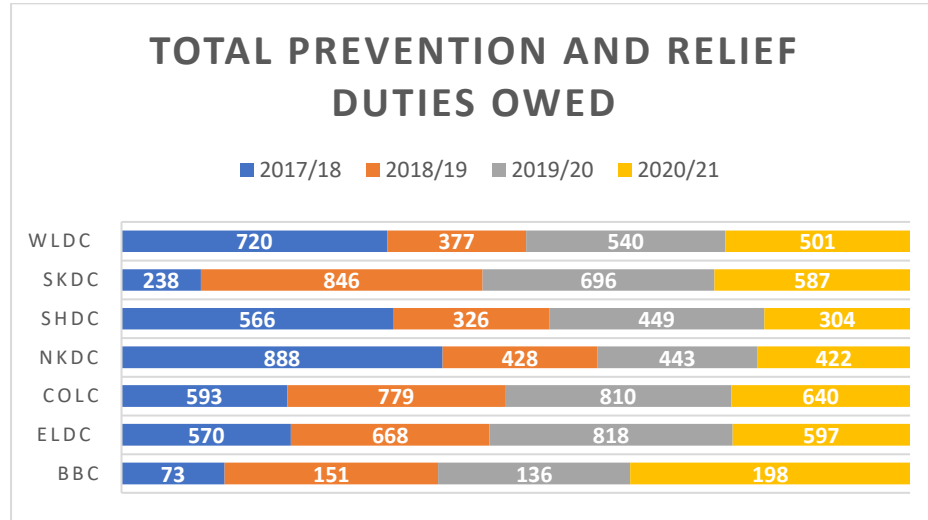
Initial assessments

A total of 11,103 initial assessments were completed between 2018 and 2021 to determine if a duty was owed to those presenting as homeless or threatened with homelessness.



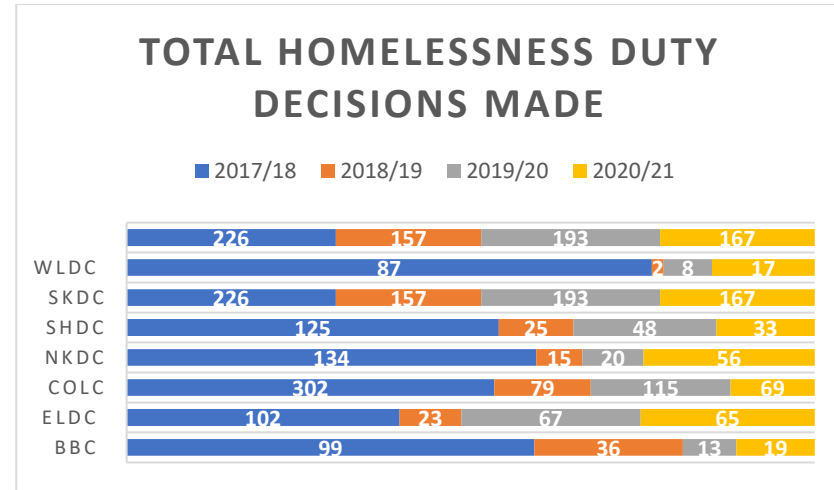
Prevention and Relief of Homelessness

Following those initial assessments 14,364 cases were owed a prevention or relief duty to try and resolve their housing issue.



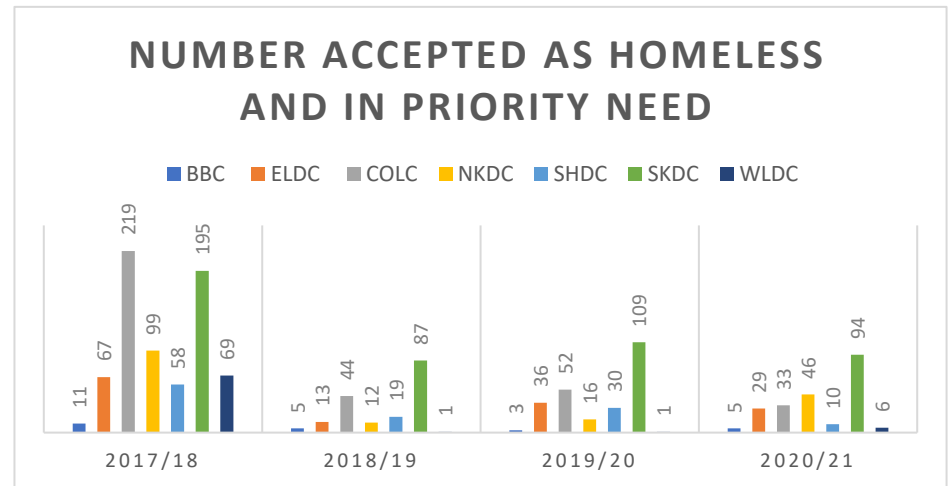
Homelessness Duty Decisions

For those whose housing situation could not be resolved by prevention or relief duties, 2,301 cases were assessed to determine an acceptance of homelessness. This shows the impact prevention duties are making as only 16% of cases did not have their housing issue resolved by a prevention or relief duty, resulting in them presenting as homeless. The number of duty decisions made have also reduced by a quarter over the 4 year period further demonstrating the impact of prevention and relief duties.



Priority Need

Of those 2,301 cases presenting of homeless 1,369 were accepted as being homeless and in priority need and owed a duty. The number of those accepted as homeless and in priority need has decreased by 31% since 2017 showing the impact of homelessness prevention.



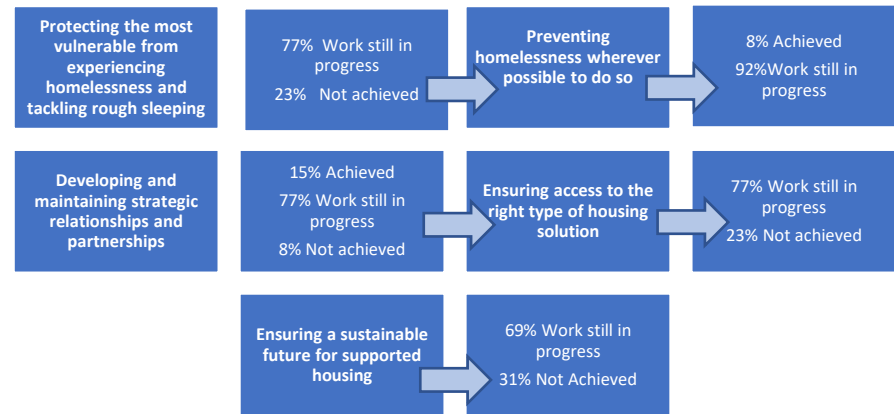
Strategy Priorities

The strategy had five main priorities to focus on:

Priority One: Protect	Protecting the most vulnerable from experiencing homelessness including tackling rough sleeping.
Priority Two: Prevent	Preventing homelessness wherever possible to do so.
Priority Three: Partnership	Developing and maintaining strategic relationships and partnerships.
Priority Four: Place	Ensuring access to the right type of housing solution.
Priority Five: Possibility	Ensuring a sustainable future for supported housing.

Achievements over the last 5 years on the priorities

We asked stakeholders to rate the progress on the five priorities, the graphic overleaf shows the results. It needs to be noted that due to the nature of homelessness and rough sleeping the priorities above will never be 100% achieved. However, it is useful to gauge the progress that has been made and highlight areas to focus on going forward.



The Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) 2017 came into effect on 3rd April 2018 changing the way services are provided to homeless people by imposing a duty to prevent and relieve homelessness. This is reflected by the feedback as being the priority that has been rated as having the most progress on.

Developing partnerships is another factor rated highly but the pandemic halted some groups meeting which could account for the not achieved responses. Protecting the most vulnerable and ensuring access to housing received the same ratings showing that there is still work to be completed. Increasing the provision and longevity of supported housing remains a challenge across the county, so it is expected that this priority has been rated as having the most progress still to achieve.

In terms of projects and actions that have been achieved over the last 5 years under each of the priorities there have been many successes including:

Protect

- ✓ A decrease in rough sleeping by over 50% over the last 2 years
- ✓ Successful bid for government funding for 3 Rough Sleeper Initiative Projects that are working well across the county.
- ✓ Introduced a Severe Weather Emergency Protocol to provide emergency assistance for rough sleepers when weather conditions pose a risk to health.
- ✓ Increased the provision of single persons accommodation to improve housing options.
- ✓ During the pandemic a total of 215 rough sleepers were accommodated through the Everyone In and Protect and Vaccinate schemes
- ✓ Partners across the county system, went to great lengths to maximise take up of the Covid-19 vaccine amongst the homeless cohort. HRS staff helped facilitate, promote, and encourage their service users to attend drop-ins too.
- ✓ Enabled all rough sleepers to have a postcode so that they can access post and the ability to setup a bank account
- ✓ Introduction of the Lincs Prison Protocol to ensure prison leavers have safe and suitable accommodation on release.
- ✓ Provision of Hospital and Housing Link Workers.
- ✓ Referring the most vulnerable to multi agency groups to ensure they can access the support they need.

Prevent

- ✓ Over 10,000 households prevented from becoming homeless over the last five years across Lincolnshire.
- ✓ Published a countywide Rough Sleeper Guide to demonstrate how accessible information contributes to homelessness prevention.
- ✓ Implemented the Controlling Migration Fund to allow EEA nationals access to work, who have no recourse to public funds and employed a countywide resettlement worker.
- ✓ Worked with private sector landlords to prevent households become homeless through a range of initiatives.
- ✓ Committed to Team Around the Adult to facilitate a partnership safety net approach for complex adults
- ✓

Partnership

- ✓ In partnership with LCC and providers implemented the Housing Related Support Service for supported accommodation and floating support for those either homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- ✓ Formed the Homelessness Strategy Partnership to work with housing providers, voluntary and community sector organisations, health professionals and Lincolnshire County Council to deliver together the actions of the Lincolnshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy
- ✓ Fully engaged an effective Homelessness Cell working group to respond together to Covid-19 Everyone In and Protect and Vaccinate government initiatives.
- ✓ Raising awareness of the needs of people who are entrenched in rough sleeping and developing health services to meet their needs through the Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group.

Place

- ✓ Implemented countywide processes and protocols to meet Duty to Refer requirements, enabling timely intervention and preventing homelessness.
- ✓ Provided additional units of accommodation through - Housing First, Next Steps Accommodation Programme and the Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme.
- ✓ Engaged with rough sleepers whilst being accommodated during the pandemic, supporting them into service provision and more settled housing.

Possibility

- ✓ Submitted a countywide bid for rough sleepers Accommodation Programme funding to provide accommodation for those with complex needs with dedicated support.
- ✓ Delivered the ACTion Lincs project to provide long term life changing support for an identified group of vulnerable and complex need rough sleepers, across the county using Housing First principles.

Looking ahead our challenges

The pandemic took services approach from proactive to reactive focussing on accommodating and protecting rough sleepers and has highlighted the ambition all partners have across the County to work together on the emerging challenges.

Through the consultation process with stakeholders the key challenges the new strategy will need to address include:

- The need to accommodate all rough sleepers across the county has highlighted the shortage of accommodation for single people and those with high support needs who struggle in a hostel environment.
- In offering everyone accommodation the Rough Sleeper Teams have engaged with more individuals and been able to offer support and understand their needs better so service provision can be changed to reflect this.
- An expected increase in both homelessness and rough sleeping as the cost of living continues to increase and people are not able to afford their rent or mortgage.
- Homes for Ukraine scheme may lead to increases in homelessness at the end of the scheme or if relationship with host breaks down.
- Tackling rogue landlords and conditions in the private rented sector.
- More support and provision for prison leavers on release.
- Improve pathways for sofa surfers.
- Ensuring consistency across the councils and open access to those all that present as homelessness especially those with language barriers.

- Getting the right support for people and for the long term not time bound.
- Gaining access to affordable Private Sector Housing.
- Enough provision for those not in priority need.
- Increased access to mental health and substance misuse services.
- Supported accommodation will have little throughput as service users are unable to move to suitable and affordable accommodation.
- Identifying the extent of hidden homelessness to enable access to accommodation and support.

The county is committed to working together on the next joint strategy 2022-2026 which will include the Rough Sleeping Strategy as a separate chapter to ensure workstreams are co-ordinated. Together with other agencies as part of the Lincolnshire Homelessness Strategic Partnership a new delivery plan will be implemented to further reduce rough sleeping, prevent homelessness and provide accommodation and support to meet the needs across the county. The latest version of the delivery plan from the current strategy can be found on the next page, and remaining actions will be taken forward into the new strategy.

Lincolnshire Homelessness Strategy Delivery Plan 2021 - 2022

Priority Number	Title Activity	Activity Summary	Outcome
P1	Implement a county wide process to meet the new requirements of the Duty to Refer under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017	Develop an action plan that includes communication, information, training needs, protocols, and processes for a county wide approach.	Completed - through Homelessness Strategic Partnership (HSP) and Lincs Prison Release Protocol is in place
P2	Develop online information on how to get help or give help for Homelessness in Lincolnshire	Explore online platform options and implement, providing clear and accessible information on websites.	Completed - information on individual websites
P2	Reduce evictions in social housing/private rented sector.	Collate data, identify issues, and current challenges. Identify existing good practice and make recommendations to the HSP.	Superseded- Embargo on evictions implemented in 2020/21
P3	Reduce rough sleeping	Develop a clear action plan and review pathways to ensure adequate provision and support is available, across the county.	Completed - 3 Rough Sleeper Initiatives have been implemented covering the county.
P3	Deliver the Social Impact Bond project ACTION Lincs	To deliver long term life changing support for an identified group of vulnerable and complex need rough sleepers across the county using Housing First principles.	Completed - project concluded and evaluation report received by University of Lincoln.
P3	Review and improve SWEP provision across the county	Complete a review of existing provision and implement agreed recommendations to improve the co-ordination and provision of severe weather accommodation.	Completed - SWEP protocol published and agreed by all local authorities.
P3	Improve access to health and substance misuse treatment to prevent evictions.	Identify appropriate representation from LPFT for the HSP, liaise with Safeguarding Adult Board to discuss their prevention and early intervention strategy.	Completed - implemented Team Around the Adult (TAA)
P3	Identify opportunities to work with EEA Nationals with no recourse to public funds	Submit a bid to the Controlling Migration Fund for a 'Safe routes to reconnection' service	Completed - bid was successful and project has now concluded
P4	Improved access to private rented accommodation for those on benefits or low incomes	Consider and implement new initiatives that would secure engagement from private sector landlords.	A range of assistance is already in place, but no new initiatives have been implemented.
P4	Understand the need for supported accommodation in the county	Develop a clear evidence base that demonstrates the need for numbers and type of supported housing across the county.	In progress - evidence base to be provided by Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. Chapter on Homelessness to be included.

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South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

Lincolnshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2022-2027

Consultation Summary

Consultation was undertaken between 29/7/2022 - 9/9/2022, with feedback sought from a range of stakeholders, statutory partners, voluntary sector, service users, advocates, etc.

A summary of the responses are detailed below. These comments have been used to shape the final draft of our Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy.

In total 21 responses were received including a collective response from all departments at Lincolnshire County Council involved in the homelessness remit.

Contributors:

- members of the public
- Councillors
- Charity or voluntary organisations
- housing providers
- support providers
- local authorities
- health authority
- government agency
- Advisory Non-departmental Public Body – EM Veterans & Pensions Committee
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Summary of responses

1. Do you agree with the strategies aim that if homelessness cannot be prevented it should be rare, brief and non-recurring?

- Agree 19 responses
- Disagree 2 responses

Respondents that disagreed felt that homelessness can always be prevented and that there are people rough sleeping that don't wished to be housed.

Outcome – wording changed to reflect these observations.

2. The strategy has 5 priorities: Prevent, Protect , Partnerships, Place, Plan

Do you feel that these priorities will contribute to achieving our aim for homelessness to be rare, brief and non-recurring?

- Agree 20 responses

- Disagree 1 response

Respondents that disagreed felt that the priorities needed to be backed up by remedies and clear actions, the priorities prevent and protect needed refining and there is a need to join up resources across the county in respect of joint commissioning.

Outcome – priority descriptions changed to reflect comments and implementation plan will include clear actions and a focus on joint commissioning.

3. Do you agree that the pathways detailed in the strategy in section 10, will ensure each group receives support and assistance tailored to their needs?

- Agree 10 responses
- Disagree 11 responses

Respondents that disagreed, have their feedback included in the outcome table below

4. Do you agree that the actions in the action plan will achieve the 5 priorities as detailed in question 2?

- Agree 8 responses
- Disagree 13 responses

Respondents that disagreed, have their feedback included in the outcome table below

Summary of Feedback received	Action taken
Whole person approach	See Pathways below
Building social housing	It is recognised nationally there is a housing shortage particularly in social housing sector. Local authorities and housing providers have separate but clearly linked housing delivery strategies
Caravan parks on the coast	Including in hidden homelessness section
Reference to Lincolnshire Homes for Independence and the Housing, Heath and Care Delivery Group	Agree and reflected in latest version
Strengthen the importance of partnership and collaborative working throughout	Agree and reflected in latest version
Homelessness not just housing but multiple issues	Agree, section on complex and multiple needs recognises this and commitment to reflect it in operational delivery
Include reference to work undertaken during Covid 19 vaccinations and health inequalities	Agree and reflected in latest version, it is also included in the Strategy review document
More information on Team Around the adult pilots and Outcomes	Included in partnership section and will be monitored and reported through the action groups
Include more on successes of the voluntary and community sectors	Including in partnerships section

Addressing those with no recourse to public funds	Included in challenges
Data analysis as an opportunity to understand causes and effects	Added to ambitions plan
To demonstrate clear accountability	Will include a chart showing accountability structure for Lincolnshire
Actions to be more measurable	The strategy includes over arching ambitions, to ensure the document is relevant over its lifespan. Detailed implementation actions plans will be SMART
More mention of mental health	Included throughout the document
Change ex-Armed forces to Armed Forces Community including veteran cohort	Agree and reflected in latest version
Include desire to improve a healthy life expectancy	Agree and reflected in latest version
Pathways, to include more detail on what will happen when, need individualised approach not standard pathways	The strategy includes over arching ambitions, to ensure the document is relevant over its lifespan. Detailed implementation actions plans will be SMART We aim for our pathways to be a clear access with desired outcomes, we recognise the journey will always be an individual one and services will reflect that
Need to include that prison leavers are not all released into the county where they have been residing	Agree, this is addressed in the operational delivery of the prison leavers protocol

Next Steps:

We really appreciate the time taken to review our draft strategy and the feedback given. It is really valuable to ensure the document is not only accessible to all but that our plans are realistic and will make a difference to those in Lincolnshire.

All feedback has been considered and where appropriate incorporated into the latest version of the Strategy. Each local authority will now seek approval of the Strategy through its own individual administration.

Those individuals and organisations who expressed interest in being further involved in the delivery of our strategy will be invited to participate in our working groups.

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Equality Impact Assessment

Report title	Lincolnshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2022-2027
Completed by	J. Munton
Approved by	
Date	

Section 1 An EIA is not applicable to the attached report because:	Tick all that apply ✓
An EIA is not applicable as the report's recommendations are based on procedure and/or policy change which will have no equality impacts now or in the future.	
An EIA is not applicable as the report is for information only and will have no equality impacts now or any in the future.	
An EIA is not applicable as the report is asking for guidance only and will have no equality impacts now or any in the future.	
An EIA is not applicable as the report contains no proposals for a new project or service and it will have equality impacts now or in the future.	
Other (please summarise)	

Based on Section 1, summarise why an EIA is unnecessary in the EIA section of the report. You can copy and paste text from above as necessary.

There is no need to complete Sections 2 and 3 if an EIA is deemed unnecessary in Section 1.

Section 2 The following statements will help you decide whether an EIA is necessary:	Tick all that apply ✓
Does it affect customers, colleagues or the wider community, and therefore potentially have an effect in terms of equality (for example, removing a service, workforce restructure, employment practices)	/
Could it result in a decision being made that would significantly affect how functions and services are delivered (for example, reducing a service or introducing a charge for a service)	/
Does it relate to a service that previous engagement has identified as being important to people	/
Does it, or could it in the future, affect different groups of people differently	/
Does it relate to a policy or service where there is significant potential for reducing inequalities or improving outcomes	/
Have there been, or are there likely to be, any public concerns about the policy or proposal	/
Does it have an effect on how other organisations operate in terms of equality (i.e. commissioned services)	/

Section 3 Equality impacts	
Briefly explain what the policy/service/project aims to achieve	The strategy aims to reduce and prevent homelessness and rough sleeper and ensure any incidences are rare, brief and non-recurring
Have you undertaken consultation or involved people who are most likely to be affected or interested? Please include: data or community feedback, gaps in data, and how you intend to fill these gaps (where possible)	Public and stakeholder consultation to inform priorities and shape the document. Action groups will be formed to take forward highlighted challenges and ways of working as part of an implementation plan.
Is there any evidence or research that demonstrates why some individuals or groups are, or are not, affected	There are many reasons why individuals become homeless and rough sleeper that are widely documented and detailed in the document

What barriers may individuals or groups face, and how can you promote equality (where possible)?	
Gender	<p>Everyone is able to access support with their housing situation regardless of their protected characteristics. Eligibility is set in homelessness law but options are available for those not in priority need through Rough Sleeper Initiatives. Pathways are set for certain groups including single people, families, those with complex or specific needs, prison leavers, care leavers and of the armed forces community. However these pathways are only identified to allow access to services specific to the needs of these groups but any provision and support is tailored to individual needs regardless of any group or protected characteristics that they may fall into.</p>
Age	
Disability	
Race	
Religion or belief	
Sexual orientation	
Gender reassignment	
Pregnancy, maternity and paternity	
Marriage and civil partnership	
Rural isolation	<p>Services are accessible regardless of location including telephone contact and face to face visits including outreach services.</p>
Socio-economic factors	<p>Services work with individuals to assess options for benefits, employment, education and location to provide support plans to meet individual needs.</p>
Other <i>(for example, those with dependants/caring responsibilities, asylum seeker and refugee communities, children in the care system, etc)</i>	<p>Specific pathways and support is available for those with children and care leavers. There is a County refugee and asylum resettlement programme ensuring a joint approach to providing housing options.</p>
Overall, will this promote strong and positive relationships between the groups/communities identified?	<p>Yes all groups will be able to access support and provision tailored to their needs but in line with homelessness law. Those not in priority need still have options to be</p>

	accommodated. There is no blanket process or option each individual receives an assessment of their needs as everyone had different circumstances.
Overall, if there is a potential adverse impact, please state why and whether this is justifiable	No as assessments are tailored to individual circumstances and needs.
How will you monitor this to ensure there is no adverse effect in the future?	Our pathways are reviewed through various partnership meetings and action groups. Feedback from service users assesses outcomes and highlights any need for change,
Outcome of EIA:	No major change needed <i>(please delete as necessary)</i>

Delete if this part of the template if Corporate Information Manager advises a DPIA is **not** required.

North Kesteven District Council Data Protection Impact Assessment

Report title	Lincolnshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2022-2027
Completed by	J. Munton
Approved by	
Date of completion	
Date for review	

Section 1 A DPIA is not applicable to the attached report because:	Tick all that apply ✓
i. A DPIA is not applicable as the report's recommendations are based on procedure and/or policy change which will have no data protection impacts now or in the future.	
ii. A DPIA is not applicable as the report is for information only and will have no data protection impacts now or any in the future.	
iii. A DPIA is not applicable as the report is asking for guidance only and will have no data protection impacts now or any in the future.	
iv. A DPIA is not applicable as the report contains no proposals for a new project or service and it will have no data protection impacts now or in the future.	
v. Other (please summarise)	

Based on Section 1, summarise why a DPIA is unnecessary in the DPIA section of the report. You can copy and paste text from above as necessary.

There is no need to complete Sections 2 and 3 if a DPIA is deemed unnecessary in Section 1.

Section 2 The following statements will help you decide whether a DPIA is necessary:	Tick all that apply ✓
i. Will you ask or compel people to provide information about themselves (for example, name, postal address, email address)	
ii. Will it involve the collection of new information about people (for example, asking for people's date of birth when this information had not previously been collected)	
iii. Will information about people be disclosed to third parties (i.e. other organisations or people) who have not previously had access to this data	
iv. Are you using information about people for a purpose that it is not currently used for (for example, re-using an emailing list to promote Council services)	
v. Will you be using new technology or processes which might be perceived as being privacy intrusive (for example, CCTV, profiling)	
vi. Will this result in you making decisions or taking action against people in ways which can have a significant impact against them (for example, conducting consultation and the results of which could affect their locality)	
vii. Will it involve automated decision-making that may have a significant effect on people	
viii. Is the information about people likely to raise privacy concerns or involve the processing sensitive personal data (for example, health records, data regarding ethnicity or racial origin, religious or philosophical beliefs, political opinions, trade union membership, sexual orientation or other information people would consider to be particularly private)	
ix. Will it involve the transfer of personal data outside the European Economic Area	

Section 3	
Data protection impacts	
a. Overview	
i.	Briefly explain what the policy/service/project aims to achieve, including benefits to the organisation and individuals
ii.	Have you undertaken consultation (internally and externally) and, if so, what were the outcomes?
iii.	Who is identified as the Information Asset Owner (i.e. who will be responsible for the personal data collected)?
b. Collection	
i.	What personal data will be collected? Will it include sensitive personal data? From how many individuals?
ii.	How will you ensure that the personal data is not excessive in relation to the purpose for which it is processed (for example, asking for date of birth, when you only need an individual's name and postal address)?
iii.	How will the personal data be obtained? How will you ensure accuracy?
iv.	How will individuals be told about the use of their personal data? Will it be use in the way they expect?

v.	Do you envisage using the personal data for any other purpose in the future? If yes, please provide details	
vi.	How can you minimise intrusion, particularly if specific concerns have been expressed?	
vii.	Is there a legal basis for holding and processing this data? Please specify.	
viii.	If you are relying on consent to process personal data, how will this be collected and recorded?	
ix.	What will you do if consent is withheld or withdrawn?	
x.	If this involves marketing, have you a process for individuals to opt-out of their information being used for that purpose?	
c. Storage and use		
i.	Where, and in what format, will the personal data be kept?	
ii.	How will you ensure the personal data is accurate and remains up to date?	
iii.	Who will have access to the personal data?	
iv.	Will an IT system or application be used to process the personal data? If so, will it provide protection against any security risks?	

v.	What training and instructions are necessary to ensure that employees know how to operate the system securely?	
vi.	Will employees process the personal data away from the office, for example, paper files, on laptops, tablets, smart phones? Is yes, please provide details	
d. Sharing		
i.	Will information about people be disclosed to third parties (i.e. other organisations or people) who have not previously had access to this data?	
ii.	If you will be making transfers, how will you ensure that the personal data is adequately protected?	
iii.	Will you be required to transfer personal data outside of the European Economic Area? If yes, please provide details	
iv.	If a contractor is being used to process personal data, where are they (and their data stores) based?	
v.	If a contractor is being used to process personal data, is an agreement in place which defines how they will protect the information?	
e. Destruction		
i.	What is the retention period for the personal data you are processing?	

ii. How will you ensure the personal data is deleted in line with the retention period set?	
f. Other	
Any other relevant information:	

Section 4 Data protection risks and risk reduction					
Risk	Likelihood of harm	Severity of harm	Overall risk	Options to reduce or eliminate risk (if medium or high)	Residual risk
Source and potential impact of risk	Remote/ Possible/ Probable	Minimal/ Significant/ Severe	Low/ Medium/ High		Low/ Medium/ High

Section 5 Monitoring and outcome	
i. How will you monitor this to ensure there is no adverse effect in the future?	
ii. Outcome of DPIA:	No major change needed /adjust the project /adverse impact but continue /stop and remove the project <i>(please delete as necessary)</i>

Section 6 Review and update	
Completed by	
Reviewed by	
Date of review	
i. Review summary	
ii. Outcome of DPIA review:	No major change needed /adjust the project /adverse impact but continue /stop and remove the project <i>(please delete as necessary)</i>

Delete if this page if Sustainability Officer advises an SIA is **not** required.

North Kesteven District Council Sustainability Impact Assessment

Report title	Lincolnshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2022-2027
Completed by	J.Munton
Approved by	If no response is received please enter the following text in place of name; Submitted to Sustainability at least 5 working days before report submission, but officer unavailable to approve. An SIA will be resubmitted for approval with any subsequent reports
Date	

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Section 1 Based on the environmental impacts listed in Section 3, and in accordance with NKDC's Corporate Environmental Policy, carbon emission targets set in the Low Carbon NK Plan, and the emerging Our Environment corporate priority, an SIA is not applicable to the attached report because;	Tick all that apply ✓
The recommendations are based on procedure and/or policy change which will have no environmental impacts now or in the future.	/
It is for information only and will have no environmental impacts now or any in the future.	
It is asking for guidance only and will have no environmental impacts now or any in the future.	
There are no proposals for a new project or service and it will have no environmental impacts now or in the future.	/
It does not propose a change of service or change in equipment or products used and will have no environmental impacts now or in the future.	/
It will not directly result in any positive or negative environmental sustainability impacts. However, it will result in future projects and SIAs will be completed alongside reports for approval in future as necessary.	/
It will not result in any positive or negative environmental sustainability impacts now or in the future (please summarise)	

Other (please summarise)	
--------------------------	--

Based on Section 1, summarise why an SIA is unnecessary in the SIA section of the report. You can copy and paste text from above as necessary.

There is no need to complete Sections 2 and 3 if an SIA is deemed unnecessary in Section 1.

Section 2	Tick all that apply ✓
An SIA is applicable to the attached report because it	
Proposes a new project (including new buildings and refurbishments) or service	
Proposes a change in service delivery	
Proposes a change/increase/decrease in assets, resources, equipment or products e.g. buildings, staff, vehicles, IT equipment, heating/lighting systems etc.	
Proposes a change in management of sites owned or rented by NKDC (including those operated by others for NKDC or for themselves)	

Section 3					
Environmental impacts					
Consider the environmental impact the report's recommendations will have on the following		Assessment of Impact	Brief description of impact	If negative, how is it to be mitigated? If positive, how it being enhanced?	
			Where a positive or negative impact has been selected, please summarise the expected impact of the proposals.	State person(s) responsible for implementation	
Procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accounting for social, economic and environmental outcomes in procurement and delivery in line with the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 Stimulating commitment to improving environmental impact and innovation in the supply chain and by contractors Waste generation Use of natural resources such as raw materials, water, and energy Supporting the local economy and reducing miles travelled by materials by using local suppliers. 	Choose an item.			
New builds and refurbishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build, energy, and thermal efficiency standards of new or refurbished buildings owned or rented 	Choose an item.			

	<p>by NKDC e.g. state Passivhaus, NKDC Fabric First, Building Regs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy consumption (electricity/gas/oil/LPG etc) for lighting and heating • Water consumption • Waste generated and recycled • Natural lighting • LED lighting • Generation of renewable energy 			
Facilities Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build, energy, and thermal efficiency standards of new or refurbished buildings owned or rented by NKDC (including those operated by others) e.g. state Passivhaus, NKDC Fabric First, Building Regs • Change in frequency of use • Energy consumption (electricity/gas/oil/LPG etc) for lighting and heating • Water consumption • Waste generated and recycled • Natural lighting • LED lighting • Generation of renewable energy 	Choose an item.	.	
Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business miles travelled by staff/contractors • Providing / improving / promoting alternatives to car based transport (e.g. public transport, walking and cycling) • Efficient use of vehicles (car sharing, low emission vehicles, community transport, environmentally friendly fuels and technologies) • Efficient/lower emission vehicles e.g. purchasing improved vehicles 	Choose an item.		

Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New or changes to equipment and how has electricity, gas, oil, LPG, water etc. use in offices, leisure and culture facilities been considered • E.g. IT equipment, heating systems, interactive equipment in public venues and How has electricity, gas, oil, LPG, water use 	Choose an item.		
Workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in number of office based staff and related energy use. State number. 	Choose an item.		
Adaptation to Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adapting to and mitigating against the expected effects of climate change in NK (e.g. building and contingency planning for warmer wetter winters and hotter summers, heavy precipitation, flooding, heatwaves and other weather extremes) 	Choose an item.		
Carbon emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current and future emissions expected and the impact on NKDC's corporate or district greenhouse gas emissions target. Sustainability can provide assistance. 	Current emissions (CO₂e tonnes) State 0 if applicable Proposed/estimated (CO₂e tonnes)		

POLICY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10 JANUARY 2023

SUBJECT:	POLICY SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23 AND EXECUTIVE WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE
REPORT BY:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE & TOWN CLERK
LEAD OFFICER:	CLAIRE TURNER, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To present the Policy Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2022/23 and receive comments and considerations from members with items for the municipal year 2022/2023 and to advise Members of the items that are on the current edition of the Executive Work Programme.

2. Background

2.1 The work programme is attached at **Appendix A**.

2.2 The Constitution provides for the publication of the Executive Work Programme on a monthly basis detailing key decisions/ exempt para (Section B) items to be taken by the Executive, a committee of the Executive or a Member of the Executive during the period covered by the programme. This is attached at **Appendix B** and has been provided to assist members in identifying items for inclusion within the work programme.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That Members give consideration to the Policy Scrutiny Work Programme for 2022/23 and update where appropriate to include items which they wish to consider from the Executive Work Programme as required.

List of Background Papers: None

Lead Officer: Claire Turner, Democratic Services Officer
Telephone (01522) 873619

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Policy Scrutiny Committee Work Programme – Timetable for 2022/23

7 June 2022

Item(s)	Responsible Person(s)	Comments
Health Scrutiny Update	Chair of Policy Scrutiny	Regular Report
Policy Scrutiny Work Programme 2022 -2023	Democratic Services	Regular Report
Animal Policy	Francesca Bell	
Noise Policy	Francesca Bell	
Internal Domestic Abuse Policy	Francesca Bell	

16 August 2022

Item(s)	Responsible Person(s)	Comments
Policy Scrutiny Work Programme 2022-2023 Update	Democratic Services	Regular Report
CCTV Revised Code of Practice	Caroline Bird	
Charged Bulky Collection Service	Steve Bird	
Health Scrutiny Update	Chair of Policy Scrutiny	Regular Report

4 October 2022

Item(s)	Responsible Person(s)	Comments
Policy Scrutiny Work Programme 2022 -2023	Democratic Services	Regular Report
Neighbourhood Working Update	Paul Carrick/ Andrew McNeil	Requested at meeting on 15 th March 2022
Health Scrutiny Update	Chair of Policy Scrutiny	Regular Report

22 November 2022

Item(s)	Responsible Person(s)	Comments
Policy Scrutiny Work Programme 2022-2023 Update	Democratic Services	Regular Report
Localised Council Tax Support Scheme 2023/24	Martin Walmsely	
Health Scrutiny Update	Chair of Policy Scrutiny	Regular Report

10 January 2023

Item(s)	Responsible Person(s)	Comments
Policy Scrutiny Work Programme 2022-2023 Update	Democratic Services	Regular Report
County Homelessness Strategy	Alison Timmins	
Health Scrutiny Update	Chair of Policy Scrutiny	Regular Report

14 March 2023

Item(s)	Responsible Person(s)	Comments
Policy Scrutiny Work Programme 2023-2024 Update	Democratic Services	Regular Report
Health Scrutiny Update	Chair of Policy Scrutiny	Regular Report
Grounds, Street cleansing, Waste/recycling contracts after 2026	Steve Bird	PART B
Health and Wellbeing Strategy	Francesca Bell	
Post Implementation Review – Public Conveniences	Steve Bird	
Recycling- paper and card collections proposal	Steve Bird	

Unscheduled Items.

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EXECUTIVE WORK PROGRAMME

December 2022 - November 2023

NOTES

1. The Leader in consultation with the Chief Executive and Town Clerk prepares an Executive Work Programme to cover a period of twelve months.
2. The Executive Work Programme contains matters which the Leader has reason to believe will be the subject of a key decision during the period covered by the Plan or Executive decisions which are likely to be taken in private.
3. A Key Decision is one which is likely:
 - a) to result in the Local Authority incurring expenditure which is , or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Local Authority's budget for the service or function to which it relates; or
 - b) to be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising 2 or more wards in the area of the local authority.
4. Whilst the majority of the Executive's business at the meetings listed in the Executive Work Programme will be open to the public and media organisations to attend, there will be some business to be considered that contains, for example, confidential, commercially sensitive or person information.

This document serves as formal notice under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 that certain items in the Executive Work Programme will be considered in private because the item contains exempt information under Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it. If an item is to be considered in private this will indicated on the individual decision notice.

If you have any queries, please telephone 01522 873387 or email democratic.services@lincoln.gov.uk.

EXECUTIVE WORK PROGRAMME SUMMARY

Date of Decision	Decision	Decision: Summary	Decision Taken By	Key Decision	Exempt Information
03 January 2023	Collection Fund Surplus/Deficit - Council Tax	To inform the Executive of the estimated balance for the Council Tax element of the Collection Fund and the surplus or deficit to be declared for 2022/23.	Executive	Yes	Public
03 January 2023	Council Tax Base 2023/24	The purpose of this report is to seek Executives' recommendation of the Council Tax Base for the financial year 2023/24.	Executive	Yes	Public
03 January 2023	St Giles Community Centre	Asset transfer of St Giles Community Centre	Executive	No	Public
03 January 2023	Localised Council Tax Support Scheme 2023/24	To refer to Full Council to consider/approve a Council Tax Support Scheme 2023/24 and accompanying Exceptional Hardship Payments scheme fund.	Executive	Yes	Public
16 January 2023	Western Growth Corridor - Delivery of Phase 1a	Decision on proceeding with delivering the first phase of infrastructure and new homes on Western Growth Corridor	Executive	Yes	Partly Private
16 January 2023	Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023-2028	To consider the draft Medium-Term Financial Strategy for the period 2023-28; the draft budget and council tax proposal for 2023.24; and the draft Capital Strategy 2023-2028.	Executive	Yes	Public
16 January 2023	Collection Fund Surplus/Deficit - Business Rates	To inform the Executive of the estimated balance for the Business Rates element of the Collection Fund and the surplus or deficit to be declared for 2022/23.	Executive	Yes	Public

16 January 2023	Dangerous Structure	Allocation of additional funding to carry out the remediation and replacement of the structure	Executive	Yes	Private
16 January 2023	County Homelessness Strategy 2022-2027	To approve the County Homelessness Strategy 2022-2027	Executive	Yes	Public
16 January 2023	Pay Policy Statement 2023/24	To recommend referral to Council for approval of Pay Policy Statement 2023/24	Executive	No	Public
20 February 2023	Operational Performance Quarterly Monitoring Report	To present to Members a summary of the operational performance position for the third quarter of the financial year 2022/23	Executive	No	Public
20 February 2023	Financial Performance Quarterly Monitoring	To present to Executive the third quarter's financial performance 2022/23	Executive	No	Public
20 February 2023	Accredited Living Wage Increase	To approve increase as announced by the Living Wage Foundation	Executive	No	Public
20 February 2023	Housing Revenue Account-Revised Business Plan	To seek approval of revisions to Housing Revenue Account-Business Plan	Executive	Yes	Public
20 February 2023	Strategic Risk Register Quarterly Review	To provide the Executive with a status report of the revised Strategic Risk Register as at the end of the third quarter 2022/23.	Executive	No	Partly Private
20 March 2023	Disposal of Property	To seek Executive approval.	Executive	No	Private
20 March 2023	Housing Pipeline Approach	Decision on the approach to developing a housing pipeline on City Council owned land	Executive	Yes	Public
20 March 2023	Health and Welbeing Strategy	On whether to implement strategy	Executive	No	Public

20 March 2023	GSW 2026	Consideration of delivery method for the Grounds, Street cleansing and Waste/recycling services after August 2026	Executive	Yes	Private
20 March 2023	Greetwell Place Managed Workspace - Future Arrangements	Nature of the City Council's involvement in the operation of Greetwell Place	Executive	Yes	Private
30 May 2023	Operational Performance Quarterly Monitoring Report	To present to Members a summary of the operational performance position for the fourth quarter of the financial year 2022/23	Executive	No	Public
30 May 2023	Financial Performance Quarterly Monitoring	To present to Executive the fourth quarter's financial performance 2022/23	Executive	No	Public
30 May 2023	Strategic Risk Register Quarterly Review	To provide the Executive with a status report of the revised Strategic Risk Register as at the end of the fourth quarter 2022/23.	Executive	No	Partly Private
19 June 2023	Treasury Management Stewardship and Actual Prudential Indicators Report 2022/23 (Outturn)	To review the treasury management out-turn of the City of Lincoln Council 2022/23	Executive	No	Public
20 November 2023	Statement of Accounts 2022/23	To note the final Statement of Accounts	Executive	No	Public
20 November 2023	Treasury Management and Prudential Code Update - Half Year to Sept 2023	To note the Prudential and Local Indicators and the performance against the Treasury Management Strategy 23/24	Executive	No	Public