



**Prosperous Communities
Committee**

**Tuesday, 6th December
2022**

Subject: Lincolnshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-2027

Report by:	Assistant Director Homes and Communities
Contact Officer:	Sarah Elvin Homes, Health and Wellbeing Team Manager sarah.elvin@west-lindsey.gov.uk
Purpose / Summary:	Adoption of the Lincolnshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-2027

RECOMMENDATION(S):

- 1. Members recognise and note the achievements Lincolnshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2017-2021 detailed within the review**
- 2. Members adopt the Lincolnshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-2027 and note the mechanism for monitoring of the Strategy**

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: The Homelessness Act 2002 requires all local authorities to complete a homelessness review and have a Homelessness Strategy.

[Chapter 2: Homelessness strategies and reviews - Homelessness code of guidance for local authorities - Guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

(N.B.) Where there are legal implications the report **MUST** be seen by the MO

Financial : FIN/105/23/SJB

None arising from this report.

The authority has received a ring-fenced Homelessness Prevention Grant of £179,542 in 2022/23 from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities.

(N.B.) All committee reports **MUST** have a Fin Ref

Staffing : None

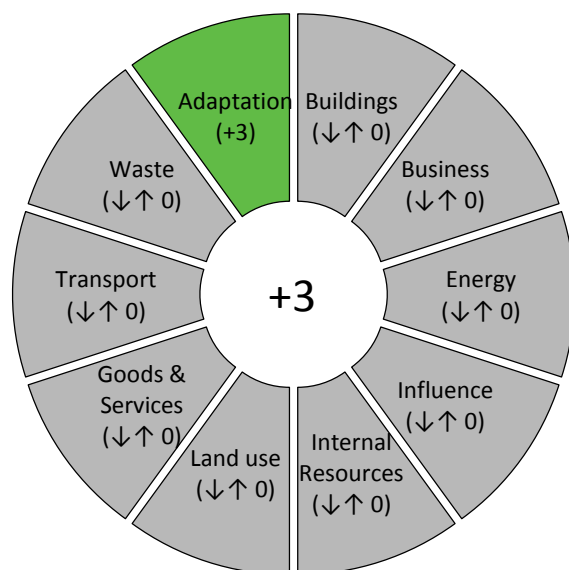
(N.B.) Where there are staffing implications the report **MUST** have a HR Ref

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

Equality Impact assessment attached at appendix 4

Data Protection Implications : None

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities :



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West Lindsey District Council will be net zero by 2050 (27 years and 2 months away).

Homelessness services and in turn the way in which these services are planned for through the strategy will need to take account of the risks around increased flooding on the councils duty to accommodate people who cannot remain in their homes due to flooding.

The strategy advocates the use of SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency Protocol) which extends homelessness duties to accommodate when enacted. SWEP is enacted in West Lindsey when people who would be sleeping rough are even more vulnerable due to extreme weather conditions.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations : None

Health Implications:

The right home environment is essential to good health and wellbeing throughout life. Our homes are the foundations upon which we can build happy, successful and prosperous lives. Warm, safe and secure homes enable us to lead healthy, independent lives and to recover from illness.

Having adequate support in place for people when they are homeless, which is often their most vulnerable time in their lives, is critical to ensuring that good health and wellbeing can be maintained. Through evidenced research, the strategy aims to ensure any gaps in provision to support people who are homeless is in place which will then give people the opportunity to thrive in their lives.

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Lincolnshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2017-2021
<https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/housing-homelessness/homelessness/lincolnshire-homelessness-strategy>

Risk Assessment :

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

☐

No

x

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

x

No

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1. Background

- 1.1. 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.
- 1.2. 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
- 1.3. 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.
- 1.4. The districts across Lincolnshire have a successful history of working collaboratively to address homelessness. This strategy builds on the previous countywide strategy and informs of the current position and challenges for homelessness across the County. It sets out the priorities and actions that together aim to prevent homelessness and reduce rough sleeping across Lincolnshire.

2. Developing the strategy

- 2.1 A consultation was completed throughout the development of the strategy which involved a wide range of stakeholders including, LCC, third sector organisations and DLUHC. A review of the previous strategy provided a basis on which the new strategy could be formulated along with stakeholder comments from the consultation. The review document can be found at appendix 1
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 Lead homelessness officers for each district 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 2.

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. A full version of the final strategy document can be found at appendix 3

4. Pathways

- 4.1 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 approaching the council as homeless – or at risk of homelessness receives a personal housing plan specific to their needs, the strategy identifies the main groups of people that seek our help and support;
- Single people
 - Families
 - Rough sleepers
 - Those with complex and/or specific needs
 - Priority groups at risk
- 4.2 Identifying the main barriers that these groups are facing in accessing housing allows us to develop approaches that ensure our services offer a tailored and consistent approach across the county. These pathways

are detailed in the strategy.

5. Monitoring

- 5.1 The strategy will be reviewed annually by both the Strategic Homelessness Group represented by all district's councils and the Lincs Housing Partnerships Manager.
- 5.2 Each priority will have an action group responsible for the delivery of the ambitions and each will create a detailed implementation plan.
- 5.3 Representatives of the action groups will include the District Councils, Lincolnshire County Council, housing providers, voluntary sector and health professionals who will work collaboratively.
- 5.4 The action groups will be coordinated by the Lincolnshire Homelessness Partnership group made up of all representatives, organisations and individuals involved in the delivery of homelessness services across the County.
- 5.5 Progress on the actions from the implementation plans will be reported to and monitored through the Lincolnshire Housing and Health Network which in turn reports on progress to the Housing Health and Care Delivery Group. West Lindsey is represented on this group, which is a sub group of the Health and Wellbeing Board, by the Assistant Director for Homes and Communities and the Leader of the Council.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1. **Members recognise and note the achievements Lincolnshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2017-2021 detailed within the review**
- 6.2. **Members adopt the Lincolnshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-2027 and note the mechanism for monitoring of the Strategy**