

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 9 DECEMBER 2013

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH, HOUSING AND
COMMUNITY SUPPORT

THE EAST HERTS HOMELESS REVIEW and STRATEGY 2013 - 2018

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

Purpose/Summary of Report

- **To present to The Executive and recommend for adoption, following internal and external consultation, the Council's new Homeless Review and Strategy 2013-18.**

<u>RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL:</u> That:	
(A)	the East Herts Homeless Review and Strategy 2013-2018 be adopted.

1.0 Background

1.1 Under the Homelessness Act 2002 all local authorities are required to carry out a homeless review and to develop and publish a strategy based on the review every five years. East Herts published its first Homeless Strategy in July 2003, it's second in 2008 and is therefore due to publish the next review and strategy before the end of 2013.

2.0 Report

2.1 The Homeless Act 2002 places stronger duties on local authorities to assist homeless and potentially homeless people. One of the key aims of the Act is to ensure that housing authorities take a comprehensive and strategic approach to managing and preventing all forms of homelessness in their district.

2.2 The Council's last Homeless Strategy was adopted and published in July 2008 and the Council and its partners have made significant progress on providing and improving services to those people that are homeless or potentially homeless.

2.3 The draft Homeless Review and Strategy 2013-2018 (Strategy) was considered and commented on at Community Scrutiny on 24th September and at Executive on 1st October 2013. The draft Strategy was agreed by both Committees for officers to begin the process of consultation with external partners and stakeholders. The external consultation was in three stages:

- The Strategy was placed on the Council's website for a period of four weeks
- The draft Strategy was sent to our significant external partners and they were asked to comment
- Officers held a partnership meeting on 5th November 2013 with our partner Registered Providers, CAB, YMCA and Herts County Council to discuss the draft Strategy.

2.4 The process of consultation has now been completed. The draft Strategy was welcomed and agreed by our partners and there were no significant recommended changes. The four Strategic Themes, around which the Action Plan was developed, were agreed as relevant to East Herts and an action plan has been developed by officers. A copy of the Strategy and Action Plan is at **Essential Reference Paper B and Essential Reference Paper C** respectively.

2.5 Once the Strategy has been adopted progress against the action plan and performance information will be reported to Community Scrutiny annually. In addition the Action Plan will be monitored with our external partners at the Housing Partnership meetings that will be held three times a year. This will allow the Council to monitor progress on the Action Plan, internally and externally, agree the completion of actions and also discuss additional actions that maybe required across the life of the Strategy.

3.0 Implications/Consultations

3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

Background Papers

None

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