

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY 2026-2031

Item HP 26/9 referred from Housing and Planning Scrutiny Select Committee of 17 March 2026

The report of the Director of Planning, Housing and Regulatory Services sought approval of a draft Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2026-2031 and Action Plan for consultation.

Particular reference was made to central Government's long-term vision for homelessness, as set out in the 'National Plan to end Homelessness', which formed the policy basis for the Borough Councils new Strategy and Action Plan (attached at Annexes 1 and 2 respectively).

There was detailed discussion in respect of the high demand for one-bedroom homes, the prevalence of out of borough placements and the Borough Council's efforts to increase local temporary accommodation. The challenges in funding and delivering suitable units, especially given grant rate limitations and operational risks was noted. It was also explained that whilst funding opportunities could be explored, priorities had focused on managing financial risks associated with temporary accommodation. Unfortunately, the Borough Council was not currently set up for large-scale operational management of additional units and any expansion would require careful consideration of ongoing costs.

Finally, it was explained that a proposed 'lived experience' advisory panel aimed to ensure that feedback from those with direct knowledge and experience of accessing homelessness services informed ongoing improvements.

In recognition that preventing homelessness and ending rough sleeping was a key priority area for the Borough Council, Cllr King proposed, Cllr Dalton seconded and it was

***RECOMMENDED:** That

- (1) the draft Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2026-2031 (attached at Annex 1) be approved for consultation.

***Recommended to Cabinet**