

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL – 26 SEPTEMBER 2019

Recommendation from the Cabinet on 17 September 2019:-

40.1 Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-2024

The Cabinet considered the recommendation from the meeting of the Cabinet Housing Panel on 13 August 2019 on the adoption of the Strategy after further consideration by the Panel, following the Cabinet's recommendation from its meeting on 9 July (Minute 20.2 refers) being withdrawn from the Agenda for the Council meeting on 22 July 2019 for report back (Minute 19.4 refers).

At its meeting on 12 June 2019, the Social Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the draft Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.

The Homelessness Act 2002 requires all housing authorities to carry out a 'Review of Homelessness' in their area and formulate a strategy based on the results of the review. A public consultation on the Strategy document had taken place during December 2018 and January 2019. Overall the feedback was very positive, with 83% of respondents saying the Council had got it right.

The Social Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to recommend the final draft to the Cabinet and then on to the Council for adoption. At the Council meeting on 22 July 2019, the Strategy was referred back to the Cabinet Housing Panel for further consideration.

The Cabinet Housing Panel considered the Strategy on 13 August 2019. The Panel noted that the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, implemented in April 2018, significantly reformed England's homelessness legislation by placing duties on local authorities to intervene at earlier stages to prevent homelessness in their areas. It also required housing authorities to provide a homelessness service to all those affected, not just those who had 'priority need'.

The strategy must set out the authority's plans for the prevention of homelessness, ensuring that sufficient accommodation and support were or would be available for people who became homeless or who were at risk of becoming homeless. Members of the Panel also noted that the Strategy and associated documents referred to legally defined terminology and as such, these were not open to review.

The Cabinet Housing Panel unanimously agreed to recommend the final draft to the Cabinet and then on to the Council for adoption.

The Cabinet approved the final draft of the Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy for 2019-2024 and **RECOMMENDS** it to the Council for adoption.

**(Note: Report attached. Click link below item 7a2 for the Strategy :-
Cabinet Agenda Pack – 17 September 2019).**

<https://democracy.welhat.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=151&MId=984>