

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
CABINET HOUSING PANEL – 20 SEPTEMBER 2018
REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, HOUSING & COMMUNITIES

HOUSING NEEDS UPDATE – HOUSEHOLDS IN TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the current numbers of households in temporary accommodation and a summary of the situation in other Hertfordshire local authorities, which is set out in Appendix B.

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the content of this report.

3 Explanation

3.1 Homelessness

- 3.2 At the last meeting of this Panel, Members asked for further detailed information about the situation with homelessness locally and the impact of the Homeless Reduction Act.
- 3.3 Following that meeting, due to an urgent matter that needed Cabinet approval, a report was presented to Cabinet on 4 September, which sets out the position with regard to the increased caseload of the Housing Options team and the increased numbers of families who are being accommodated in bed and breakfast.
- 3.4 The report and Appendices are attached for information.
- 3.5 At the time of writing this report the council is accommodating 120 families in temporary accommodation, 22 of whom are in bed and breakfast accommodation.
- 3.6 Members also asked for information about the position that other neighbouring authorities are in, following the implementation of the Homeless Reduction Act. Appendix B sets out this information.
- 3.7 As set out in the attached report, a number of actions are being taken to reduce the number of households in temporary accommodation and in particular to reduce the reliance on bed and breakfast accommodation.

Implications

Legal Implication(s)

- 3.8 There are no legal implications arising from this report, as it is for information only.

4 Financial Implication(s)

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. However please note the financial implications set out in Paragraph 4 of the report attached at Appendix A.

5 Risk Management Implications

- 5.1 There are no risk management implications arising directly from this report as it is for information only. However please note the risk implications set out in Paragraph 7 of the report attached at Appendix A.

6 Security and Terrorism Implication(s)

- 6.1 There are no security and terrorism implications arising from this report.

7 Procurement Implication(s)

- 7.1 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

8 Climate Change Implication(s)

- 8.1 There are no climate change implications arising from this report.

9 Human Resources Implication(s)

- 9.1 There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

10 Health and Wellbeing Implication(s)

- 10.1 Good quality housing can play a significant part in someone's health and well-being. Being homeless or poor standards of accommodation can lead to a detrimental impact on health and well-being. The council is seeking to deliver and enable more good quality, affordable homes and to ensure that the quality of housing, both in its management and those properties managed by others, are of a good standard.

11 Communication and Engagement Implication(s)

- 11.1 The Housing and Communities Team regularly updates the Communications Team on its activities and this helps keep all key stakeholders informed, as well as enabling better 'message management' on the face of press enquiries and social media comments.

12 Link to Corporate Priorities

- 12.1 The subject of this report is linked to the Council's Corporate Priority Our Housing, and specifically to the achievement of plan for current and future housing need and is linked to a statutory requirement, under the Homeless Reduction Act 2017.

13 Equality and Diversity

- 13.1 An Equality Impact Assessment was not completed because this report does not propose changes to existing service-related policies or the development of new service-related policies.

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Appendices

Appendix A – Cabinet Report, 4 September - Homeless Reduction Act and Temporary Accommodation update

Appendix B – Information on numbers of households in temporary accommodation in other Hertfordshire areas