

<b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>4 SEPTEMBER 2019</b>
<b>HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING</b>
<b>REPORT OF HEAD OF LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE</b>

**1 Purpose**

- 1.1 To receive information on homelessness and rough sleeping in Nottingham, including the work of Housing Aid.

**2 Action required**

- 2.1 To consider the information provided and use it to inform questioning and make recommendations, where appropriate.

**3 Background information**

- 3.1 At its meetings in June and July 2018, the Committee considered information in relation to the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. This meeting will focus on the provision and commissioning of homelessness prevention and reduction services, and monitoring processes.

- 3.2 Reducing homelessness is a priority for the Council, and there is lots of work underway to combat it, such as:

- a programme of affordable council housing development which will help provide accommodation at a cost and standard that provides residents with a decent home;
- protecting benefits and welfare advice services for citizens in order that they do not get into debt;
- campaigning to scrap the 'right to buy';
- budgeting £9 million to address homelessness in the city, making the purchase of 130 homes possible for use as temporary accommodation;
- increasing the size of the team to support people to avoid them becoming homeless and facilitate access to new tenancies in the private rented sector;
- preventing unnecessary evictions from social housing and identifying and preventing eviction of families at risk;
- consulting on the way housing is allocated to allow people to have a fair chance of accessing the limited supply of social housing before they reach the stage of homelessness;
- contacting empty home owners across the City to offer to purchase properties and bring them back into use;
- working with a cross-council taskgroup and the Homelessness Prevention Strategy Implementation Group, alongside the

Homelessness Partnership Forum to address all the issues and undertake to prevent and address homelessness in the city.

- 3.3 The Council has a 'no first night out' policy which means that those people who present as rough sleeping in the city either have, or have been offered accommodation. A rough sleeper count is conducted every month by the City's Street Outreach Team.
- 3.4 Housing Aid delivers the statutory homeless function within the city. If a citizen is homeless or threatened with homelessness they can provide advice, assistance and support in:
- finding accommodation;
  - help keeping existing accommodation;
  - benefits advice;
  - debt and budgeting advice;
  - advice on keeping a tenancy;
  - keeping safe in their home.
- The service is currently located on Parliament Street, but will be moving to Loxley House later this year.
- 3.5 Colleagues from the relevant teams in the Council will be at the meeting to provide and discuss information.

#### **4 List of attached information**

- 4.1 Joint report from all Council services working on homelessness and rough sleeping.

#### **5 Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information**

- 5.1 None.

#### **6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report**

- 6.1 None.

#### **7 Wards affected**

- 7.1 All.

#### **8 Contact information**

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