

## BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

<b>From: Housing</b>	<b>Report Number: N68</b>
<b>To: Strategy Committee</b>	<b>Date of meeting: 17 October 2013</b>

### HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY

#### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present the Committee with a review of homelessness in the district.
- 1.2 To request approval of the Homelessness Strategy for the next 5 years.

#### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee endorses the Strategy (see Appendix A)  
The Committee is able to resolve this matter

#### 3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 The action plan can be delivered within existing budgets.

#### 4. Risk Management

- 4.1 This report is most closely linked with the Council's Corporate / Significant Business Risk No. O3 Key risks are set out below:

Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measures
Failure to act upon the requirements of the Welfare Reform Act 2013 and Funding Reforms could lead to unpreparedness for changes due to come into effect in April 2013 and beyond.	3 (Low)	3 (Low)	Strategy action plan addresses this issue – see Priority 3

## **5. Consultations**

- 5.1 During a period from April to June 2013 stakeholders and customers were consulted and Members, Tenants Forums and the Joint Housing Board given a presentation on current levels of homelessness and proposed priorities for the next five years. See Appendix B.

## **6. Equality Analysis**

- 6.1 An equality impact assessment has been completed. The assessment did not show any areas of concern or that any communities were unfairly disadvantaged. Appendix C.

## **7. Shared Service / Partnership Implications**

- 7.1 The Homelessness Team for both districts is located in Hadleigh and carries out surgeries for customers in Sudbury and Needham Market. A review of homelessness in both areas has been carried out and has informed the priorities and action plan in the new strategy.

## **8. Review of homelessness in the two districts**

- 8.1 A review of homelessness in the two districts has been carried out which shows some similarities but some significant differences.
- 8.2 In the last two years more households have been accepted for housing due to homelessness in Babergh than in Mid Suffolk. Babergh has more temporary accommodation and uses less bed and breakfast accommodation.
- 8.3 More households have been prevented from becoming homeless in Babergh.

## **9 Strategic priorities**

- 9.1 The Strategy has been developed at a time of change, particularly for people in receipt of welfare benefits. Although not reflected locally, the national picture shows a rise in homeless acceptances.
- 9.2 The Strategy sets out the following priorities for the next 5 years
- To provide an integrated housing options service across the two districts and to work with partners to maximise the number of households who are prevented from becoming homeless
  - Review the provision of temporary housing and minimise the use of bed and breakfast accommodation
  - Assist households adversely affected by welfare benefit reform
  - Increase the supply of accommodation available for homeless households
  - Meet the 10 local challenges and aim to achieve the Gold Standard

## 11 Appendices

Title	Location
(a) Homelessness Review and Strategy	Attached
(b) Consultation Summary	Attached
(c) Equality screening	Attached

Authorship:  
Sue Lister  
Corporate Manager – Supported Housing

Tel. 01449 724758 and 01473 825766  
Email: [sue.lister@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:sue.lister@midsuffolk.gov.uk)

K:\DOCS\Committee\REPORTS\Strategy\2013\171013-Homelessness Strategy.doc