

**Policy and Resources Committee  
Monday, 13 November 2023**

PART I

**Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028 - Public Consultation**

**(ADSPH)**

**1 Summary**

- 1.1 To provide Committee with a review of the Council's Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2017-2022 and a pre-consultation draft of the Council's proposed Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028.
- 1.2 The Council's Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028 can be found in Appendix One. The review of the Council's Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2017-2022 can be found in Appendix Two. The action plan linked to the Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028 can be found in Appendix Three.

**2 Details**

- 2.1 The Council is statutorily required to produce a Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.
- 2.2 The Council's previous Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, adopted in 2017, expired at the end of 2022. Therefore, following a review of this strategy, a new strategy for 2023-2028 has been produced.
- 2.3 The Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028 links to the Council's Corporate Framework 2023-2026, which sets out the Council's vision to make Three Rivers 'a great place to live, work and visit'.
- 2.4 The strategy supports this vision by ensuring that Three Rivers is a district where people have access to good quality housing and where our most vulnerable residents are supported.
- 2.5 The strategy outlines three key objectives for the Council in the area of Housing, over the period of the next five years, these are as follows -
  - 2.5.1 To prevent and relieve homelessness.
  - 2.5.2 Support our most vulnerable customers into permanent, suitable and sustainable accommodation.
  - 2.5.3 To improve the standard of housing across the district.
- 2.6 To ensure the delivery of these objectives, an action plan (Appendix Three) has been developed to run alongside the strategy.

- 2.7 Housing is a dynamic environment; therefore, this action plan will be a live document that will enable Officers to react quickly to any changing priorities or significant legislative reform.
- 2.8 The action plan will be reviewed annually, with reports of our progress against the plan provided to the relevant Committee.
- 2.9 The proposed Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028 will be reviewed by Committee prior to a statutory consultation with members of the public and our partners.
- 2.10 Following consultation, the final proposed Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028 will be brought back to a future Committee meeting for agreement.

### **3 Options and Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1 It is recommended that Committee agree the draft Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028 in order for progression to public consultation, via Committee.
- 3.2 The adoption of a Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy will ensure that the Council remains compliant with our statutory obligations.

### **4 Policy/Budget Reference and Implications**

- 4.1 The recommendations in this report are within the Council's agreed policy and budgets.
- 4.2 The recommendations in this report relate to the achievement of the following performance indicators. -
  - 4.2.1 HN01 – Maximum number of households living in temporary accommodation on the last day of the quarter.
  - 4.2.2 HN03 – Maximum number of households in temporary accommodation throughout the year.
  - 4.2.3 HN06 – Promote access to the private sector lettings in order to prevent and relieve homelessness.
  - 4.2.4 HN11 – Percentage of households prevented or relieved from homelessness.
- 4.3 The impact of the recommendations on this/these performance indicator(s) is:

The Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028 will ensure that the Council continue to attempt to reduce the number of households in temporary accommodation and ensure we continue to consistently prevent or relieve the homelessness of our customers.

The Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028 details the importance of increasing the Council's access to the private rented stock available within the district.

**Financial, Legal, Equal Opportunities, Staffing, Environmental, Community Safety, Public Health, Customer Services Centre, Communications & Website, Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications**

**5 Financial Implications**

- 5.1 The action plan that has been produced as part of the Council's Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028 contains several actions to be implemented. Specific actions on this plan have been included to address the expensive cost of temporary accommodation.

**6 Legal Implications**

- 6.1 None.

**7 Equal Opportunities Implications**

- 7.1 An Equal Opportunities Assessment will be undertaken following public consultation and will be provided to Committee with the final proposed Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028.

**8 Staffing Implications**

- 8.1 None specific.

**9 Environmental Implications**

- 9.1 The Strategy aims to encourage developers and Registered Providers to increase the delivery of net zero homes, to promote sustainable living and make space for nature within any proposed development.
- 9.2 The Strategy will ensure that private sector landlords within the district are aware and fully informed of the funding opportunities available to them to make significant improvements to the standard of their homes.

**10 Community Safety Implications**

- 10.1 None specific.

**11 Public Health implications**

- 11.1 The Strategy will contribute to the prevention of deterioration of health and well being issues that can be attributed to poor housing condition by improving the overall standard of housing across the district.

**12 Customer Services Centre Implications**

- 12.1 None specific.

**13 Communications and Website Implications**

- 13.1 Communications will be utilised to promote the public consultation on the Strategy and once adopted, the Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028 will be promoted and available to view on the Council's website.

**14 Risk and Health & Safety Implications**

- 14.1 The Council has agreed its risk management strategy which can be found on the website at <http://www.threerivers.gov.uk>. In addition, the risks of the proposals in the report have also been assessed against the Council's duties under Health and Safety legislation relating to employees, visitors and persons affected by our operations. The risk management implications of this report are detailed below.
- 14.2 The subject of this report is covered by the Housing Services service plan. Any risks resulting from this report will be included in the risk register and, if necessary, managed within this/these plan(s).

<b>Nature of Risk</b>	<b>Consequence</b>	<b>Suggested Control Measures</b>	<b>Response</b> <i>(tolerate, treat, terminate, transfer)</i>	<b>Risk Rating</b> <i>(combination of likelihood and impact)</i>
The Council fails to adopt a Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy	The Council would not be meeting its statutory obligation.	Committee to approve the final Strategy.	Tolerate	2
A significant increase in the use of non-Council owned temporary accommodation	An increase in the budget required for temporary accommodation costs.	Mitigating actions contained within the Strategy's action plan.  Committee to approve the final Strategy	Treat	6

- 14.3 The above risks are scored using the matrix below. The Council has determined its aversion to risk and is prepared to tolerate risks where the combination of impact and likelihood scores 6 or less.

<b>Very Likely</b> ----- <b>Likelihood</b> ----- ▼ <b>Remote</b>	<b>Low</b> <b>4</b>	<b>High</b> <b>8</b>	<b>Very High</b> <b>12</b>	<b>Very High</b> <b>16</b>
	<b>Low</b> <b>3</b>	<b>Medium</b> <b>6</b>	<b>High</b> <b>9</b>	<b>Very High</b> <b>12</b>
	<b>Low</b> <b>2</b>	<b>Low</b> <b>4</b>	<b>Medium</b> <b>6</b>	<b>High</b> <b>8</b>
	<b>Low</b> <b>1</b>	<b>Low</b> <b>2</b>	<b>Low</b> <b>3</b>	<b>Low</b> <b>4</b>
<b>Impact</b> <b>Low</b> ----- ► <b>Unacceptable</b>				

**Impact Score**

4 (Catastrophic)

3 (Critical)

2 (Significant)

1 (Marginal)

**Likelihood Score**

4 (Very Likely (≥80%))

3 (Likely (21-79%))

2 (Unlikely (6-20%))

1 (Remote (≤5%))

14.4 In the officers' opinion none of the new risks above, were they to come about, would seriously prejudice the achievement of the Strategic Plan and are therefore operational risks. The effectiveness of the management of operational risks is reviewed by the Audit Committee annually.

**15 Recommendation**

**15.1 That:**

Committee approve the proposed the Council's Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028 for progression to public consultation.

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### **Data Quality**

Data sources: Nil

Data checked by: N/A

Data rating:

<b>1</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Sufficient</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>N/A</b>

### **Background Papers**

None

### **APPENDICES / ATTACHMENTS**

**Appendix One - The Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028**

**Appendix Two - The Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2017-2022 Review**

**Appendix Three - The Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028 Action Plan**