

Blaby District Council
Council

Date of Meeting	25 February 2025
Title of Report	Draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2025 -
Lead Member	2030 This is not a Key Decision and is on the Forward Plan. Cllr. Les Phillimore - Housing, Community Safety and Environmental Services
Report Author	Housing Strategy Team Leader
Strategic Themes	Enabling our communities and supporting our vulnerable residents

1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 Under the Homelessness Act 2002 (as amended), all housing authorities must have in place a homelessness strategy based on a review of all forms of homelessness within their district. Failure to produce an up-to-date strategy will be open to legal challenge.
- 1.2 The strategy ensures that the Council delivers on the requirements to prevent homelessness, provide support and ensure that sufficient appropriate accommodation is available.

2. Recommendation(s) to Council

- 2.1 That Council approve the new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2025 – 2030 and the proposed priorities and actions contained within it.

3. Reason for Decisions Recommended

- 3.1 The Councils current Homelessness Strategy runs from 2020 – 2025 and so a new 5-year strategy is needed to replace it.
- 3.2 The Council has a statutory duty to carry out a periodic review of homelessness in the District and to publish a Homelessness Strategy.

4. Matters to consider

4.1 Background

The Homelessness Act 2002 brought about a more strategic approach to tackling and preventing homelessness, in particular, the requirement for the development and publication of a homelessness strategy for every housing authority every 5 years. The new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy (2025 – 2030) will replace the current strategy adopted by Council in 2020.

The revised strategy has been developed following a detailed review of homelessness and rough sleeping over the past 5 years.

Some of the key findings from the review include:

- a) Homelessness approaches have increased by some 70% (and continue to increase) over the 5-year review period.
- b) There has been an increase in the number of people with a support need, particularly those with complex needs.
- c) The contraction of the private rented sector (PRS) including lack of supply, unaffordability and lack of confidence has meant that access to the PRS for homeless households is now extremely limited.
- d) New affordable housing delivery has become an essential requirement for the Council to meet the current homelessness demand.

The strategy builds on and continues the main priorities identified in tackling homelessness over the next 5 years, these are;

Priority 1: Preventing homelessness and reducing the use of temporary accommodation

Priority 2: Maximising the supply of affordable housing

Priority 3: Continue to develop partnership work and wider communications to ensure efficient service user led provision

Priority 4: Support vulnerable households to be independent and self-reliant

This draft strategy will address the varying housing and support needs across the cohorts of people who present to the Housing Services Team as homeless or threatened with homelessness.

4.2 Proposal(s)

The proposals are detailed in section 2, namely:
That Council approve the new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and the proposed priorities and actions contained within it.

4.3 Relevant Consultations

The strategy has been subject to a 6-week consultation period which included a range of stakeholders and customers about what they see as the key issues for people who are either homeless or facing homelessness in the Blaby District. The main issues identified were:

- Lack of temporary accommodation provision
- More affordable homes are required
- Better communication between partners to identify households threatened with homelessness
- Better engagement with the Private Rented Sector
- A better understanding and accommodation offer for vulnerable groups

We will be addressing the results of the feedback through our action plan which will be continually updated throughout the lifetime of the strategy.

The draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy was also considered by the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group at their meeting on the 11th December 2024. The group supported the approach of the strategy and agreed that the 4 priorities were appropriate.

4.4 Significant Issues

In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities and there are no areas of concern.

5. **Environmental impact**

It is not considered that there will be any Environmental Impact as a result of this strategy.

6. **What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?**

6.1 Not applicable

7. **What are the risks and how can they be reduced?**

7.1 No risks have been identified.

8. Other options considered

The Council has a statutory obligation to review its homelessness position and produce a new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy every 5 years, therefore no other options were considered.

9. Appendix

9.1 Appendix A – Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2025 - 2030

10. Background paper(s)

11. Report author's contact details

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