

Appendix 1 – Pre-Decision Scrutiny: Updating the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy

Considered by Homes Sub-Committee on 6 December 2022

REC No.	SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION	DEPARTMENT AND CABINET MEMBER RESPONDING	ACCEPTED / PARTIALLY ACCEPTED / REJECTED (inc. reasons for rejection)	IDENTIFIED OFFICER	ANY FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS IF ACCEPTED (ie Action Plan)	DATE OF SCRUTINY MEETING TO REPORT BACK
1.	The Sub-Committee recommended that the Action Plan is updated to show overall timeline of the action plan, key milestones, deliverables for each workstream and that interdependencies and associated risks be highlighted and included in the action plan.	Councillor Lynne Hale Cabinet Member for Homes	PARTIALLY ACCEPTED The Action Plan detailed in the report identifies preliminary actions and objectives which will form the basis of a revised Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-2027. The recommendation is partially accepted as the changes requested will be made and presented in the Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-2027 not the Action Plan in the report. Work to develop the revised Strategy will begin in January 2023.	Susmita Sen, Corporate Director of Housing	Recruitment of Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy lead has concluded.	Work to develop the revised Strategy began in January 2023. Strategy implementation from 2024/2025.	6 th February Homes Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting
2.	The Sub-Committee recommended that the Action Plan is updated to show that the Occupancy Checks workstream covered both the remit of ensuring the accommodation is occupied by homeless households placed by the Council to meet housing duty and of monitoring how long new clients were staying in Temporary or Emergency accommodation.	Councillor Lynne Hale Cabinet Member for Homes	PARTIALLY ACCEPTED The recommendation is partially accepted as the changes requested will be made and presented in the Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-2027 not the Action Plan in the report. The Occupancy Check project will ensure that the accommodation is occupied by homeless households. The monitoring of length-of-stay in emergency and temporary accommodation is dependent upon the implementation of NEC Housing. The NEC Housing go-live date is May 2023.	Susmita Sen, Corporate Director of Housing	Recruitment of Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy lead has concluded. Occupancy check project expected to deliver £700,000 savings as part of the MTFS for 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 Financial implications are considered through the governance of the NEC	Work to develop the Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy began in January 2023. Occupancy check recruitment process is currently underway. Occupancy Check project due to begin in February 2023. NEC Housing go-live in May 2023.	6 th February Homes Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting

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					Housing project		
3.	The Sub-Committee recommended that Occupancy Checks proactively looked to see that accommodation was still meeting the needs of clients that had been placed there and that this was supported by appropriate staff training to empower them to anticipate and identify changing needs (e.g., pregnancies/overcrowding, disability)	Councillor Lynne Hale Cabinet Member for Homes	ACCEPTED Part of the Occupancy Checks will include an assessment of whether the accommodation meets the household's needs. Needs will be captured and updated on our systems. Welfare will be included in occupancy checks with suitable guidance provided to staff.	Susmita Sen, Corporate Director of Housing	Occupancy check project expected to deliver £700,000 savings as part of the MTFS for 2023/2024 and 2024/2025.	Recruitment process is currently underway. Occupancy check project due to begin in February 2023.	6 th February Homes Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting
4.	The Sub-Committee recommended that suitable policy or guidance is in place once Occupancy Checks started, to ensure those who had left accommodation were not penalised if they had done so for legitimate reasons.	Councillor Lynne Hale Cabinet Member for Homes	ACCEPTED Suitable guidance will be in place for staff carrying out the occupancy checks to ensure that the Council follows due legal homelessness process.	Susmita Sen, Corporate Director of Housing	Occupancy check project expected to deliver £700,000 savings as part of the MTFS for 2023/2024 and 2024/2025.	Recruitment process is currently underway. Occupancy check project due to begin in February 2023	6 th February Homes Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting
5.	The Sub-Committee recommended that the Executive Mayor write to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to lobby for additional homelessness funding for Croydon, recognising the homelessness situation is acute in Croydon on a par with inner London boroughs.	Councillor Lynne Hale Cabinet Member for Homes	PARTIALLY ACCEPTED Since the Sub-Committee met on 6 th December, DLUHC has confirmed that LBC's 2023/2024 allocation of the Homelessness Prevention Grant has not been reduced as expected following DLUHC's earlier consultation indicating that LBC was likely to receive a reduced allocation in 2023/2024. In addition, LBC also received a top-up allocation of the Homelessness Prevention Grant in December 2022 making additional resources available. Whilst the principle of continuing to lobby for further support for homelessness is accepted	Susmita Sen, Corporate Director of Housing	None	None	6 th February Homes Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting

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			and we are always seeking increased funding opportunities, given the new funding confirmed last month, the Mayor does not view that requesting further additional funding at this point would be appropriate.				