

Housing, Health and Communities Committee	
Meeting Date	14 July 2026
Report Title	Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2026-2030
EMT Lead	Emma Wiggins, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Head of Service	Charlotte Hudson, Head of Housing and Communities
Lead Officer	Zoe Callaway, Policy and Performance Officer
Classification	Open
Recommendations	The committee is recommended to: 1. To approve the draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy for consultation.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report asks the Housing, Health and Communities Committee to consider the priorities in the draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy for consultation.

2 Background, Context and Proposals

- 2.1 The current Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2027 was adopted in 2023. This Strategy is still within its life cycle but central Government has published a National Plan to End Homelessness and the Renters' Rights Act has come into force so a review of the existing Strategy priorities would be beneficial. We are also required to publish an action plan and targets by add date, so the revised strategy is required to inform this.
- 2.2 The revised strategy sets out the Council's priorities to tackle Homelessness and Rough Sleeping in Swale. It looks to build on the foundations set out in the previous strategy and looks to address the changing and more complex needs of residents in our borough who need to access housing services.
- 2.3 The Strategy sets out our aims to run a strong housing service, that is the safety net for those most vulnerable in society and enables us to meet our statutory obligations set out in housing legislation. It recognises the need to work with our partner agencies across all sectors to ensure we provide an appropriate service for our residents.
- 2.4 The revised proposed priorities are:
 - Early intervention to prevent homelessness

- Good quality, affordable temporary accommodation
- Access to appropriate accommodation
- Work to end rough sleeping

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 To approve the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy for consultation.

4 Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

- 4.1 To not revise the strategy at this time until the current one has expired. This is not recommended due to the governments new plan and requirement to deliver an action plan and set targets by the autumn.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 We have undertaken partnership engagement and consulted with staff in creating the draft. It is now proposed to carry out a public consultation on the priorities.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	Health & Housing - To aspire to be a borough where everyone has access to a decent home and improved health and wellbeing.
Financial, Resource and Property	The strategy will be funded through the base budget allocation and HRSDA grant.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	Under the Homelessness Act 2002, all housing authorities must carry out a review of homelessness in their area and publish a homelessness strategy which sets out what it plans to do to prevent homelessness and rough sleeping.
Crime and Disorder	The housing service works closely with the Community Safety Partnership in managing clients that have an offending background. Having stable and affordable housing, can assist in breaking the re-offending cycle.
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	The work to improve conditions in people's homes can directly impact the reduction in carbon admissions.

Health and Wellbeing	Housing is a wider determinant of health and having secure and decent homes significantly improves the health and wellbeing on residents.
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	The housing service undertakes the most Safeguarding referrals than any other department in the Council, the nature and circumstances of some of the clients mean they are very vulnerable and therefore support is required from partner agencies.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	The consultation will seek to data to inform the Equalities Impact Assessment.
Privacy and Data Protection	None identified at this stage.
Local Government Reorganisation	None identified at this stage.

7 Appendices

7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix I: Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2026-2031

8 Background Papers

There are no background papers.