



Ryedale District Council

REPORT TO: Community Services and Licensing Committee

DATE: 24 July 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Housing Services Manager
Richard Etherington

SUBJECT: Single Homelessness Strategy for North
Yorkshire and Local Action Plan

WARDS AFFECTED: All

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek Member approval for a single Homelessness Strategy for North Yorkshire and an associated local Action Plan specific to Ryedale.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is therefore recommended that :

- (a) Members approve the draft single Homelessness Strategy for North Yorkshire
- (b) Members approve the local (Ryedale) Homelessness Action Plan and
- (c) Future decisions regarding the Homelessness Strategy for North Yorkshire be delegated to the North Yorkshire Strategic Housing Board.

3.0 REASONS SUPPORTING DECISION

In response to the recommendations of the Audit Commission following the Affordable Housing Review in 2006 Members of the North Yorkshire Strategic Housing Board approved the development of a sub-regional Homelessness Strategy. This draft Strategy was approved by the Board on the 19th June 2008, with a recommendation that individual Local Authorities approve it accordingly.

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4.0 INTRODUCTION

The Homelessness Act 2002 requires Local Housing Authorities to have Homelessness Strategies in place. The purpose of these strategies is to outline the ways in which Council's and their partners work together to prevent homelessness and to provide housing and support for the homeless.

Each individual district in North Yorkshire produced their own separate Homelessness Strategies in 2003, however the Government requires that all these strategies are updated and replaced by the 31st.July 2008. Following the recommendations of the Audit Commission and the North Yorkshire Strategic Housing Board individual Strategies have now been replaced by a single over arching Strategy within individual action plans to reflect the detailed actions and initiatives that are developed at district level in order to achieve the sub regional objectives.

5.0 POLICY CONTEXT

The Homelessness Strategy impacts upon several major policies and strategies including the Housing Strategy, the Supporting People Strategy, the LAA, the Crime and Disorder Strategy, Domestic Abuse Strategy and the Regional Housing Strategy playing an integral part in ensuring their effective delivery.

6.0 REPORT

- 6.1 The development of a single Strategy for North Yorkshire represents a significant development in the North Yorkshire joint working agenda as promoted by the Audit Commission and the Government Office. The development of a single strategy has been outlined in an enhanced joint working action plan.
- 6.2 All districts have been closely involved in the production and were given the opportunity to shape and comment on the content. Children and Young Peoples Services and Adult and Community Services have been heavily involved both in terms of agreeing the objectives, targets and wording. This Strategy incorporates the Supporting People Strategy for the homeless and vulnerable people and Supporting People have also been closely involved in the development of the Strategy.
- 6.3 Each district has undertaken comprehensive local consultation to assist with the development of the Strategy and engaged the services of the Housing Advice Resource Project (Harp) to facilitate homelessness strategy consultation days. These events were well attended throughout the County.

- 6.4 The Strategy co-ordinates efforts across North Yorkshire to provide high quality homelessness services concentrating on prevention but also dealing with reactive services. The general principle is to adopt a county wide Strategy underpinned by local action plans.
- 6.5 Levels of homelessness continue to present a significant challenge for North Yorkshire and demand co-ordinated preventative and reactive services tailored to meet local needs.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with the adoption of this countywide Strategy. Any expenditure associated with the Strategy and the related action plan is accounted for within the appropriate revenue budget for Housing Services and from external Government grant for homeless services and related expenditure.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising from this report in that the policy and strategy and actions which will result from the implementation of the Action Plan are consistent with the Council's strategic responsibility for the provision of housing services.

9.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

The Action Plan identifies a range of proposals and initiatives to homelessness and associated issues in the district. Such implications will depend upon the actions proposed. These may vary from the provision of new housing whereby such issues will be addressed through the planning process to the provision of financial assistance which will have little or no such implications.

10.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

Should the single Homelessness Strategy not be adopted across North Yorkshire then it would significantly undermine the developing joint working agenda. This risk has been reduced by the North Yorkshire Strategic Housing Board signing off the draft agenda.

11.0 CONCLUSION

The development of a single Homelessness Strategy for North Yorkshire is part of the drive towards better joint working within North Yorkshire generally. It will ensure a consistent approach across the County, the sharing of best practise and the provision of preventative and reactive services for homeless people.

OFFICER CONTACT: Please contact Richard Etherington, Housing Services Manager if you require any further information on the contents of this report. The officer can be contacted at Ryedale House, Malton on 01653 / 600666 Ext. 383 or e-mail: richard.etherington@ryedale.gov.uk

CORPORATE POLICY APPRAISAL FORM *(One for each Option)*

Annex A

Policy Context	Impact Assessment	Impact +ve -ve Neutral
Community Plan Themes <i>(Identify any/all that apply)</i>		
Corporate Objectives/Priorities <i>(Identify any/all that apply)</i>		
Service Priorities		
Financial		
Legal Implications		
Procurement Policies		
Asset Management Policies		
LA21 & Environment Charter		
Community Safety		
Equalities		
E-Government		
Risk Assessment		
Estimated Timescale for achievement		