

	Health and Wellbeing Board 28th March 2019
Title	HWB Board response to Housing Strategy and Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy consultation
Report of	Director of Public Health
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	Yes
Enclosures	Appendix I – HWB Board Consultation response
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Summary

The council has launched a consultation on its new draft Housing Strategy to take account of major changes in the housing sector and wider demographic and economic changes, including rising housing costs, a shift in tenure from owner occupation to private renting, the impact of the Grenfell Tower fire disaster and legislative changes.

The council has also launched a consultation on its draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy. The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 requires the council to carry out a review of homelessness and produce a strategy based upon this evidence base. The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy summarises the findings of the review and sets out the councils approach to tackling and preventing homelessness and rough sleeping in Barnet over the next five years, from 2019-2024.

This report is Health and Wellbeing Board's formal response to the consultations.

Recommendations

1. That the Health and Wellbeing Board note the formal consultation Response report on behalf of the Board, co-ordinated and prepared by Public Health

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The council's Housing Strategy dates from 2015, and a number of changes have occurred since then which mean that the council's approach to housing needs to be reviewed and updated. These changes include:
- changes in Government Policy,
 - a new London Mayor with a new London Housing Strategy,
 - new legislation including the Housing and Planning Act 2016, and
 - the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, and
 - the updated Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities.
- 1.2 The council's Homelessness Strategy also requires an update to take account of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 (HRA 2017). Barnet's Homelessness Strategy is currently a component of the Housing Strategy but it is proposed the two are separated to reflect the increased focus on tackling homelessness.
- 1.3 Officers have conducted health impact assessment and reviewed detailed evidence on both, housing and homelessness strategy and collated consultation views and responses from relevant members of the Health and Wellbeing Board. Consultation response (Appendix I) was submitted in February 2019.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It was agreed at the Health and Wellbeing Board in November 2018 to formally respond to the public consultation taking place, and that following this, further draft will be brought back to the Housing Committee to be considered for adoption at its meeting on 1 April 2019.
- 2.2 A safe and secure home is a key determinant of health and wellbeing of the borough's residents, and there is a wide range of evidence demonstrating housing sector impact on social, physical and emotional wellbeing. It is therefore crucial for the Health and Wellbeing Board to consider the impact of housing policy on health going forward.
- 2.3 A Health Impact Assessments have been undertaken on the homelessness strategy and is being undertaken on the housing strategy. The findings from these assessments were included in to the consultation process.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 The Housing Committee has already instructed officers to draft new strategies, at the meeting in June 2018, so alternative options have not been considered further.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.2 Housing Committee will be asked to consider and approve a final version of the strategy in April 2019 which will have considered the outcome of the consultation exercise.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 The Housing Strategy and Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy contributes to the council's Corporate plan 2019-2024.

- 5.1.2 Both strategies contribute to key priorities identified in the council's Corporate plan priorities including ***Increasing the housing supply, including Colindale, Building compliance and fire safety and Tackling homelessness***.

- 5.1.3 Impact of housing on health is recognised as an important factor in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.2.1 All proposed actions in the consultation response are envisaged to be funded through existing council budgets and plans.

5.3 Social Value

- 5.3.1 Not applicable

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.4.1 The council's Constitution, Article 7 - Responsibility for Functions, sets out the terms of reference of the Health and Wellbeing Board which includes responsibility – to promote partnership and, as appropriate, integration, across all necessary areas, including the use of joined-up commissioning plans across the NHS, social care and public health. To explore partnership work across North Central London where appropriate. The HWBB has responsibility for overseeing public health and developing further health and social care integration.

5.5 Risk Management

- 5.5.1 There is a risk that the housing requirements of the Borough are not met if the Housing Strategy is not updated. This would have direct impact on the overall wellbeing of Barnet residents.

5.5.2 There is a risk that homelessness will increase if the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy is not agreed, which as well as being a poor outcome for people becoming homeless, could increase pressure on council budgets.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 sets out the Public-Sector Equality Duty which requires a public authority (or those exercising public functions) to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not

5.6.2 The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day business and keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services. The protected characteristics are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Marriage and Civil Partnership

5.6.3 The Corporate Plan 2015 – 2020 sets the Strategic Equalities Objective, which is: that citizens will be treated equally, with understanding and respect, and will have equal access to quality services which provide value to the tax payer.

5.6.4 Changes to policies and services are analysed in order to assess the potential equalities impact and risks and identify any mitigating action possible, through an equalities impact assessment, before final decisions are made. Consideration will also be made to the equalities and data cohesion summary.

5.6.5 A full equalities impact assessment of both strategies will be carried out after consultation and prior to reporting back to the Housing Committee on 1 April 2019.

5.7 Corporate Parenting

5.7.1 Promoting independence is proposed to be a central theme of the Housing Strategy. This includes ensuring that care leavers make a successful transition to independent living.

- 5.7.2 Youth homelessness is a particular focus of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy. This includes ensuring that care leavers make a successful transition to independent living and young adults are supported to stay if safe to do so in their existing accommodation.

5.8 Consultation and Engagement

- 5.8.1 Initial consultation has been undertaken with some of the council's stakeholders, including the Children and Young Person's Partnership Board, the Performance Advisory Group comprising tenant and leaseholder representatives and the Barnet Housing Association Liaison Group.
- 5.8.2 A six-week online consultation exercise was carried out over the summer inviting members of the public and stakeholders to comment on matters relating to homelessness which has helped to shape the development of this draft strategy.
- 5.8.3 A wider public consultation took place during November 2018 to February 2019. Health and Wellbeing Board response was submitted mid-February.

5.9 Insight

- 5.9.1 Health and Wellbeing Board's response to consultation was informed by an extensive evidence review.
- 5.9.3 Barnet's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment recognises that there has been a long-term shift in housing tenure towards renting and away from owner occupancy (either outright or with a mortgage) reflecting a sustained reduction in housing affordability and an imbalance between housing demand and supply and that Housing affordability is the second highest concern for residents according to the 2015 Residents' Perception Survey.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 Housing Committee 10 October 2018 – Item 7 Housing Strategy 2019-2024
<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=699&MId=9487&Ver=4>
- 6.2 Housing Committee 10 October 2018 – Item 8 Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy
<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=699&MId=9487&Ver=4>