

EXETER CITY COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - COMMUNITY 1 SEPTEMBER 2009

HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY 2008-2013

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Members on progress in meeting the targets set out in the Homelessness Strategy 2008-13.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Homelessness Strategy 2008 - 2013 was approved by the Executive in September 2008 following a comprehensive review of the previous Strategy; including extensive public and stakeholder consultation and an Equalities Impact Assessment.
- 2.2 The Strategy sets out the actions the Council will take in order to ensure that everyone in the city has the opportunity to live in a suitable home that they can afford.

Key areas of the Strategy include:

- Prevention of Homelessness and Reduction of Numbers in Temporary Accommodation to meet Government targets
 - Reducing the need for anyone to sleep rough in the city
 - To increase housing options to all those in housing need and those looking to move on from supported accommodation
 - To specifically reduce youth homelessness
 - To increase access into the private rented sector
 - To increase client and agency involvement with the implementation of the Homelessness Strategy
- 2.3 Public consultation and a client consultation exercise was conducted with a wide range of over 200 service users. a questionnaire was used and 6 focus groups convened to discuss a number of relevant issues.

3 PROGRESS AGAINST TARGETS

- 3.1 The Homelessness Strategy includes an Action Plan to measure progress and an updated plan is attach as a background document to this paper.
- 3.2 In addition to this the headline performance indicators are,
- Reduction of Households in Temporary Accommodation to 147 as of 27/07/09 compared to 350 households in 2005
 - Increase in Homeless Preventions to 534 in 08/09 from 410 in 07/08
 - Reduction in Roughsleeping figures to 5 in May 2009

4 RECOMMENDED

- (1) That Scrutiny Committee Community notes the progress being made towards achieving targets set out in the Homelessness Strategy 2008-13 Action Plan.

HEAD OF HOUSING SERVICES

S:PA/LP/Committee/909SCC8
Date: 19.8.09

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)
Background papers used in compiling this report: