

**NOTICE OF DELEGATION OF DECISION TO CABINET MEMBER BY STRONG LEADER**

Section 15(4) of the Local Government Act 2000, the senior executive member may discharge any of the functions that are the responsibility of the Cabinet or may arrange for them to be discharged by another member of the Cabinet or Officer. On 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010, the Council adopted the Strong Leader Model for Corporate Governance 2011 as required under Part 3 of The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (The 2007 Act).

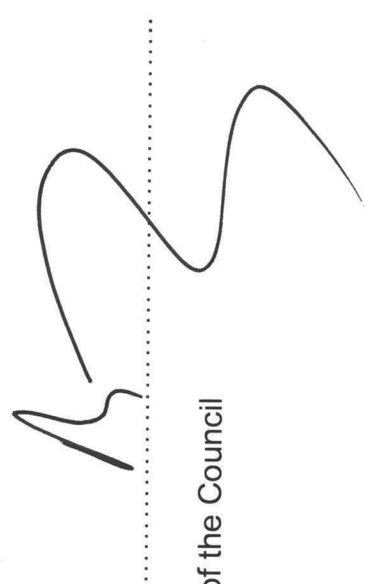
I, Marcus Hart, as Strong Leader, delegate the decision to approve that the Strategic Direction for Tackling Homelessness goes out to consultation to the Cabinet Member detailed below:

Cabinet Member- Councillor Chris Rogers

*17th April 2018*

Dated:

Signed:



Leader of the Council

**NOTICE OF DECISION OF CABINET MEMBER**

Pursuant Section 15(4) of the Local Government Act 2000, as amended by section 63 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the senior executive member may discharge any of the functions that are the responsibility of the Cabinet or may arrange for them to be discharged by another member of the Cabinet or Officer. On 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010, the Council adopted the Strong Leader Model for Corporate Governance 2011 as required under Part 3 of The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (The 2007 Act).

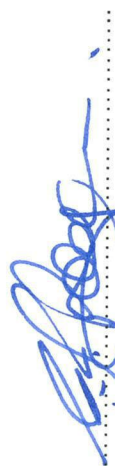
In accordance with the authority delegated to me by the Leader, I have made the following decision:

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Reason for decision</b>	<b>Date for Decision to be taken</b>
Strategic Direction for Tackling Homelessness	To approve the new homelessness strategy going out to consultation for an eight week period from 24 April.	The current five year Worcestershire Homeless Strategy ended in March 2017. The Interim Worcestershire Homeless Strategy Action Plan was developed to meet our legal requirement to have a homeless strategy whilst we awaited the implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act. This has now taken place so the Local Housing Authorities need to develop a new strategy. The consultation will inform the new strategy action plan	18/4/18

**I confirm that the appropriate statutory officer consultation has taken place with regard to this decision.**

Dated:

Signed:



Councillor:

.....  
*Chris Rogers*  
 Cabinet Member

# WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Strong Leader Report

### Worcestershire's Strategic Direction for Tackling Homelessness 2018-2021

<b>OPEN</b>	
<b>DIRECTOR:</b>	Mike Parker
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	Kate Bailey
<b>APPENDICES:</b>	1. Interim Worcestershire Homelessness Strategy Action Plan 2. Worcestershire Strategic Direction for Tackling Homelessness

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report is to agree the new Strategic Direction for Tackling Homelessness document, which will replace the Interim Worcestershire Homelessness Strategy Action Plan, to go out to consultation.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATION**

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Wellbeing is asked to decide that:

- 2.1 The Strategic Direction for Tackling Homelessness goes out for consultation across a wide range of partners, Members and the public prior to being adopted later in the year (October 2018).

#### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Homelessness Act 2002 made it a legal requirement for Local Housing Authorities (LHA) to undertake a regular review of homelessness within their geographical boundary and to develop a homeless strategy to tackle the issues identified through the review. In particular the review, and consequent strategy, must cover the following areas;
  - 3.1.1 The levels of current and future levels of homelessness (all forms of homelessness not just statutory homeless)
  - 3.1.2 The activities carried out in district to prevent homelessness, secure accommodation and providing support to those homeless people who need support to prevent them becoming homeless again
  - 3.1.3 The resources available to LHA and other relevant organisations for carrying out these functions
- 3.2 The review was undertaken across the county in 2016/7 and following this a short term, interim action plan was developed for 2017 - 2018 (see appendix one) to address immediate issues prior to the implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. The development of the full Homelessness Strategy was delayed temporarily whilst the legislation was being adopted.
- 3.3 The review highlighted the impact of low levels of housing supply, welfare reform and public sector austerity contributing to rising homelessness numbers across the county.

- 3.4 The Homelessness Reduction Act came into force on 3<sup>rd</sup> April and it is now pertinent to develop a replacement strategy (countrywide) to replace the interim action plan. This strategy will support the wider objectives of the legislation and continue to address the issues highlighted in the Homelessness Review.
- 3.5 In addition the decision has been taken to bring the housing register, advice and homelessness service back in house from 1<sup>st</sup> June and this change needs to be reflected in the action plan that will be developed as part of the consultation process.
- 3.6 The majority of actions from the interim action plan have been developed or are underway and the Strategic Direction for Tackling Homelessness includes an update on progress.

#### **4. KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 The new Strategic Direction for Tackling Homelessness (Appendix Two) seeks to address homelessness in three key ways;
- Structural prevention – housing supply, access to housing and financial capability
  - Upstream Prevention – identifying key risk factors/triggers throughout people's lives to prevent homelessness at an earlier stage
  - Systematic prevention – providing flexible, comprehensive responses to those in crisis and those with complex needs
- However, the strategy doesn't include an action plan as it is intended that this will be developed through the consultation period with partners and agreed as part of the final document.
- 4.2 The homeless strategy will go out to consultation from the 24 April for a period of eight weeks and during this time the Local Authorities will host an event on the 22 May for partners to give them an opportunity to shape the strategy and actions.
- 4.3 The consultation will end on 19th June and the final strategy will be taken through the committee process in September 2018 with the expectation that the strategy will be live from 1st October 2018.
- 4.4 The final strategy will be overseen by the Worcestershire Strategic Housing Partnership. This group is a multi-agency partnership that can ensure homelessness is placed within the wider context of services and strategies.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The strategy and actions will be delivered within existing financial resources.

#### **6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 It is a legal requirement for all local Housing Authorities to conduct a Homelessness Review and have a Homelessness Strategy. The strategy will be published in accordance with the Code of Guidance, which has recently been updated to comply with the new legislation.

#### **7. EQUALITY IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 An EIA screening tool will need to be completed once the final strategy is agreed to understand impact.

#### **8. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 8.1 It is a legal requirement to undertake a Homeless Review and have a homelessness strategy in place. The Local Housing Authorities in Worcestershire have met this

obligation through conducting a review and developing the Strategic Direction for Tackling Homelessness.

## **9. CONCLUSION**

- 9.1 The LHAs have developed a strategy that seeks to address key issues identified in the Homelessness Review, the new Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 and associated Code of Guidance.
- 9.2 The Homelessness Review addresses the required elements of a review including considering the current and future levels of homelessness, the activities carried out in the district to prevent homelessness, secure accommodation and providing support to those homeless people and the resources available to LHA and other relevant organisations for carrying out these functions.
- 9.3 The strategy document will go out for consultation on the 24 April and officers will use consultation responses and engagement to shape a detailed action plan.

## **10. CONSULTEES**

- 10.1 The strategy will be consulted on for a period of eight weeks from April – June including a stakeholder day on the 22 May 2018.

## **11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 11.1 None.