

HOMELESSNESS REVIEW AND STRATEGY 2008 - 2013

Agenda Item 4a

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Background Papers:- Draft Homelessness Review and Strategy 2008 – 2013 Versions 1 & 2
Financial Implications: - Potential future financial implications are highlighted in the Strategy Action Plan.

Equalities Implications: - The actions identified in the Strategy Action Plan will be subject to an equality impact assessment.

Legal Implications: -The Homelessness Act 2002 imposes a statutory duty on all local authorities to publish a new strategy every five years.

Options: - There are various actions suggested in the Strategy Action Plan.

Risks: - If our priorities and actions are not correctly identified with an appropriate plan of action, we would risk homelessness increasing.

Please Note:

The Draft Homelessness Review and Strategy 2008 – 2013 can be found in the Housing section of the council website using the following link:-

<http://www.braintree.gov.uk/Braintree/housing/>

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council produced the first Homelessness Strategy in July 2003. The strategy set out the Council's key priorities for preventing and tackling homelessness for a five-year period.

The Strategy has supported the development of services that help to prevent homelessness by ensuring that good advice, co-ordinated working and accessible, appropriate housing is available to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. There is still more work to do.

The existing strategy is due to expire this year. The Council has conducted a further review to identify any outstanding areas and set new strategic priorities for the next five-year period.

The new strategy will take the form of an action plan, which will be reviewed on an annual basis. It is believed that this approach will ensure that our attention will be concentrated on providing deliverable and measurable actions and targets.

The Homelessness Review and Strategy 2008 – 2013 are currently in a draft format for consultation purposes version 1 and 2 are on the council's website.

Consultation Update

Consultation has taken place and the Homelessness Review now contains minor changes and has been updated to include statistical information from 2007/08. The Homelessness Strategy Action Plan has also been amended. The six priorities remain the same but some additional actions have now been included and these are shown as highlighted in the Action Plan.

The New Strategic Aims for the Next Five Years

Priority 1 Joint Working and Partnerships

Priority 2 Prevention of Homelessness

Priority 3 Support for Vulnerable People

Priority 4 Provision of Accommodation

Priority 5 Invest to Save

Priority 6 Administering Homelessness More Effectively

DECISION

Members are requested to approve the Homelessness Review and Strategy 2008 - 2013.