

**To:** Cabinet  
**Date:** 19 October 2022  
**Report of:** Housing and Homelessness Panel  
**Title of Report:** Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-28

| <b>Summary and recommendations</b> |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Purpose of report:</b>          | To present Housing and Homelessness Panel recommendations for Cabinet consideration and decision. |
| <b>Key decision:</b>               | Yes   |
| <b>Lead member</b>                 | Cllr Paula Dunne, Chair, Housing and Homelessness Panel   |
| <b>Cabinet Member:</b>             | Cllr Linda Smith, Cabinet member for Housing  |
| <b>Corporate Priority:</b>         | Deliver More, Affordable Housing and Supporting Thriving Communities.                             |
| <b>Policy Framework:</b>           | Housing, Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-28   |

**Recommendation :** That the Cabinet states whether it agrees or disagrees with the recommendations in the body of the report

| <b>Appendices</b> |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Appendix A        | Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Housing and Homelessness Panel |

### **Introduction and background**

1. The Housing and Homelessness Panel met on 06 October 2022 to consider a report on the Housing, Homelessness, and Rough Sleeping Strategy. The report, which is due for Cabinet consideration on 19 October 2022, recommends that Cabinet notes the progress made to develop a new Housing, Homelessness, and Rough Sleeping Strategy; approves the draft Housing, Homelessness, and Rough Sleeping Strategy for public consultation; approves the launch of the statutory six

week public consultation; and delegates authority to make any necessary minor amendments prior to the launch of the Consultation.

### **Summary and recommendations**

2. Councillor Linda Smith, Cabinet member for Housing, introduced the report. She provided a broad overview of the strategy and highlighted that it was arranged under five priority areas:
  - a. More affordable homes;
  - b. Great homes for all
  - c. Housing for a net zero future
  - d. Preventing homelessness and adopting a rapid rehousing response
  - e. Ending rough sleeping
3. Nerys Parry, Head of Housing, Amie Rickatson, Strategy & Service Development Manager, and Richard Wood, Housing Strategy and Needs Manager, answered the Panel's questions alongside Cllr Smith.
4. The Panel commended the wide-ranging nature of the strategy and was pleased to hear of the planning for an active consultation period. The Panel recognised, however, that some of the language contained within the strategy was necessarily technical and suggested that consideration be given to providing a glossary so that people could more readily engage with the document.

***Recommendation 1: That the Council produces a glossary for the strategy document as part of the consultation to make engagement more accessible.***

5. The Panel noted that some elements of the strategy refer to 'customers', one to 'client', and others to 'residents.' The Panel sought to encourage a move towards 'residents' so as to emphasise that people are not seen to be in a transactional relationship with the Council.

***Recommendation 2: That the Council employs the language of residents/service users/citizens rather than customers or client in the strategy.***

6. In response to questions, the Panel heard that the different numbers of new houses on different pages related to different types of housing or different timeframes or different locations. The Panel considered that more fruitful engagement could be achieved if consideration were given to ensuring that these seeming discrepancies could be explained at the outset.

***Recommendation 3: That the Council makes clear the difference and interplay between the different numbers of new houses stated in the strategy (on, for example, pages 11, 27, 31, and 170)***

7. The Panel raised a number of questions about the section 'improve standards for new developments of council housing in the city' and, after some discussion, the

Panel considered that consideration should be given to rewriting the section so that it is clearer and thus more accessible.

***Recommendation 4: That the Council revises the content on p23 of the draft strategy, particularly in the section headed 'Improve standards for new developments of council housing in the city,' so that it is more readily accessible and understandable.***

8. The Panel recognised that the evidence base, at appendix 2, made reference to the universities and the impact dedicated, purpose-built student accommodation would have in releasing housing for other groups. The Panel also recognised that this was set out in the Local Plan but, given its importance, the Panel considered that consideration should be given to highlighting this in the strategy itself.

***Recommendation 5: That the Council considers including reference in the strategy itself to the importance of the contribution the universities and constituent colleges could make.***

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