

REPORT OF: HOUSING, HEALTH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
MANAGER

TO: EXECUTIVE

DATES: 19TH OCTOBER 2017

Contact Details: Wayne Forrest
Tel. No: 01282 661044
E-mail: wayne.forrest@pendle.gov.uk

**PENDLE HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY 2017 – 2022
& PENDLE HOMELESSNESS TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION POLICY**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To agree the Pendle Homelessness Strategy 2017 - 2022.
2. To agree the Pendle Homelessness Temporary Accommodation Policy 2017

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Executive recommend to Council that the Pendle Homelessness Strategy 2017 – 2022 be approved.
2. That Executive recommend to Council that the Pendle Homelessness Temporary Accommodation Policy 2017 be approved

ISSUE

Under the Homelessness Act 2002, the Council must carry out a homelessness review for their district and formulate a homelessness strategy based on the results of that review at least every 5 years. As the Council last produced a homelessness strategy in 2012, the next strategy must be completed by 2017.

As such, the Pendle Homelessness Review 2017 (Appendix 1) has been carried out which has considered the levels and likely future levels of homelessness in Pendle. The Review makes a number of recommendations which have been added into the Pendle Homelessness Strategy 2017 – 2022 (Appendix 2), particularly in relation to the forthcoming Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 which is due to commence in April 2018.

Aims of the Pendle Homelessness Strategy 2017 - 2022

The key aims of the Pendle Homelessness Strategy 2017 - 2022 are:

- To prevent homelessness by
 - Reviewing PBC Housing Needs advice and support work to ensure continued effectiveness in preventing homelessness
 - Ensuring continued awareness of homelessness preventative services
 - Supporting initiatives to prevent homelessness, whether directly from the Council or via external partners
- To continue to ensure that there is a safety net of accommodation for people who are or who may become homeless by
 - Updating the Pendle Homelessness Temporary Accommodation Policy
 - Working with partners to maximise options for provision of temporary accommodation in and around the borough
 - Working with partners to maximise options for supported housing in and around the borough
- To provide support to people who are or may become homeless or who have been homeless and need support to prevent them from becoming homeless again by
 - Implementing the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 in Pendle
 - Implementing the Homelessness Trailblazer program in Pendle
 - Seeking funding where possible to ensure that current projects are able to continue

Taking the Strategy Forward

A significant part of the Strategy is aimed at successfully implementing the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, which, it is hoped will help reduce homelessness across the borough. There does however remain economic uncertainty which may indirectly affect homelessness in Pendle. This includes continued implementation of Welfare Reform measures and the process of Brexit which may have broader unintended economic consequences and potentially affect eligibility to access homelessness services for some EU residents in Pendle. Despite these ongoing changes, this strategy shows that there continues to be a number of services within Pendle available to those who are or may become homeless.

The strategy encompasses an action plan which will hopefully help to deliver its aims. The strategy will remain a working document and as such, the action plan will be added to where required to meet any additional issues which may arise throughout the life of the strategy

Pendle Homelessness Temporary Accommodation Policy 2017

As part of the review and formulation of the Homelessness Strategy, it was recognised that the Pendle Homelessness Temporary Accommodation Policy 2015 (Appendix 3) required review. This document is intended to meet guidance issued in [Nzolameso v Westminster City Council](#) by the Supreme Court, which states '*...ideally, each local authority should have, and keep up to date, a policy for procuring sufficient units of temporary accommodation to meet the anticipated demand during the coming year*'.

The updated policy states:-

- It is the Council's policy to ensure that there is sufficient and suitable temporary accommodation available to meet the expected need.
- It is the Council's policy to ensure a fair system when reaching decisions on the allocation of temporary accommodation.

The policy document considers legislation, caselaw and guidance in relation to the provision of temporary accommodation and reaches conclusions in relation to procurement and allocations. When considering all the factors which affect procurement and allocations, it is felt that at present existing and anticipated future requirements for temporary accommodation and allocations are being met, although this will of course, remain under constant review.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy

7. The Homelessness Strategy will be used to support and inform the Councils Sustainable Communities Strategy. The updated Pendle Homelessness Temporary Accommodation Policy continues to meet guidance issued at the Supreme Court.

Financial

8. The Homelessness Strategy concerns itself primarily with the successful implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. It is anticipated that whilst additional measures related to homelessness prevention may require some financial cost, it is hoped that New Burdens Funding will offset these costs. It is not known as yet, specifically what amount the Council will receive as New Burdens Funding. There are no known financial implications arising from the updated Pendle Homelessness Temporary Accommodation Policy.

Legal

9. The Council has a statutory duty to carry out a Homelessness Review for its district and formulate a Homelessness Strategy based on the results of that Review at least every 5 years. It is believed that Appendix 1 and 2 meet this requirement. It is also believed that the updated Pendle Homelessness Temporary Accommodation Policy 2017 continues to meet guidance issued by the Supreme Court.

Risk Management

10. Failure to carry out the Review and agree an updated Homelessness Strategy by the end of 2017 would mean that a statutory duty has not been met. Failure to keep the Pendle Homelessness Temporary Accommodation Policy up to date, would risk possible future legal challenge. Both scenarios would risk the Councils reputation and have potentially damaging cost implications.

Health and Safety:

11. There are no health and safety implications arising from this report.

Sustainability:

12. The development of the updated Homelessness Strategy and Pendle Homelessness Temporary Accommodation Policy ensures that the Council is able to meet its statutory duties towards homeless households.

Community Safety:

13. There are no known community safety issues arising from the contents of this report.

Equality and Diversity:

14. The Homelessness Strategy is aimed at provision of homelessness services for all, regardless of background (Service Impact Assessment – Appendix 4). There are no known equality and diversity implications arising from the Pendle Homelessness Temporary Accommodation Policy.

APPENDICES

All accessible via the Council's website:

www.pendle.gov.uk and by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.pendle.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/2406/executive>

Appendix 1 - Pendle Homelessness Review 2017

Appendix 2 - Pendle Homelessness Strategy 2017 – 2022

Appendix 3 - Pendle Homelessness Temporary Accommodation Policy 2017

Appendix 4 – Service Impact Assessment – Pendle Homelessness Strategy 2017