

23rd March, 2017

To the Chair and Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

REGENERATION AND HOUSING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY HOMELESSNESS REVIEW

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Councillor Jane Nightingale Cabinet Member for Housing	All	None

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to present the summary of discussions and recommendations of the Regeneration and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Panel review into Homelessness.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. There is no exempt information contained in the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. It is recommended that the Panel comment on and agree the recommendations in the attached report.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

4. The Overview and Scrutiny function has the potential to impact upon all of the Council's key objectives by holding decision makers to account, reviewing performance and developing policy.

BACKGROUND

5. The Regeneration and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Panel chose, as an area for review, Homelessness and undertook the work between November 2016 and January 2017. The recommendations included in the review report at Appendix A are based on information and evidence heard during the meetings.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

6. There are no alternative options within this report as the intention is to provide the Committee an opportunity to consider the findings and recommendations of the Panel

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY PRIORITIES

Outcomes	Implications
<p>All people in Doncaster benefit from a thriving and resilient economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> <i>Mayoral Priority: Be a strong voice for our veterans</i> <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	<p>The work of Overview a Scrutiny has the potential to have an impact on all the Council's key objective</p>
<p>People live safe, healthy, active and independent lives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	
<p>People in Doncaster benefit from a high quality built and natural environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	
<p>All families thrive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	
<p>Council services are modern and value for money.</p>	
<p>Working with our partners we will provide strong leadership and governance.</p>	

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

12. There are no specific risks associated with this report. The Committee may wish to consider the extent to which the recommendations should be consistent with and have been developed from the research arising from Members' investigations.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

13. Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides the Council with the power to do anything that an individual may do.

Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 places a number of obligations on the Council in relation to homelessness, however the Homelessness Reduction Bill, when passed will make amendments to Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996.

Once passed, the Council will need to review and amend its homelessness strategy, such amendments are to be overseen by the Regeneration and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

Further legal advice and assistance may be required to respond to any changes made to the homelessness strategy.

Legal advice and assistance will be required in relation to the receipt of £400.000 funding from central government to ensure compliance with any conditions set.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

14. There are no specific financial implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report. Any financial implications relating to recommendations made will need to be considered if any proposals are brought forward.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

15. There are no specific human resource implications arising directly from this report.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

16. There are no technology implications arising from this report.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

17. There are no significant equality implications associated with this report. Within its programme of work Overview and Scrutiny gives due consideration to the extent to which the Council has complied with its Public Equality Duty and given due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different communities.

CONSULTATION

18. Information and evidence was heard at the review meetings which were attended by relevant Council officers.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

19. None

REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS

Christine Rothwell, Senior Governance Officer

Tel: 01302 735682

christine.rothwell@doncaster.gov.uk

Peter Dale
Director Regeneration and Housing