
Subject:	HOMELESSNESS PROJECT ADVISORY GROUP: REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE
Meeting and Date:	Cabinet – 4 July 2022
Report of:	Louise Taylor, Head of Housing
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Derek Murphy, Portfolio Holder for Social Housing, Port Health, Skills and Education
Decision Type:	Non-Key
Classification:	Unrestricted

Purpose of the report: To seek Cabinet approval of the revised terms of reference for the Homelessness Project Advisory Group attached at Appendix 1

- Recommendation:**
1. That Cabinet notes the content of this report.
 2. That Cabinet agrees the revised Terms of Reference for the Homelessness Project Advisory Group set out at appendix 1 of the report.
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1. Summary

- 1.1 On 6 November 2017 Cabinet accepted recommendations that a new Project Advisory Group be established to review performance and consider opportunities and projects for service improvement relating to homelessness.
- 1.2 The terms of reference for the Homelessness Project Advisory Group have remained unaltered since that date despite some significant changes in the way in which the service operates. Revised terms of reference to reflect these changes are now proposed and set out at appendix 1.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 Cabinet accepted recommendations on 6 November 2017 that a further Project Advisory Group (PAG) be established with the remit to review homelessness services and explore opportunities for service improvement.
- 2.2 The Homeless Project Advisory Group, Terms of Reference have remained unaltered since that date despite changes to service delivery arrangements.
- 2.3 During the Covid 19 pandemic a raft of Government measures were in place to help prevent homelessness. These included periods where evictions were banned, Court possession hearings suspended and delayed, household income support schemes were in place and mortgage holidays. Fortunately, these measures helped prevent many families losing their homes and the work of the housing options team remained fairly stable. The Homelessness Project Advisory Group did not meet during this time.
- 2.4 More recently Courts have started to catch up with deferred possession cases and the situation with homelessness has become more volatile and the volume of cases more unpredictable. This is compounded by the potential for further homelessness presentations arising from the Ukrainian Family and Homes hosting schemes.
- 2.5 It is recommended that the Homelessness Project Advisory Group reconvene and that the terms of reference are updated to focus activity upon the performance of the homelessness service, management of Council owned interim accommodation and the exploration of innovative projects and industry good practice to help improve the homelessness service.

3. Identification of Options

- 3.1 Option A: To approve the revised terms of reference for the Homelessness Project Advisory Group
- 3.2 Option B: Not approve the changes proposed and continue with the existing terms of reference.
- 4. Evaluation of Options**
- 4.1 Option A is the preferred option
- 5. Resource Implications**
- 5.1 None. Since the Covid-19 pandemic PAG meetings have been able to be held virtually as they are not subject to the same legislation as other committees which requires Members to attend meetings in person. There are therefore no resource implications arising from Member travel claims for attending the offices.
- 6. Climate Change and Environmental Implications**
- 6.1 The Council's carbon neutral ambition has been taken into consideration and there are neither positive or negative impacts arising from this decision
- 7. Corporate Implications**
- 7.1 Comment from the Director of Finance (linked to the MTFP) 'Accountancy have been consulted in the writing of this report and have no further comment (AC)'.
- 7.2 Comment from the Solicitor to the Council: The Solicitor to the Council has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no further comments to make.
- 7.3 Comment from the Equalities Officer: This report does not specifically highlight any equality implications, however in discharging their duties members are required to comply with the public sector equality duty as set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/section/149>'
- 7.4 Other Officers (as applicable):
- 8. Appendices**
- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Revised terms of reference for the Homelessness Advisory Group.
- 9. Background Papers**
- 9.1 None.

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