

Committee:	Executive	Agenda Item No.:	11.
Date:	28 <sup>th</sup> May 2012	Category	
Subject:	Homelessness Strategy	Status	Open
Report by:	Housing Strategy and Enabling Manager		
Other Officers involved:	Head of Housing Housing Needs Manager Private Sector Housing Manager Revenues and Benefits Manager Head of Planning		
Director	Director of Development		
Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor A. Tomlinson, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration		

## **RELEVANT CORPORATE AIMS**

### **SOCIAL INCLUSION**

SI 02 - Prevent homelessness for more than 50% of people who are facing homelessness each year.

SI 06 - Produce and adopt a Homelessness Strategy by March 2012.

### **TARGETS**

The Production of a Homelessness Strategy is a specific Corporate Target

### **VALUE FOR MONEY**

Reducing homelessness acceptances can represent a cost saving to the authority

## **THE REPORT**

### **1.0 Executive Summary**

A draft version of the Bolsover District Council Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan 2012-14 is appended at Appendix A. The document complies with the requirements of the 2002 Homelessness Act and refers to the Localism Bill, the Welfare Reform agenda and government initiatives to limit rough sleeping.

It is noted that additional statistical information has recently been made available by DCLG and where appropriate some graphs and tables will be updated to reflect this new data.

### **2.0 Background**

2.1 Bolsover District Council retains responsibility for strategic and statutory housing functions. "Homelessness" is a statutory housing duty and the Homelessness Act 2002 required that Local Housing Authorities like Bolsover should:

- ❖ Review homelessness services
- ❖ Develop and publish a strategy to address homelessness issues

2.2 In 2006 the Department of Local Government and Communities (DCLG) required that Homelessness Reviews and Strategies should be updated on a five yearly cycle with all authorities updating their Homelessness Strategies for June 2008. The exception to this rule was "excellent" authorities and Bolsover took advantage of this exception to allow for embedment of homelessness prevention techniques.

## **ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

A number of consultation events have been held with statutory partners 2008 – 2011. One Strategic Objective coming through was that of "Joint Working". This objective refers to the range of adult social care support packages made available for vulnerable households, by Derbyshire County Council, and which are implemented at the sub-regional level. "Joint Working" has been subsumed as a cross-cutting theme throughout the document and it is felt that by 2014, there may be merit in delivering a Joint Homelessness Strategy to cover Bolsover, Chesterfield and NEDDC. Hence the short lifespan of this document.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

**Financial** : Not directly from this report. The Strategy refers to the requirement to carry out a Private House Condition Survey but this will be subject to a separate report . Joint procurement of the study with NEDDC and Chesterfield Borough Council will deliver cost efficiencies.

**Legal** : Holding a Housing Waiting List and delivering a Statutory Allocations Policy is a legal requirement at the lower tier level.

**Human Resources**: Not directly.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1. Executive approve the attached strategy and action plan**
- 2. Executive note the need to carry out a Private House Condition Survey which will be reported to a future meeting.**

ATTACHMENT:                   **Appendix A**  
FILE REFERENCE:  
SOURCE DOCUMENT: