

The Arc  
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To: Chair & Members of the Executive

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2022

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Dear Councillor

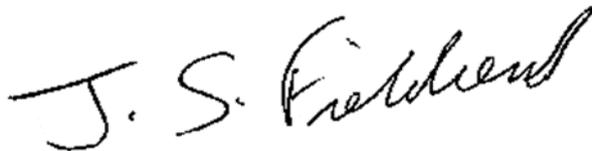
**EXECUTIVE**

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Executive of the Bolsover District Council to be held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne on Monday, 8th August, 2022 at 10:00 hours.

Register of Members' Interests - Members are reminded that a Member must within 28 days of becoming aware of any changes to their Disclosable Pecuniary Interests provide written notification to the Authority's Monitoring Officer.

You will find the contents of the agenda itemised on page 2.

Yours faithfully



Solicitor to the Council & Monitoring Officer



**We speak your language**  
Polish **Mówimy Twoim językiem**  
Slovak **Rozprávame Vaším jazykom**  
Chinese **我们会说你的语言**

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or another format please call us on 01246 217753**

If you require an adjustment to enable you to participate in or access the meeting please contact the Governance Team at least 72 hours before the meeting starts.

## EXECUTIVE

### AGENDA

**Monday, 8th August, 2022 at 10:00 hours taking place in the Council Chamber,  
The Arc, Clowne**

Item No.		Page No.(s)
1.	<b>Apologies For Absence</b>	
2.	<b>Urgent Items of Business</b>	
	To note any urgent items of business which the Chairman has consented to being considered under the provisions of Section 100(B) 4(b) of the Local Government Act 1972.	
3.	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
	Members should declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and Non Statutory Interest as defined by the Members' Code of Conduct in respect of:	
	a) any business on the agenda	
	b) any urgent additional items to be considered	
	c) any matters arising out of those items	
	and if appropriate, withdraw from the meeting at the relevant time.	
4.	<b>Minutes</b>	
	To consider the minutes of the last meeting held on 11 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	<b>To Follow</b>
	<b><u>MATTERS REFERRED FROM SCRUTINY</u></b>	
5.	<b>Review of Voluntary &amp; Community Sector Grant Allocations</b>	3 - 49
	<b><u>BUDGET &amp; POLICY FRAMEWORK ITEMS</u></b>	
6.	<b>Corporate Debt - 2021/22</b>	50 - 56
	<b><u>KEY DECISIONS</u></b>	
7.	<b>Review of Fly Tipping Enforcement and Environmental Fixed Penalty Notice Fees</b>	57 - 66
8.	<b>Derbyshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-2027</b>	67 - 98

**Bolsover District Council**

**Meeting of the Executive on Monday 8th August 2022**

**Review of Voluntary & Community Sector Grant Allocations**

**Report of the Chair of Climate Change & Communities Scrutiny Committee**

<b>Classification</b>	This report is Public
<b>Report By</b>	Joanne Wilson, Scrutiny & Elections Officer, 01246 242385, <a href="mailto:joanne.wilson@bolsover.gov.uk">joanne.wilson@bolsover.gov.uk</a>
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Joanne Wilson, Scrutiny & Elections Officer, 01246 242385, <a href="mailto:joanne.wilson@bolsover.gov.uk">joanne.wilson@bolsover.gov.uk</a>

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT**

- To present to Executive the completed report for the recent Review of Voluntary & community Sector Grant Allocations.

**REPORT DETAILS**

**1. Background**

- 1.1 The Climate Change & Communities Scrutiny Committee agreed to undertake a Review of Voluntary & Community Sector Grant Allocations, as part of the 2021-22 Work Programme.
- 1.2 The suggestion came direct from the Executive and Partnerships Team and Members agreed to consider this alongside other work carried over from the previous year.
- 1.3 The last review of the programme took place in 2013/14. As such the service felt it was timely to review the whole process to ensure it is current; meets the needs of the sector; meets the ambitions of the Council; and if the allocation to any of these organisations needs to alter, given the current climate and anticipated needs emerging in our communities. It was noted that to-date, all organisations have provided an excellent service and incredible value for money based on the evaluation of investments.
- 1.4 Within the process of the review, the Committee has taken into account the potential impact of any changes to the current scheme in terms of the impact on the sector. It is essential as stated in section 1 that the Council complies with its Best Value Duty when progressing changes to current policies and procedures in terms of grant allocations to the sector. This is addressed further in section 5.

## **2. Details of Proposal or Information**

2.1 The aim of the review was:

- To ensure the VCS Grant Allocation Programme remains fit for purpose, value for money, and sustainable.

2.2 The objectives agreed were:

- Review existing SLAs and allocations, including how they support delivery of the current Council Ambitions.
- Analysis of integration of VCS Grant Programme with additional VCS contracts.
- Analysis of BDC Grant Allocation against other funding received
- Assessment of existing performance monitoring – is the SROI method the best approach

2.3 The key issues identified for investigation were as follows:

- The existing scheme is not a result of open commissioning of providers to deliver outcomes on behalf of the Council.
- Lack of change in grant recipients – there has been no recent assessment of whether the current amounts allocated are still adequate and that the organisation that the Council is engaging with are best placed to meet our needs.
- Value for money of existing grant levels and consideration of any adjustments
- Potential for duplication/double funding
- Gaps in delivery as a result of the pandemic that cannot be addressed through core service delivery or existing VCS Grants.

2.4 The Committee met on six occasions in total and sought evidence by way of:

- Internal enquiries to establish existing procedures used by the Partnerships Team and analysis of recent monitoring reports;
- External enquiry to establish approaches to VCS Grant Allocations across East Midlands authorities. This was supplemented by additional web-based research of neighbouring authorities schemes due to low response rate;
- Survey of Parish Councils to establish which had grants schemes in place and whether any duplication could be identified
- Brief survey with current recipients assessing how they meet the Councils Ambitions and Priorities.

## **3. Reasons for Recommendation**

3.1 The Committee have put together twelve recommendations which will hopefully assist the Council in ensuring grant allocations to the voluntary and community sector are transparent; have clear outcomes and monitoring arrangements and meet the current needs of the Council and local residents.

3.2 The key findings arising from the review are:

- The review has proved both timely and invaluable in identifying potential duplication and assessing the advantages/disadvantages of different allocation processes.
- A refreshed approach to centralising grant allocations will ensure better communication between service areas and eliminate duplication.
- That the use of SROI as an evaluation tool gives the Council a clear indication of value for money on the investment made. While our existing mechanism of calculating this via the HACT model achieves this, it is clear that evaluation tools have significantly advanced and it is an appropriate juncture for the Council to look to use a more advanced evaluation tool.
- That existing reporting mechanisms are sufficient and will be further strengthened by the ability to create more detailed evaluation reports using the new software.

#### **4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 4.1 Given the length of time since the previous review of grant allocations and the increased pressures on Council finances, the option to not review current processes and allocations is unsustainable.
- 4.2 Executive could choose not to endorse the recommendations of the review, where they feel the course of action recommended is beyond the delivery capacity of the Authority.

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#### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

1. That the Executive endorses the recommendations of the review outlined in section 2 of the attached report.
2. That for recommendations approved by Executive, monitoring by Committee takes place over a twelve month period via the PERFORM system with an update report to Committee at the end of the monitoring period.

**IMPLICATIONS:**

**Finance and Risk:**            Yes             No

**Details:**

None from this report. Clarification of the revised allocation process and any new grant allocations for 2023/24 will be presented in a future report.

On behalf of the Section 151 Officer

**Legal (including Data Protection):**            Yes             No

**Details:**

In carrying out scrutiny reviews the Council is exercising its scrutiny powers as laid out in s.21 of the Local Government Act 2000 and subsequent legislation which added/amended these powers e.g. the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

The Council has a statutory duty under s.149 Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity and to eliminate discrimination.

On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

**Staffing:**            Yes             No

**Details:**

There are no staffing implications from this report.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

**DECISION INFORMATION**

<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:  <b>Revenue - £75,000</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Capital - £150,000</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
<b>Is the decision subject to Call-In?</b> <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i>	No

<b>District Wards Significantly Affected</b>	None
<b>Consultation:</b> <b>Leader / Deputy Leader</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Executive</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>SLT</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Relevant Service Manager</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Members</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Public</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes  Details: Relevant Service Managers and Portfolio Holder engaged during the review process.

**Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy and Environment.**

The review supports the Corporate Ambition of 'Customers' and the Priorities of 'Actively engaging with partners to benefit our customers' and 'Promoting equality and diversity and supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged people', but does not link directly to any Corporate Targets.

**DOCUMENT INFORMATION**

<b>Appendix No</b>	<b>Title</b>
5.1	Review of VCS Grants FINAL

**Background Papers**

*(These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Executive you must provide copies of the background papers).*

Please contact Scrutiny & Elections Officer where further information is required.



**Review of Voluntary & Community  
Sector Grant Allocations  
August 2021 – April 2022  
CLIMATE CHANGE & COMMUNITIES  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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## Chair's Foreword

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While the nature of this review has been quite different to those addressed previously by Committee, Members welcomed the challenge of reviewing such a vital service area. The review has resulted in many detailed discussions about both our current approach and potential ways of future delivery based on the research we carried out of neighbouring authorities.

During the course of the review, Members have identified various issues which required further investigation, extending the timescales of the review. However, given the nature of our recommendations and the impact anticipated as a result of the review, Members feel it has been right to take sufficient time to ensure robust evidence-based recommendations are put forward for implementation.

We look forward to seeing the impacts of the review on our approach to partnership delivery of vital services to our more vulnerable residents, and to our approach of evaluating the impact of our investments.

**Cllr Nick Clarke**  
**Chair of the Climate Change & Communities Scrutiny Committee**

## 1. Introduction

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As part of the call for review suggestions for 2021-22 municipal year, Members of the Climate Change & Communities Scrutiny Committee were presented with the suggestion of reviewing our approach to the allocation of Voluntary & Community Sector Grants. The suggestion came direct from the Executive and Partnerships Team and Members agreed to consider this alongside other work carried over from the previous year.

### 1.1 Our current process

**Our current allocation process and how we promote the grant funding, including any criteria applicants must meet.**

Bolsover District Council has awarded grants to third sector/voluntary organisations over a number of years, each receiving an agreed amount annually to support the objectives of that organisation.

The current grants given to voluntary organisations have been the same organisations for a number of years, previously administered by a different department, how this was allocated has not been clear due to historical records and processes. The Executive and Partnership Team became responsible for managing the grants some time ago and developed and implemented a performance monitoring framework for the allocations given, including service level agreements and monitoring forms. Over the recent year (2020-21) voluntary and community sector organisations have come under immense pressure and a number of them have recently been requesting additional funds.

The last review of the programme took place in 2013/14. As such the service felt it was timely to review the whole process to ensure it is current; meets the needs of the sector; meets the ambitions of the Council; and if the allocation to any of these organisations needs to alter, given the current climate and anticipated needs emerging in our communities. It was noted that to-date, all organisations have provided an excellent service and incredible value for money based on the evaluation of investments.

## Current recipients and outcomes achieved

Current grant recipients include:

- Derbyshire Law Centre
- Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre
- Groundwork
- Junction Arts
- North East Derbyshire Citizens Advice Bureau
- Rural Action Derbyshire
- Trade Union Safety Team

The table below shows the annual financial contribution and the Social Return on Investment (SROI) for each financial year – the estimated value of outcomes by individual organisations achieved through the services provided (N.B. within this analysis it is known that other funding of each organisation has contributed to the outcomes achieved; the Council's investment is not therefore 100% attributable).

Organisation	Annual Award	SROI 2014/ 15	SROI 2015/ 16	SROI 2016/ 17	SROI 2017/ 18	SROI 2018/ 19	SROI 2019/ 20	SROI 2020/21
Derbyshire Law Centre	£18,000	£967,829	£1,206,724	£459,413	£471,664	£496,165	£373,655	£578,860
Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre	£19,900	£422,541	£564,027	£611,972	£712,173	£730,608	£890,279	£1,306,592
Groundwork	£13,600	£31,968	£31,032	£45,288	£24,408	£57,492	£252,787	n/a – award ceased
Junction Arts	£16,000	£135,231	£172,950	£151,978	£135,354	£163,610	£133,155	£754,746
North East Derbyshire Citizens Advice Bureau	£42,230	£1,860,577	£1,995,379	£1,495,602	£1,496,421	£1,261,557	£1,285,724	£970,252
Rural Action Derbyshire	£2,265	£345,112	£287,386	£70,074	£165,483	£402,821	£349,816	£79,797
Trade Union Safety Team	£3,650	£476,941	£535,022	£616,649	£135,383	£242,537	£178,623	£106,386

## Clarification of the current monitoring process

The monitoring of outcomes currently takes place six-monthly and annually dependent on the size of the allocation given. Any allocations under £10,000 are monitored yearly, those above £10,000 are six-monthly. This consists of output and outcome measures such as 'number of residents supported from the Bolsover District' as an example, and these are dependent on the organisation and what they provide. The service level agreements with the organisations also acknowledge which of the Council aims the work supports.

The outcomes and outputs achieved are allocated a Social Return on Investment (SROI) value where appropriate and this is calculated within the Executive and Partnership Team to demonstrate a pound for pound ratio of social outcomes achieved as a result of the Council grant. This is currently reported in the biannual and annual Bolsover Partnership performance reports, but not directly within budget monitoring reports.

## 1.2 Comparison with neighbouring authorities across the East Midlands

An information request was sent out to the East Midlands Scrutiny Network to ascertain the current approaches within the region. Councils were asked:

- *Does your local authority run a VCS grants budget?*
- *What is your current budget allocation for this?*
- *How do VCS organisations access the grant scheme – is it via a commissioning process or general application (first come, first served)?*
- *Do you publicise your scheme, and if so what mechanisms do you use?*

Unfortunately, while this is usually a useful method of gathering benchmarking data, on this occasion there was no response.

A quick internet search has shown that many neighbouring councils are using an application-style process for grant schemes that they run, even where the grant is as little as £500(max). As such if Bolsover DC were to choose not to alter their current approach to grant funding, then a clear evidence-based allocation process would be needed to justify the decision processes for all future grants and the service level agreements negotiated.

As part of the research Members looked at a similar review completed by Bassetlaw DC back in 2016 and were able to learn from their approach to creating a revised clear set of criteria for the scheme and revised application and evaluation process for applicants.

In some cases there has been a move to stop providing Grant Aid and a move to a commissioning model. A commissioning and funding framework improves transparency in the process, and would allow the Council the flexibility to re-direct funding to newly identified areas of need in the community.

Authorities researched included:

<p>Chesterfield Borough Council</p>	<p><a href="https://www.chesterfield.gov.uk/home/latest-news/vital-funding-for-community-groups-confirmed.aspx">https://www.chesterfield.gov.uk/home/latest-news/vital-funding-for-community-groups-confirmed.aspx</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.chesterfield.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-permission-and-development-management/community-infrastructure-levy/community-infrastructure-levy-funding.aspx">https://www.chesterfield.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-permission-and-development-management/community-infrastructure-levy/community-infrastructure-levy-funding.aspx</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.chesterfield.gov.uk/your-council/coronavirus-information-hub/community-support-information.aspx">https://www.chesterfield.gov.uk/your-council/coronavirus-information-hub/community-support-information.aspx</a></p>
<p>Mansfield District Council</p>	<p><a href="https://www.mansfield.gov.uk/finance/grant-aid-1">https://www.mansfield.gov.uk/finance/grant-aid-1</a></p>
<p>Newark &amp; Sherwood District Council</p>	<p><a href="https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/grantsandawards/">https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/grantsandawards/</a></p>
<p>Bassetlaw District Council</p>	<p><a href="https://data.bassetlaw.gov.uk/council-grant-aid-programme/voluntary-community-grants/">https://data.bassetlaw.gov.uk/council-grant-aid-programme/voluntary-community-grants/</a></p>
<p>North East Derbyshire District Council</p>	<p><a href="https://www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk/community/community-action-grants">https://www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk/community/community-action-grants</a></p>

### 1.3 Meeting our Best Value Duty

If the Council is to vary its major grants budgets, it will need to take into account its Best Value Duties as set out in the Statutory Guidance.

The Guidance clearly states that:

- ‘5. *Authorities should be responsive to the benefits and needs of voluntary and community sector organisations of all sizes.....*
  
- 7. *Authorities should avoid passing on disproportionate reductions – by not passing on larger reductions to the voluntary and community sector and small businesses as a whole, than they take on themselves and in particular:...*
  - *An Authority intending to reduce or end funding (where ‘funding’ means both grant funding or any fixed term contract) or other support to a voluntary and community organisation or small business should give at least three months’ notice of the actual reduction<sup>1</sup> to both the organisation involved and the public/services users.*
  
  - *An Authority should actively engage the organisation and service users as early as possible before making a decision on the future of*

<sup>1</sup> Where on the basis of past practice the organisation might have some basis for expecting the funding or contract to be continued.

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*the service; any knock on effect on assets used to provide this service; and the wider impact on the local community.*

- *Authorities should make provision for the organisation, service users, and wider community to put forward options on how to re-shape the service or project. Local authorities should assist this by making available all appropriate information, in line with the Government's transparency agenda.'*

In order to achieve a proportionate approach to any changes in our grant allocation process, the Council are '*under a Duty to Consult<sup>2</sup> representatives of a wide range of local persons*'. As outlined in point 3 of the Best Value guidance:

*'....Authorities should include local voluntary and community organisations and small businesses in such consultation. This should apply at all stages of the commissioning cycle, including when considering the decommissioning of services. ....'*

As such, following completion of this review, further engagement will be needed with the sector, to ensure they understand the reasons for the review and any recommendations for improvement in the Grant Allocation Scheme.

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<sup>2</sup> Section 3(2) of the Local Government Act 1999.

## 2. Recommendations

PERFORM Code	Recommendation	Desired Outcome	Target Date	Lead Officer	Resources	Service Response
CCCSC21-22 2.1	That further communication takes place as part of the refresh of the allocation scheme to ensure new contracts are aligned to the Council's new Ambitions and Priorities, in order for VCS organisations to submit valid applications.	Greater knowledge and understanding of Council Ambitions and Priorities by VCS partners	Aug 22 - Dec 22	Executive and Partnerships Team	Officer time	Due to a clash in timings of the Ambition refresh and negotiation of annual contracts, the opportunity to refresh existing SLAs was missed. This can easily be rectified as part of the development of the new allocation process. This will also be incorporated in to future allocations post local elections in 2023 when new priorities will start to be

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PERFORM Code	Recommendation	Desired Outcome	Target Date	Lead Officer	Resources	Service Response
						developed for 2024 onwards.
CCCSC21-22 2.2	That as part of any revised allocation scheme, the additional areas outlined in the report are listed as areas the Council wishes to see additional local delivery via grant allocation, and that the revised scheme remains flexible to accommodate emerging issues.	Wider scope to impact of VCS grants following the pandemic and current financial/social impacts.	Aug 22 -Dec 22	Executive and Partnerships Team	Officer time	This can easily be incorporated in to any new scheme developed. It may be that a number of the areas identified can be addressed via incorporation to targeted approaches to advice and guidance
CCCSC21-22 2.3	That BDC move to a commissioning process outlining set clear areas of delivery which assist achievement of BDC Ambitions and Priorities, with local organisations able to tender for contracts/SLAs.	Establish an allocation process for VCS grants that eliminates any possible duplication.  This should be an annual process allowing flexibility for amendment if required during	Aug 22 - Dec 22	Executive and Partnerships Team	Officer time	The service could accommodate either an application form style scheme or a full commissioning approach and are happy to look to implement

PERFORM Code	Recommendation	Desired Outcome	Target Date	Lead Officer	Resources	Service Response
		the delivery and monitoring phase.				whichever solution Members feel would be the best solution. Service experience tells us that a commissioning approach is more robust and allows the greatest flexibility should a contract need to be varied during the delivery/ monitoring phase.
CCCSC21-22 2.4	That following the review, a consultation process takes place with existing recipients and wider sector on the proposed changes to allocation, as required by the Best Value Guidance.	Compliance with the Councils Best Value Duty and engagement of VCS partners in the development of the new Allocation Scheme.	Jan 2023	Executive and Partnerships Team	Officer time	This would be standard practice by the service for any significant changes to the scheme, and is essential to remain

PERFORM Code	Recommendation	Desired Outcome	Target Date	Lead Officer	Resources	Service Response
						compliant. Ensuring full engagement and buy-in from key contacts in the sector will be crucial to the success of the revised scheme.
CCCSC21-22 2.5	That the current contract with a VCS Infrastructure provider is extended and integrated in to the wider VCS grants allocation process, to ensure all grants and monitoring are centralised.	Continued support to VCS organisations and streamlined internal monitoring.	July 22	Executive and Partnerships Team	Officer time	This has been completed during the course of the review due to a requirement to address the expiring contract. The current contract has been extended for a further 3yr period to allow current infrastructure development to continue. The contract is performance based enabling

PERFORM Code	Recommendation	Desired Outcome	Target Date	Lead Officer	Resources	Service Response
						release of funding based on achievement of agreed outcomes.
CCCSC21-22 2.6	That other VCS grants from across the Council are incorporated in to the main VCS Grants process, in compliance with the HRA ring-fence where required, to centralise allocation and monitoring, with appropriate involvement of services outside of the Executive and Partnerships team in relation to monitoring of any grants.	Reduced duplication of funding; streamlined monitoring function; improved communication between service areas.	Aug 22 – Mar 23 – development of revised scheme.  Monitoring from Apr 23 onwards	Executive and Partnerships Team  Assistant Director of Housing Management & Enforcement  Finance team	Officer time	While the review has predominantly found duplication linked to Housing services, it will be of greater benefit to ensure this recommendation is widened to all VCS grant allocations council-wide to ensure there is one central process.
CCCSC21-22 2.7	That the Council clearly define set allocations to a single organisation for the following areas of delivery to avoid any further chance of duplication:	Reduced duplication of funding; streamlined monitoring function; clearly	Mar 23	Executive and Partnerships Team	Officer time  Revised grant allocation	This can be incorporated as part of the revised scheme developed.

PERFORM Code	Recommendation	Desired Outcome	Target Date	Lead Officer	Resources	Service Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Debt advice/benefits claim support</li> <li>Employment advice/case support</li> <li>Housing advice/case work – General housing/homelessness (General Fund)</li> <li>Housing advice/case work – Council tenants (HRA Fund)</li> </ul>	defined delivery outcomes for grant recipients.		Assistant Director of Housing Management & Enforcement	guidance/criteria	
CCCSC21-22 2.8	That the new process includes a clear section where applicants must declare other funding and evidence there is no duplication.	Reduced chance of duplication of funding.	Jan 23 – Mar 23	Executive and Partnerships Team	Officer time (production/processing of form)	This is undertaken as part of the existing SLA negotiations and would be an essential part of any revised process.
CCCSC21-22 2.9	That consideration be given to the Council negotiating positions as a representative on the management committee of grant recipients, to ensure there is transparency for the duration of the grant period.	Greater transparency over spend, monitoring and identification of duplication of funding.	Apr 23 onwards	Executive and Partnerships Team	Officer time Member time	A number of the current organisations in receipt of grant already have a representative of the Executive linked to the organisation. See current

PERFORM Code	Recommendation	Desired Outcome	Target Date	Lead Officer	Resources	Service Response
						Appointments to Outside Bodies (Executive Functions). This Appointments list can be reviewed once the new grant allocations have been agreed.
CCCSC21-22 2.10	That Officers ensure the procurement process for a SV calculator tool takes in to account the criteria identified by Members during the review process.	Procurement process meets Members requirements in relation to mitigating potential risks associated with software procurement	May 2022	Executive and Partnerships Team  Development Team	Officer time	This was completed during the course of the review with the criteria agreed by Members forming part of the RFQ for the procurement of the evaluation tool.
CCCSC21-22 2.11	That the Council completes the required procurement process for an improved social value evaluation tool which will support improved analysis and reporting functions, and enable wider	Procurement of enhanced social value calculator tool to enable Council to embed social value	May 2022	Executive and Partnerships Team  Development Team	Officer time	Procurement process complete in May 2022. Initial training and roll-out of software

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<b>PERFORM Code</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Desired Outcome</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Service Response</b>
	use across multiple service areas and by external partners.	analysis across all services areas.				to commence in July 2022.
CCCSC21-22 2.12	That performance reports for the VCS allocations be submitted to Executive/Council on a six-monthly basis, with periodic attendance of the individual recipients.	Enhanced monitoring of outcomes, greater interaction with grant recipients; improved transparency of monitoring within Council governance structure.	Oct 22 onwards	Executive and Partnerships Team	Officer time VCS partner time (attendance )	Current reporting is via the Bolsover Partnership Annual Reports to Executive and Council on a bi-annual basis.

### 3. Scope of the review

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The Climate Change & Communities Scrutiny Committee agreed to undertake a Review of Voluntary & Community Sector Grant Allocations, as part of the 2021/22 Work Programme.

The issue was initially raised via a service suggestion from the Executive and Partnerships Team due to length of time since this operational area was last reviewed and changing circumstances in the sector due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The review supports the Corporate Ambition of 'Customers' and the Priorities of 'Actively engaging with partners to benefit our customers' and 'Promoting equality and diversity and supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged people', but does not link directly to any Corporate Targets.

The aim of the review was:

- To ensure the VCS Grant Allocation Programme remains fit for purpose, value for money, and sustainable.

The objectives agreed were:

- Review existing SLAs and allocations, including how they support delivery of the current Council Ambitions.
- Analysis of integration of VCS Grant Programme with additional VCS contracts.
- Analysis of BDC Grant Allocation against other funding received
- Assessment of existing performance monitoring – is the SROI method the best approach

The key issues identified for investigation were as follows:

- The existing scheme is not a result of open commissioning of providers to deliver outcomes on behalf of the Council.
- Lack of change in grant recipients – there has been no recent assessment of whether the current amounts allocated are still adequate and that the organisation that the Council is engaging with are best placed to meet our needs.
- Value for money of existing grant levels and consideration of any adjustments
- Potential for duplication/double funding
- Gaps in delivery as a result of the pandemic that cannot be addressed through core service delivery or existing VCS Grants.

The Committee comprised the following Members:

Councillor N. Clarke (Chair)	Councillor A. Clarke (Vice-Chair)
Councillor J. Tait	Councillor D. Salt
Councillor E. Parkin	Councillor D. Bullock
Councillor D. Dixon	

Support to the Committee was provided by the Scrutiny & Elections Officer.

## 4. Method of Review

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The Committee met on six occasions to consider the scope of the review, key issues they wanted to discuss and to carry out interviews and evidence gathering.

The Committee sought evidence by way of:

- Internal enquiries to establish existing procedures used by the Partnerships Team and analysis of recent monitoring reports;
- External enquiry to establish approaches to VCS Grant Allocations across East Midlands authorities. This was supplemented by additional web-based research of neighbouring authorities schemes due to low response rate;
- Survey of Parish Councils to establish which had grants schemes in place and whether any duplication could be identified
- Brief survey with current recipients assessing how they meet the Councils Ambitions and Priorities.

A document review was completed of the following as part of the evidence gathering process:

- Summary of outcomes from existing grants 2014-2021
- Interim Monitoring Reports Q1/Q2 2021/22
- Review of Bassetlaw CVS contract and monitoring reports
- Bolsover Partnership Monitoring Reports
- Revised Best Value Statutory Guidance
- Derbyshire Compact

### **Equality and Diversity**

Within the process of the review, the Committee has taken into account the potential impact of any changes to the current scheme in terms of the impact on the sector. It is essential as stated in section 1 that the Council complies with its Best Value Duty when progressing changes to current policies and procedures in terms of grant allocations to the sector. This is addressed further in section 5.

## 5. Analysis of evidence and key findings

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### 5.1 Review existing SLAs and allocations, including how they support delivery of the current Council Ambitions.

#### Alignment to Council Ambitions

On assessing the existing outcomes that have been agreed with each organisation through SLAs, it was apparent that the SLAs linked to old Aims and Priorities and this therefore needed to be addressed.

As part of the review process a summary sheet of the current BDC Council Ambitions and Priorities was produced. A brief exercise was completed to try and match existing recipients and to the Ambitions and Priorities, based on the outputs in the current SLAs. An additional stage was then completed asking the organisations themselves to determine which areas they felt their work supported (see Appendix 4).

The responses received from partner organisations did not entirely match to the Members analysis of the SLA requirements. This indicates that there is potential misunderstanding in relation to the revised Ambitions and Priorities of the Council. It has also become apparent that due to the timing of refreshing the Council Ambitions, the agreement of refreshed SLAs for 2020/21 was based on old priorities. Furthermore, an opportunity to amend the SLAs for 2021/22 to link with the new Ambitions/Priorities was missed.

#### Recommendation:

**That further communication takes place as part of the refresh of the allocation scheme to ensure new contracts are aligned to the Council's new Ambitions and Priorities in order to submit valid applications.**

#### Potential additional areas of delivery

Added to this, Members discussed the current issues communities were facing post-pandemic and have agreed the following additional priority areas, which could be supported through a partnership approach with the voluntary and community sector:

- Impact of Covid – health/mental health, debt, employment implications leading to increased service demand
- Impact of welfare changes – increased service demand
- Anticipated rise in utility costs – impact on debt, housing
- Foodbank provision – sustainability of service, ability to cope with increased demand.

The first three areas to some extent highlight that extra consideration needs to be given to the provisions/outcomes of our existing grants, as a number of them relate

to these areas of delivery. It may be that once current demand is reviewed, that the Council needs to consider the amounts allocated for such support.

**Recommendation:**

**That as part of any revised allocation scheme, the additional areas outlined in the report are listed as areas the Council wishes to see additional local delivery via grant allocation, and that the revised scheme remains flexible to accommodate emerging issues.**

**Analysis of our allocation process**

A range of other local authorities have been researched, as noted in section 1, and a number of application forms have been found which could aid the Council in production of a similar form and application process. Given the size of the grants currently allocated, Members feel that greater transparency as to the amount allocated and desired outcomes to be achieved would be an improvement. This is particularly vital now, as we move to increased pressures on budgets in the current financial climate.

On further discussion with officers from the Executive and Partnership team, it became clear that through their experience of managing a range of funding streams over the last 20 years that a commissioning process based on evidence of need was far beneficial to a process where organisations are bidding for funding in competition. Officers felt a commissioning approach created greater sustainability and a legacy to the objectives delivered. Past funding streams that had used a bidding process tended to result in time-limited outcomes specific to the period of the grant, without the desired longer-term impact

Members also considered the potential for an extended contract period of 2-3 years which could enable greater stability for both the organisation and the sector. Advice from Finance officers was that while there was nothing official to stop this from happening, it may not be prudent to commit large amounts of expenditure for future years, given that local government funding is currently uncertain. Should the Council find themselves in a position where we had to cut expenditure because our own position made it necessary and we'd committed non-salary expenditure for a number of years our only option in that case would be to cut salary costs. That is not something Members or senior officers would want to do as it creates additional risk to service delivery. It was agreed that allocation on an annual basis, as per the current scheme, with regular monitoring enabled sufficient flexibility to adapt allocations based on both performance and evidence of increased service demand.

**Recommendation:**

**That BDC move to a commissioning process outlining set clear areas of delivery which assist achievement of BDC Ambitions and Priorities, with local organisations able to tender for contracts/SLAs.**

As discussed in section 1, any changes the Council makes to its current process will require consultation with the sector as to how they can be supported to engage with the revised grant funding process. There will also need to be further work to define the outcomes to be achieved from each contract.

**Recommendation:**

**That following the review, a consultation process takes places with existing recipients and wider sector on the proposed changes to allocation, as required by the Best Value Guidance.**

## **5.2 Analysis of integration of VCS Grant Programme with additional VCS contracts.**

### **VCS Infrastructure Support**

Members considered the current contract with BCVS including:

- Monitoring Return (spreadsheet for 3 years – just started the third year 2021/22)
- Latest progress report (Jul-Sep)
- Tender specification and response

Members were satisfied that the outcomes of the grant to BCVS were clear and acknowledged that operational issues early on in the contract now seemed to be resolved.

A key concern for Members was around sustainability of the support being provided and whether sufficient capacity has been built within the District to replace that lost when Bolsover Community Voluntary Partners (CVP) ceased. If there is insufficient capacity, Members have considered whether the SLA with BCVS needs to continue in some form, or a revised contract with another VCS Infrastructure provider is required, and if so, whether this should be integrated to the wider VCS Grants allocation.

**Recommendation:**

**That the current contract with a VCS Infrastructure provider is extended and integrated in to the wider VCS grants allocation process, to ensure all grants and monitoring are centralised.**

### **Additional BDC Grants/Potential duplication**

On completing a search of the finance system, it transpired that Housing Services had an additional contract with Derbyshire Law Centre (DLC) for approximately £34,000. Around two thirds of this allocation seems to be a long-standing agreement and potentially requires review and a more formal arrangement. The funding covers:

- Homeless prevention/Homeless Reduction Act cases – £10K per year
- Court duty desk – this covers rent and mortgage cases, £12K per year
- Disrepair – a joint-funded post with NEDDC and BDC for a disrepair solicitor, £12K per year (this is new as of this year, the others are longstanding arrangements)

When comparing against the outcomes required as part of the SLA for the core grants allocation, DLC are also required to have 50% of the cases for Bolsover linked to Housing. It is not clear if any cases counted for the core grant are in fact double counted, as a result of the additional monies from Housing Services. To avoid any question of double counting of outcomes, Members agree it is essential that only one grant for housing casework support is made going forward and that a commissioned service for such provision may be a more transparent approach.

Furthermore the current grant to North East Derbyshire Citizens' Advice Bureau (NEDCAB) is in fact made up of contributions from both General Fund (Partnerships Team budget) and HRA (Housing services). There is concern here as there is no negotiation with Housing services for the outcomes delivered or direct monitoring information. There is also a chance that this duplicates the grant to DLC for housing related casework. Members questioned if there was sufficient workload to fund this at both agencies.

The following table summarises the current allocations linked to advice and guidance services. This represents a large percentage of the overall grant allocations currently given by the Council:

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<b>Grants for Advice and Guidance</b>			
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>BDC Funding source</b>
DLC	18000	No. of enquiries from Bolsover residents	General Fund - Partnerships
		No. of cases from Bolsover residents (50% of cases housing related; 50% of cases employment, debt and immigration)	
		Deliver 2 marketing campaigns to raise profile of DLC and services offered	
		<i>PLUS</i>	
	10000	Homeless prevention/Homeless Reduction Act	General Fund - Housing
	12000	Court Duty desk (rent/mortgage cases)	General Fund - Housing
	12000	Disrepair solicitor	General Fund - Housing
NEDCAB	42230	Support a minimum of 5500 debt/benefit enquiries	19000 General Fund - Partnerships; 23,230 HRA
		750 housing enquiries (with 157 given advice on homelessness)	
		350 volunteer hours	
DUWC	19900	150 Appeals tribunals (Secure £200k in lump sum arrears for Appeals tribunals; Secure £250k in additional ongoing weekly payments from Appeals tribunals)	General Fund - Partnerships
		2000 people advised from within Bolsover area (Secure £250k from advice work at Shirebrook Office and Outreach)	
		2 volunteers recruited or retained delivering 1000hrs per year (last couple of updates does not show number of hours?)	
		2 Strategic meetings	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>114130</b>		

One way of ensuring there is no opportunity for duplication in the future would be to define that we will offer set allocations to a single organisation for specific delivery. This could then be dealt with by either an application form process whereby the agency outlines how they would deliver, or via a more formal commissioning process

**Recommendations:**

**That other VCS grants from across the Council are incorporated in to the main VCS Grants process, in compliance with the HRA ring-fence where required, to centralise allocation and monitoring, with appropriate involvement of services**

outside of the Executive and Partnerships team in relation to monitoring of any grants.

That the Council clearly define set allocations to a single organisation for the following areas of delivery to avoid any further chance of duplication:

- Debt advice/benefits claim support
- Employment advice/case support
- Housing advice/case work – General housing/homelessness (General Fund)
- Housing advice/case work – Council tenants (HRA Fund)

### 5.3 Analysis of BDC Grant Allocation against other funding received

#### Comparison with Parish Council Grant Schemes

As outlined in Appendix 3, a survey of all 17 parishes was completed in November 2021 to establish alternative funding sources that may be available and also to identify any potential duplication with our existing grant recipients:

*The Climate Change & Communities Scrutiny Committee is currently reviewing our approach to voluntary and community sector funding/grants. Members are interested to know if your Parish Council runs a system where your Parish Cllrs receive a small budget to allocate to local organisations. If this is the case, could you clarify which local organisations receive funding from the Parish as we are trying to ensure there is no duplication of funding by the District Council?*

*Members are also conscious that the pandemic has significantly changed local need for a number of groups and would like to ensure that any future approaches to funding accommodates this. As such Members would be interested to know if your Parish has been approached by any specific local organisations seeking additional funding to deliver services as a result of resource pressures they are facing. Finally, if you are unable to provide funding support from the Parish, do you signpost the organisation elsewhere?*

*Members appreciate that Parishes are often a first point of contact and would welcome your input.*

Responses received from Clowne Parish Council; Blackwell Parish Council and Whitwell Parish Council. No duplication of funding was found and all Parishes responded regularly signposted contacts to other agencies better placed to support with advice, guidance and additional funding. In addition, all parishes used an application form style scheme requiring clear outcomes to be delivered and clarity around other funding, even for the small amounts of grant available. As such, as mentioned above in section 5.1 it seems pertinent that the Council moves to a more

robust allocation process with a clear application form and appraisal process or a commissioning style approach.

**Recommendation:**

**That BDC move to a commissioning process outlining set clear areas of delivery which assist achievement of BDC Ambitions and Priorities, with local organisations able to tender for contracts/SLAs.**

**Analysis of Monitoring Reports**

The information gathered for the first two quarters of 2021/22 shows that a number of the recipients have secured additional monies to support their work as a result of the capacity created by our grant support.

As noted in section 5.2, there is potential overlap with monies to DLC particularly in relation to housing related casework. However, their last report shows they have secured a substantial additional grant to support housing disrepair work which brings in to question whether the amount from BDC needs to remain as high.

DUWC have recently reduced their staffing due to reductions in core funding from local authorities (not including BDC) and rely more on volunteers. They point out the potential rise in service demand as a result in changes to Universal Credit. They have secured additional funding over the next 3 years from a charity to support further promotion of DUWC services and extra support to volunteers. Again this needs to be taken in to consideration with any redesign of the Grant Allocation Scheme and level of grant agreed and it will be crucial that this information can be captured from agencies applying for funding/bidding for contracts.

**Recommendation:**

**That the new process includes a clear section where applicants must declare other funding and evidence there is no duplication.**

**That consideration be given to the Council negotiating positions as a representative on the management committee of grant recipients, to ensure there is transparency for the duration of the grant period.**

**5.4 Assessment of existing performance monitoring – is the SROI method the best approach?**

Within the current monitoring process, there are regular audits of the grant recipients to check that the outputs being reported relate to Bolsover residents. This is a crucial element of all current service level agreements related to VCS grants, in order to ensure the benefit of the investment is seen within the District.

The Executive and Partnerships Team were the first section within the authority to trial evaluating the social value outcomes of programmes and investments, initially using an in-house approach. This was then replaced with the adoption of the HACT<sup>3</sup> model through the UK Social Value Bank, which was used successfully when delivering the NG20 Programme in Shirebrook. A limitation to the approach was found unexpectedly however, when the Executive and Partnerships Team trialled using the HACT model with partners, it did not lend itself to be compatible across multiple organisations.

As use of this evaluation method has developed within BDC over the last few years, external software providers have been slower to create a system that would meet a corporate way of analysing social value. However, as local authorities have developed their approaches to social value as a result of the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 which came into force in January 2013, forming policies/strategies and reviewing their procurement/commissioning processes, development of other evaluation tools/software has accelerated.

During the course of the review it transpired that there was overlap with the review being completed by Local Growth Scrutiny – Review of Integration of Social Value to BDC Policy and Delivery. This review was also looking at options for evaluation of social value outcomes. On further investigation of the review by Local Growth Scrutiny, it was clear an initial exercise had been completed by officers within Development and the Executive and Partnerships Team to review 3 different software/evaluation systems.

Members received a demonstration of one of the systems and saw first-hand the range of reporting options, analysis potential and how this compared with the current HACT model used by the Executive and Partnerships Team. The system demonstrated also had greater potential for use by external partner agencies, reducing double-handling of information and speeding up the completion of monitoring forms.

Following the demonstration, Members agreed a set of criteria to be incorporated in to the future RFQ (Request for Quotation) for a Social Value calculator tool:

- Unlimited partner access
- Options for both specified number of user licenses and unlimited user licenses
- Ability to export reports in a range of formats compatible with Microsoft i.e. Word, Excel and Adobe PDF.
- Ability for all services to see an individual Dashboard of projects/SV outcomes and well as a Corporate Dashboard
- Potential to be able to run a pilot phase before full roll-out of system to an expanded list of users.
- Provision of full list of KPIs that can be monitored by the system – to allow comparison to existing calculator tool.

Members were also clear that any tool procured should be run alongside the existing HACT tool initially so a comparison of the two systems in possible, to truly judge the benefits.

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<sup>3</sup> HACT is registered as the Housing Associations' Charitable Trust, charity number 1096829, company number 04560091

The RFQ commenced during the course of the review with the Scrutiny & Elections Officer involved in the evaluation of tenders to ensure the Members views from both Committees fed in to the procurement process. As such the following two recommendations were enacted prior to completion of the review, to ensure there was no delay to the procurement process.

**Recommendations (Implemented during the review):**

**That Officers ensure the procurement process for a SV calculator tool takes in to account the criteria identified by Members during the review process.**

**That the Council completes the required procurement process for an improved social value evaluation tool which will support improved analysis and reporting functions, and enable wider use across multiple service areas and by external partners.**

Members also discussed how monitoring reports were presented within the organisation and which body was best placed to receive them. As the scheme was in fact Council grants, rather than area-based Partnership grants, it was raised whether the reporting should be separated out from the wider Partnership reporting, to ensure transparency of Council activity. Members reviewed an example of the existing monitoring report that is submitted to Executive and Council on a six-monthly basis and felt that the approach was sufficient and would be further improved once the new social value software system was operational, with revised more advanced reports produced. Moving forward, Members felt further opportunities should also be made available for grant recipients to attend committee to update Members on delivery.

**Recommendation:**

**That performance reports for the VCS allocations be submitted to Executive/Council on a six-monthly basis, with periodic attendance of the individual recipients.**

## 6. Conclusions

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The Committee have put together twelve recommendations which will hopefully assist the Council in ensuring grant allocations to the voluntary and community sector are transparent; have clear outcomes and monitoring arrangements and meet the current needs of the Council and local residents.

Members are clear that the proposed changes should ideally, as a minimum, be in place for the 2023/24 financial year. It was hoped that the possibility of in-year changes for 2022/23 could be considered if a shorter initial grant period was used at the beginning of the financial year. However due to additional service pressures and timing of the completion of the review, Members appreciate that this is unlikely to be viable given the complexity of devising a replacement allocation process.

The key findings arising from the review are:

- The review has proved both timely and invaluable in identifying potential duplication and assessing the advantages/disadvantages of different allocation processes.
- A refreshed approach to centralising grant allocations will ensure better communication between service areas and eliminate duplication.
- That the use of SROI as an evaluation tool gives the Council a clear indication of value for money on the investment made. While our existing mechanism of calculating this via the HACT model achieves this, it is clear that evaluation tools have significantly advanced and it is an appropriate juncture for the Council to look to use a more advanced evaluation tool.
- That existing reporting mechanisms are sufficient and will be further strengthened by the ability to create more detailed evaluation reports using the new software.

## Appendix 1: Stakeholders

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Stakeholders engaged during the Review:

- Portfolio Holder – Cllr Moesby (Finance)
- Assistant Director of Leader’s Executive, Partnerships & Communications
- Executive and Partnerships Team
- Assistant Director Treasurer and Section 151 Officer
- Finance Team
- Local Growth Scrutiny Committee
- Assistant Director of Development and Planning
- Development Team
- Assistant Director of Housing Management & Enforcement
- Loop – The Social Value People

Stakeholders impacted by the Review:

- Bolsover residents
- Portfolio Holder – Cllr Moesby (Finance)
- Assistant Director of Leader’s Executive, Partnerships, Governance & Communications
- Executive and Partnerships Team
- Assistant Director Treasurer and Section 151 Officer
- Finance Team
- Assistant Director of Development and Planning
- Development Team
- Assistant Director of Housing Management & Enforcement

## Appendix 2: Grants to Voluntary Organisations Output/Outcome Summary

### Derbyshire Law Centre

<b>Output/Outcome Description</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>2014/15 Actual</b>	<b>2015/16 Actual</b>	<b>2016/17 Actual</b>	<b>2017/18 Actual</b>	<b>2018/19 Actual</b>	<b>2019/20 Actual</b>	<b>2020/21 Actual</b>
Derbyshire Law Centre enquiries from residents of the Bolsover District	654	648	665	646	626	532	489	377
Derbyshire Law Centre cases for residents from the Bolsover District	153	158	197	150	154	162	122	131
To undertake two marketing campaigns including the voluntary sector and local press to raise the profile of Derbyshire Law Centre	2	2	2	2	2	0	3	3
Achieve 50% of the cases being housing related HOM1601, HOM1604, HOM1606, HOM1610	78	95	84	58	66	18	67	34
Achieve 50% of the cases to be employment, debt and immigration related HEA1601, HEA1602, HEA1603, HEA1605, HEA1607, FIN1605	76	63	110	92	109	46	55	97

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Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre

<b>Output/ Outcome Description</b>	<b>Target (14/15 – 15/16)</b>	<b>2014/15 Actual</b>	<b>2015/16 Actual</b>	<b>Target (16/17 – 20/21)</b>	<b>2016/17 Actual</b>	<b>2017/18 Actual</b>	<b>2018/19 Actual</b>	<b>2019/20 Actual</b>	<b>2020/21 Actual</b>
150 Appeals tribunals	£450,000	£342,583	£209,679	£200,000	£334,832	£357,173	£512,348	£931,438	£463,511
2000 people advised	£250,000	£409,213	£789,249	£780,000	£1,036,622	£1,237,150	£801,091	£669,053	£624,130
2 volunteers recruited or retained (Delivering 1000 hours per year)	1,000 (hours)	1,094 (hours)	1,000 (hours)	1,000 (hours)	1,000 (hours)	1,612 (hours)	4 (volunteers)	3 (volunteers)	5 (volunteers)
£200,000 in lump sum arrears from Appeals tribunals	£200,000	£166,166	£88,633	£80,000	£140,560	£149,627	£213,290	£331,639	£220,582
£250,000 in additional ongoing weekly payments from Appeals tribunals	£250,000	£176,417	£121,046	£120,000	£194,272	£207,546	£299,058	£599,799	£242,928
£250,000 from advice work delivered at Shirebrook Office and Outreach	£250,000	£409,213	£789,249	£780,000	£1,036,622	£1,237,150	£801,091	£669,053	£624,130

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Groundwork

<b>Output/Outcome Description</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>2014/15 Actual</b>	<b>2015/16 Actual</b>	<b>2016/17 Actual</b>	<b>2017/18 Actual</b>	<b>2018/19 Actual</b>
Development of one open space for recreation, which is implemented in the year.	1	1	1	2	0	25
Work with 10 young people who are excluded from school and re-engage back into education.	10	16	23	36	11	24
Working with 20 young people aged 16-18 who are NEET and have 1 or less GCSE's at A-C and mentor them to achieve sustainable outcomes.	20	35	21	4	0	N/A
Deliver 15 accredited qualifications to pupils who are on the verge of exclusion.	15	16	21	28	15	40
Bring back into use 3 Empty homes in private sector in the district. (one homeless person to benefit)	3	11	9	N/A	N/A	N/A

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Groundwork

<b>Output/Outcome Description</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>2019/20 Actual</b>
Working with 10 regular volunteers on the Clowne Branch Line and Archaeological Way.	20	20
Working with 1 person individuals from Bolsover District who has been excluded or at risk of being excluded from School.	1	1
Deliver 4 accredited qualifications to pupils from Bolsover District who are on the verge of exclusion.	8	10
Deliver employability support programmes to support 11 long term unemployed individuals from Bolsover District move into full time employment	11	11
Deliver employability support programmes to support 15 long term unemployed individuals from Bolsover District move into part time employment	15	15

Junction Arts

<b>Output/Outcome Description</b>	<b>Target (14/15 – 16/17)</b>	<b>2014/15 Actual</b>	<b>2015/16 Actual</b>	<b>2016/17 Actual</b>	<b>Target (2017/18)</b>	<b>2017/18 Actual</b>
Increase Community Cohesion: No of Participants in Bolsover District	2250	3355	3893	5299	2100	3437
No of Attendees in Bolsover District (Events and Exhibitions)	3600	22,458	6512	19,317	5750	29,420
Leverage of other funding into the district	£218,600	£234,780	£241,600	£217,314	£190,000	£208,508
Volunteer hours in Bolsover District/proxy wage	150	389	151	248	150	582.5
Teacher hours in Bolsover District/wage savings for schools workshops	£1,000	£1,069.96	£50,996	£3,026	£1,100	£1,923.86

Junction Arts

<b>Output/Outcome Description</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>2018/19 Actual</b>	<b>2019/20 Actual</b>	<b>2020/21 Actual</b>
Member of a social group – SOC1601	£2,100	£88,393	£71,913	£18,346
No of Attendees in Bolsover District (Events and Exhibitions)	5750	6898	13,904	4333
Feel belonging to neighbourhood – ENV1609	£190,000	£167,446	£232,508	£91,928

Citizens Advice North East Derbyshire

<b>Output/Outcome Description</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>2014/15 Actual</b>	<b>2015/16 Actual</b>	<b>2016/17 Actual</b>	<b>2017/18 Actual</b>	<b>2018/19 Actual</b>	<b>2019/20 Actual</b>	<b>2020/21 Actual</b>
5500 debt/benefits enquiries dealt with	5500	5302	5724	6200	5847	5440	5609	3101
750 housing enquiries dealt with (157 people given advice on homelessness.	750	829	854	898	979	710	709	128
350 volunteer hours	350	416	448	600	672	450	420	250

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Rural Action Derbyshire

<b>Output/Outcome Description</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>2014/15 Actual</b>	<b>2015/16 Actual</b>	<b>2016/17 Actual</b>	<b>2017/18 Actual</b>	<b>2018/19 Actual</b>	<b>2019/20 Actual</b>	<b>2020/21 Actual</b>
Ways to Work assisting Bolsover residents with transport	20	32	26	6	15	37	32	4
Community / Neighbourhood Planning Support promoted to Parish Councils	5	0	16	0	9	21	12	0
Oil Buying Scheme	10	10	20	11	11	18	18	12
Suicide Awareness Training	20	54	43	25	53	18	29	16
Rural Matters	15	21	21	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Financial Action & Advice Derbyshire	10	21	30	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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TRUST (Trade Union Safety Team)

<b>Output/Outcome Description</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>2014/15 Actual</b>	<b>2015/16 Actual</b>	<b>2016/17 Actual</b>	<b>2017/18 Actual</b>	<b>2018/19 Actual</b>	<b>2019/20 Actual</b>	<b>2020/21 Actual</b>
100 Enquiries from people experiencing ill health or health and safety issues	100	95	165	140	100	90	103	20
To support 10 people with Tinnitus	10	28	11	15	26	80	20	30
Instrumental in recovering £50,000 in benefits and compensation	£50,000	£213,875	£239,920	£356,524	£60,710	£108,761	£80,100	£373,767

## Appendix 3: Survey of Parish Councils

A survey of all 17 parishes was completed in November 2021 to establish alternative funding sources that may be available and also to identify any potential duplication with our existing grant recipients:

*“The Climate Change & Communities Scrutiny Committee is currently reviewing our approach to voluntary and community sector funding/grants. Members are interested to know if your Parish Council runs a system where your Parish Cllrs receive a small budget to allocate to local organisations. If this is the case, could you clarify which local organisations receive funding from the Parish as we are trying to ensure there is no duplication of funding by the District Council?”*

*Members are also conscious that the pandemic has significantly changed local need for a number of groups and would like to ensure that any future approaches to funding accommodates this. As such Members would be interested to know if your Parish has been approached by any specific local organisations seeking additional funding to deliver services as a result of resource pressures they are facing. Finally, if you are unable to provide funding support from the Parish, do you signpost the organisation elsewhere?*

*Members appreciate that Parishes are often a first point of contact and would welcome your input.”*

Responses received were as follows:

Parish Council	Individual Parish Cllr Grants	Community Grant Programmes	Application form and monitoring	Signposting	Notes
Clowne Parish Council	No	Yes  Section 137 Grants Scheme  Wind Farm Grant Allocation	Yes	Yes	Section 137 Grants allocation for 2021/22 is £5000  Wind Farm Grant allocation for 2021/22 is £8375

Parish Council	Individual Parish Grants Cllr	Community Grant Programmes	Application form and monitoring	Signposting	Notes
					Average award ranges from £150 to £250 per applicant but we have awarded more if there is a strong case.
Blackwell Parish Council	No	Yes  Section 137 Grants Scheme	Form and guidance notes	Frequently get asked for advice around Funding Pots available, I often direct enquiries to our District and County Councillors and also to the National Lottery funding helpline.	<p>The Grants under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 are generally small in size, usually below £1,000. Our allowance for such grants would usually be for around £8,000 for the financial year, however, following Covid and the fact that Groups were slow to recommence their activities, the budget is just £5,000 for the current financial year.</p> <p>So far, this year we have helped Newton Carnival Team with funds towards a Parish Firework Display, as they have not been able to hold the usual fundraising events due to Covid Restrictions, we have also helped Hilcote Environments and Leisure Project, to purchase Wild Flower Seeds and to make some repairs</p>

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Parish Council	Individual Parish Grants Cllr	Community Grant Programmes	Application form and monitoring	Signposting	Notes
					<p>caused due to Vandalism on the Royal Oak Meadow which they manage. Many Community Groups have been severely compromised financially due to the inability to hold Fundraising events/activities, but as life returns to normal hopefully this will improve.</p>
Whitwell Parish Council	No	Whitwell Parish Council precepts an amount each year so that it can grant funding for the benefit of the parish to not for profit voluntary groups	Yes	The parish council will signpost organisations elsewhere for funding/additional funding, if it is aware of funding availability.	<p>The Parish Council has not been approached by any organisation seeking funding to deliver services, but any organisation must be not-for-profit and any funding granted must be for the benefit of the whole community.</p> <p>So far in this financial year the parish council has given small amounts to the Whitwell Playgroup and the Friends of Whitwell Primary School.</p>

## Appendix 4: Assessment of Grant recipients against Council Ambitions

During the course of the review, Members reviewed the current outputs/outcomes from each grant recipient and tried to match these against the Ambitions/Priorities they helped to deliver. Separately the grant recipients were contacted and asked to complete the same exercise, in case we weren't aware of areas where they could support delivery.

As can be seen from the table below, there is quite a difference in the results. This may be due to the Members familiarity with the Ambitions/Priorities and what the Council is trying to deliver, and the recipients' lack of familiarity with the Ambitions.

Ambition/Priority	Member Review Assessment	Current Grant Recipients Assessment
<b>Economy</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Working with partners to support enterprise, innovation, jobs and skills</i></li> </ul>	Derbyshire Law Centre Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre TRUST Rural Action Derbyshire	Rural Action Derbyshire
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Unlocking Development Potential: unlocking the capacity of major employment sites</i></li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Enabling Housing Growth: increasing the supply, quality and range of housing to meet the needs of the growing population and support economic growth</i></li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Making the best use of our assets</i></li> </ul>	Rural Action Derbyshire – Neighbourhood Planning	TRUST
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Ensuring financial sustainability and increasing revenue streams</i></li> </ul>		Derbyshire Law Centre
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Promoting the District and working with partners to increase tourism</i></li> </ul>	Junction Arts	Junction Arts Rural Action Derbyshire

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Ambition/Priority	Member Review Assessment	Current Grant Recipients Assessment
<b>Environment</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Reducing our carbon footprint whilst supporting and encouraging residents and businesses to do the same</i></li> </ul>		Rural Action Derbyshire
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Increasing recycling</i></li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ensuring a high standard of environmental cleanliness, undertaking appropriate enforcement activity where required</i></li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Enhancing biodiversity and developing attractive neighbourhoods that residents feel pride of and take responsibility for</i></li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Working with partners to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour</i></li> </ul>	Junction Arts	Rural Action Derbyshire
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Actively engaging with partners to benefit our communities</i></li> </ul>	Junction Arts	NEDCAB  Derbyshire Law Centre  Junction Arts  Rural Action Derbyshire
<b>Customers</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Increasing customer satisfaction with our services</i></li> </ul>		Derbyshire Law Centre
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Improving customer contact and removing barriers to accessing information</i></li> </ul>		NEDCAB  Derbyshire Law Centre  TRUST
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Actively engaging with partners to benefit our customers</i></li> </ul>	Derbyshire Law Centre  Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre  NEDCAB	NEDCAB  Derbyshire Law Centre

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Ambition/Priority	Member Review Assessment	Current Grant Recipients Assessment
		Rural Action Derbyshire  TRUST
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Promoting equality, diversity and supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged people</i></li> </ul>	Derbyshire Law Centre  Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre  NEDCAB  Rural Action Derbyshire	NEDCAB  Derbyshire Law Centre  Junction Arts  Rural Action Derbyshire  TRUST
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Providing good quality council housing where people choose to live</i></li> </ul>		Derbyshire Law Centre
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Improving health, wellbeing and increasing participation in sport and leisure activities</i></li> </ul>	Rural Action Derbyshire  NEDCAB	Junction Arts  Rural Action Derbyshire  TRUST

## Appendix 5: Bibliography

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Bassetlaw CVS Contract specification and monitoring.

Bassetlaw CVS ITT Documents.

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**Bolsover District Council**

**Meeting of the Executive on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

**Corporate Debt – 2021/22**

**Report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance**

<b>Classification</b>	This report is public
<b>Report By</b>	Assistant Director of Finance and Resources
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Assistant Director of Finance and Resources Theresa Fletcher 01246 242548 <a href="mailto:theresa.fletcher@bolsover.gov.uk">theresa.fletcher@bolsover.gov.uk</a>

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT**

To present to Executive a summary of the corporate debt position at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

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**REPORT DETAILS**

**1. Background**

- 1.1 The main sources of income for the Council’s General Fund are business rates, council tax, a small number of government grants and service related income. The main source of income for the Council’s Housing Revenue Account is dwelling rent, often referred to as ‘housing rents’. Government grants are paid over to us on agreed dates direct into our bank account so there is no need to include them on any of our debtor systems. For most other sources of income we have to request the income due to us.
- 1.2 We request the income due to us on the relevant system by raising bills for business rates, council tax and housing rents. There is legislation in place for each of these sources which determines the rules of collecting this income.
- 1.3 For service related income, invoices are raised on the sundry debtor system which is a module of our Civica Financial Management System. Examples of types of income include: housing benefit overpayment, trade refuse, industrial unit rent, garage site rent, wardens service and alarms and leisure hire of facilities. This income is reported in two amounts with housing benefit overpayments identified from the rest.

- 1.4 The following table shows the sources of income for Bolsover District Council as at 31st March 2022 and 2021 for comparison:

Table 1 – Sources of Income

position at end of	2020/21	2021/22	variance
	Q4	Q4	
	£'000	£'000	
NNDR	(28,585)	(28,616)	(31) *
Council tax	(43,683)	(45,797)	(2,114) **
Housing Rents	(20,330)	(20,618)	(288)
Overpaid housing benefits	(391)	(338)	53
Sundry Debtors	(5,146)	(5,794)	(648)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	(98,135)	(101,163)	(3,028)
* This is 100%, our share of this is 40%			
** This is 100%, our share of this is 16.46% 20/21 + 16.76% 21/22			

- 1.5 (\*and \*\*) these debts are part of the collection fund and are shared with major preceptors including the County, police and fire. Only a percentage of these debts belong to Bolsover District Council.
- 1.6 The figures in table 1 show an increase in income billed in the year for most sources. The reduction in income from housing benefit overpayments is good news as it means less claimants have been paid too much benefit so we've therefore had less income to reclaim.
- 1.7 Debtors of a Local Authority are very sensitive to change. If a tenant/tax payer's circumstances change it can become difficult for them to keep paying their rent or council tax. Informing us of a change in personal circumstances late can mean more benefit is paid than they are entitled to which can mean they become benefit overpayment debtors.
- 1.8 Circumstances can change quickly and mean debtors fall into arrears. It is very common for Local Authority's to have arrears balances due to the vulnerable nature of some of its debtors. Debt management is how the Council manages its arrears and debtors. The following table shows the level of arrears for Bolsover

District Council at 31st March for the last two financial years. This information is published in the Council's Statement of Accounts document each year.

Table 2 – Level of Arrears

	2020/21	2021/22	
position at end of	Q4	Q4	variance
	£	£	£
NDR	555,701	628,635	72,934 *
Council tax	3,540,825	3,982,873	442,048 **
Housing Rents	1,709,514	1,598,520	(110,994)
Overpaid housing benefits	1,643,213	1,501,936	(141,277)
Sundry Debtors	610,706	835,380	224,674
	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	8,059,959	8,547,344	487,385

- 1.9 As you can see from table 2, arrears have increased in 2021/22 for nndr, council tax and sundry debtors. During 2021/22 there was a lot less relief provided by Government for businesses and individuals compared to 2020/21. The current levels of arrears for both nndr and council tax are the highest they've been in recent years, this is almost certainly a consequence of the pandemic. Sundry debtor arrears fluctuate depending on if large invoices are raised close to 31st March, but aren't paid until April.
- 1.10 Part of managing the debt is assessing the likelihood of future non-collection. At each year end, an estimate of non-collection is made based on historic payment information for the same class of debt. An amount equal to the non-collection is charged against our revenue account and saved in a provision for future use. The provision is often referred to as the bad debt provision. It is considered prudent to not include all the income in the revenue accounts in a year when there is a chance it won't all be collected.
- 1.11 As part of year end work the provision balance for each class of debt is reviewed, compared against latest arrears balances to ensure it still covers the amount of non-collection in case we have to write-off debts, and either increased or decreased, whichever is appropriate.
- 1.12 For the last 2 years when we've assessed the provision levels at year end, we've increased the provisions by £1.6m in total, in anticipation of the financial effect of the pandemic on businesses and individuals.

1.13 As you can see from the following table which shows the bad debt provision for each class of debtor at 31st March for the last two financial years, we felt it necessary to increase the provision again this year but not significantly. Although arrears levels for some sources are higher than normal, the provision pots we've built up over the last 2 years mean only a small increase was required this year.

Table 3 - Bad Debt Provisions

position at end of	2020/21	2021/22	variance
	Q4	Q4	
	£	£	
NNDR	(555,701)	(564,538)	(8,837) *
Council tax	(2,206,432)	(2,229,115)	(22,683) **
Housing Rents	(1,154,736)	(1,188,238)	(33,502)
Overpaid housing benefits	(1,365,626)	(1,397,313)	(31,687)
Sundry Debtors	(140,518)	(224,804)	(84,286)
	<u>(5,423,013)</u>	<u>(5,604,008)</u>	<u>(180,995)</u>

1.14 As previously mentioned there is legislation that governs the collection of business rates, council tax and housing rents. As a Local Authority it is necessary to have a debt collection process that adheres to legislation but ensures the maximum amount of income is collected.

1.15 Members will be aware that throughout the pandemic recovery action for debt collection was completely suspended a number of times. Each time we restarted with soft recovery where staff made contact with debtors to help them settle their debts by providing reminders and setting up payment plans.

1.16 We have been carrying out pre-Covid debt collection processes for most of 2021/22 and it is clear that the pandemic has had an effect on business and individuals' ability to pay, as the arrears levels demonstrate. The current 'cost of living' crisis may exacerbate this but we will continue to provide the payment plan facility for debtors to help where we can and carry out recovery action as necessary.

1.17 Indicators for debt collection are monitored through the 'Perform' system and reported at the quarterly performance meetings where any areas of concern are raised. Targets for collecting income and reducing arrears for each class of debt are set and monitored. The performance data on debt collection is also reported

quarterly to Executive for information where any areas of concern are raised/discussed.

- 1.18 The following table shows for 2021/22 the movement since last financial year in the value of each source of income, the amount that is outstanding as arrears and the bad debt provision which relates to that source of income.

Table 4 – Summary for 2021/22

	Income	Arrears	Provision	
	£	£	£	
NNDR	(31,000)	72,934	(8,837)	*
Council tax	(2,114,000)	442,048	(22,683)	**
Housing Rents	(288,000)	(110,994)	(33,502)	
Overpaid housing benefits	53,000	(141,277)	(31,687)	
Sundry Debtors	(648,000)	224,674	(84,286)	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>(3,028,000)</b>	<b>487,385</b>	<b>(180,995)</b>	

- 1.19 Over all in 2021/22 we have raised on our systems £3.028m (net) more in income. Our arrears have increased by £0.487m but if we exclude the reductions in arrears for housing rents and housing benefit overpayments, the increase is £0.740m. We have increased the bad debt provisions by £0.181m.

## **2. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 2.1 To ensure that Executive are informed of the latest position concerning the Council's debt.

## **3 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 3.1 This report is for information only.

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## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

1. That Executive note the report concerning the Council's Corporate Debt as at 31st March 2022.

Approved by the Portfolio Holder - Cllr Clive Moesby, Executive Member for Finance

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**IMPLICATIONS:**

**Finance and Risk:**            Yes             No

**Details:**

The current position regarding corporate debt is given throughout the report. Failure to collect this debt would have a detrimental impact on the Council's financial position if sufficient bad debt provisions were not in place. It must be remembered that the Covid-19 pandemic continues to impact on the arrears for all our main sources of income at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

On behalf of the Section 151 Officer

**Legal (including Data Protection):**            Yes             No

**Details:**

There are no legal or data protection issues arising directly from this report.

On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

**Staffing:**            Yes             No

**Details:**

There are no human resource issues arising directly out of this report.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

**DECISION INFORMATION**

<p><b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:  <b>Revenue - £75,000</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Capital - £150,000</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i></p>	No
<p><b>Is the decision subject to Call-In?</b> <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i></p>	No

<p><b>District Wards Significantly Affected</b></p>	None directly
<p><b>Consultation:</b> <b>Leader / Deputy Leader</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Executive</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>SLT</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Relevant Service Manager</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Members</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Public</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Details:  Portfolio Holder for Finance</p>

<b>Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy and Environment.</b>

<b>DOCUMENT INFORMATION</b>
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<b>Appendix No</b>	<b>Title</b>

<b>Background Papers</b>
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<i>(These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Executive you must provide copies of the background papers).</i>
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None
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## Bolsover District Council

### Meeting of the Executive on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2022

#### Review of Fly Tipping Enforcement and Environmental Fixed Penalty Notice Fees

#### Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Health & Licensing

<b>Classification</b>	This report is Public
<b>Report By</b>	Matt Finn, Service Manager (Environmental Health), 01246 217848; <a href="mailto:matt.finn@bolsover.gov.uk">matt.finn@bolsover.gov.uk</a>
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Matt Finn, Service Manager (Environmental Health), 01246 217848; <a href="mailto:matt.finn@bolsover.gov.uk">matt.finn@bolsover.gov.uk</a>

#### PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

To update the Executive on the work of the Environmental Health Service in relation to fly tipping and to present options for revising fixed penalty fine levels for environmental offences.

#### REPORT DETAILS

##### **1. Background**

- 1.1 Fly tipping, litter and other waste crimes cost the Council and land owners significant sums to remove and properly dispose of and blight our countryside and neighbourhoods. In 2020/21 there were 22.4 incidents of fly tipping per 1,000 people in Bolsover with more incidents in Bolsover than Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire combined. It cost the Council an estimated £6,000 to remove and dispose of fly tipped waste on highways and public land, however these figures are from national estimates on costs based on incident types, as the cost of waste disposal of fly tipped waste to the authority is not separately recorded to other waste collection data.
- 1.2 The cost to land owners and businesses is also not known, but approximately 30% of incidents in the district occur on privately owned land, and those owners would need to remove waste at commercial rates. The cost therefore to business is expected to be significantly higher than the cost to the Council.
- 1.3 The Joint Environmental Health Service enforces a variety of environmental offences, including litter, dog fouling, abandoned vehicles and other waste related crime, including fly tipping. Many of these offences are dealt with by way of a fixed penalty notice, which enables the offender to discharge their liability for prosecution

by paying a fine to the Council. If they choose not to pay the fine they would be prosecuted in the Magistrates' or Crown Court for the criminal offence.

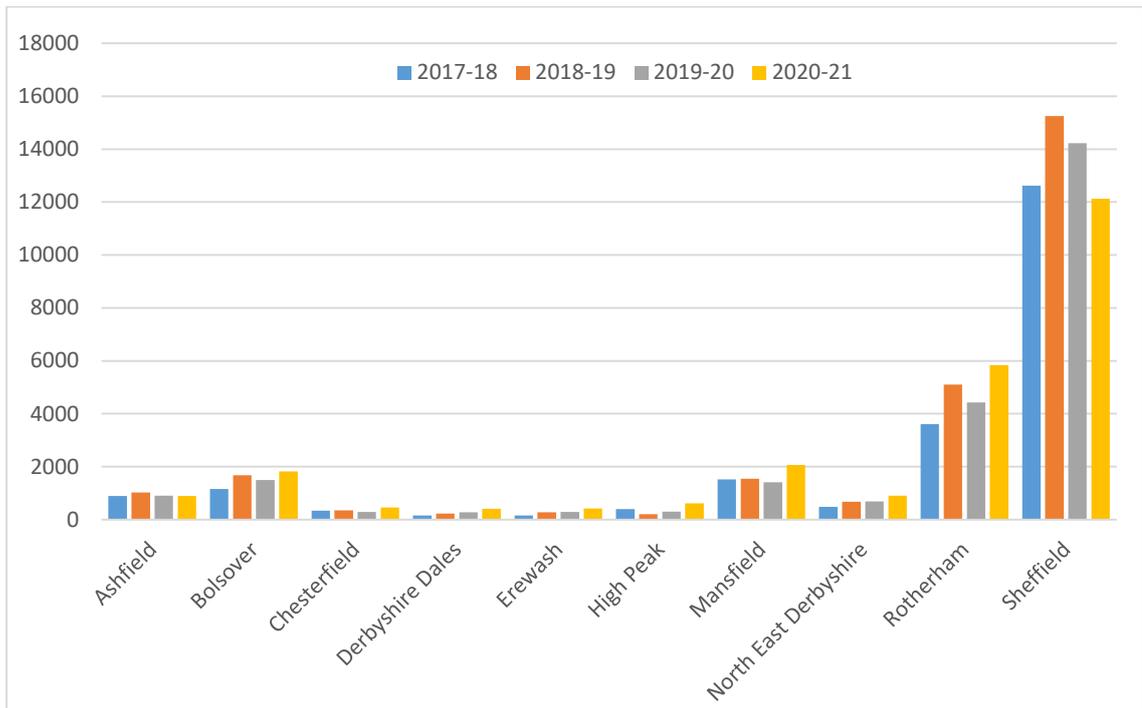
- 1.4 For small and relatively minor offences this is the most efficient method of dealing with these crimes both from the perspective of the Council and the wider criminal justice system. More serious incidents and organised waste crimes would always be prosecuted through the Courts. The Council's Enforcement Policies are applied in every case to ensure our enforcement actions are appropriate and proportionate.
- 1.5 The service has a dedicated Environmental Enforcement Team who carry out neighbourhood patrols to deter littering and dog fouling as well as catching people committing those crimes. The service has CCTV cameras deployed to known fly tipping hotspots to gather evidence of people fly tipping with a view to taking formal action. The Commercial Team contribute to ensuring businesses dispose of their waste through licensed carriers by checking they have appropriate contracts in place during inspections.
- 1.6 Investigations
- 1.7 The Service performs comparatively well against neighbouring local authorities in respect of fly tipping enforcement. Incidents are difficult to catch and in most cases there is no evidence left in waste which would lead officers back to the culprits. While comparing local authorities against each other is not necessarily appropriate due to the variety of ways Councils record incidents or what they include in their own figures, outcome measures can be compared to a degree based on the total number of incidents.
- 1.8 Enforcement is only one aspect of successfully tackling fly tipping, as has been recognised by the campaign group Keep Britain Tidy, who recommend engagement and education with effective use of fixed penalty notices to simply reinforce positive environmental behaviour.<sup>1</sup> The Council publishes articles in our newsletter, through social media and press releases to raise the impact environmental crime as on our communities in addition to proactive patrolling of hot spot locations with uniformed officers and signage to deter fly tipping and dog fouling.
- 1.9 In 2021 the Council introduced a Public Spaces Protection Order to encourage more responsible dog ownership, increase the fixed penalty fine for fouling offences and enable enforcement on a wider range of anti-social behaviours where needed. The Council also deploys CCTV systems to fly tipping hot spot locations to help apprehend offenders.
- 1.10 Figure 1 below shows a comparison of the number of incidents over the last four financial years with our neighbouring local authorities. While there has been growth in the number of incidents, over those 4 years, we have a higher volume of fly tipping incidents to many of our district Council comparator neighbours, and significantly less than Sheffield and Rotherham. These two are a difficult comparison to consider however, as much of the fly tipping is likely to be in more

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<sup>1</sup> The Effectiveness of Enforcement on Behaviour Change - Fixed penalty notices from both sides of the line, Keep Britain Tidy, 2011.

[https://www.keeppbritaintidy.org/sites/default/files/resources/KBT\\_The\\_Effectiveness\\_Of\\_Enforcement\\_2011.pdf](https://www.keeppbritaintidy.org/sites/default/files/resources/KBT_The_Effectiveness_Of_Enforcement_2011.pdf)

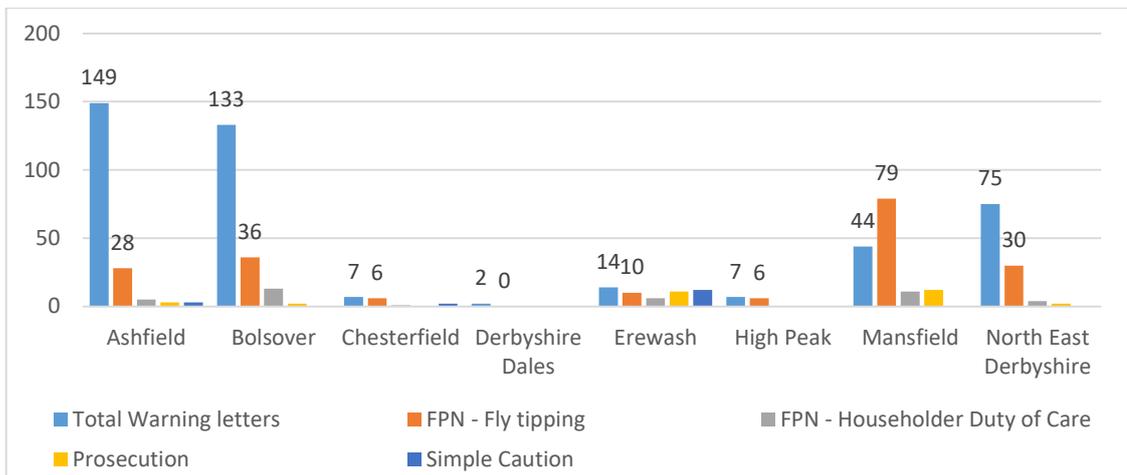
densely populated urban areas and may include side waste from household waste collections. As these figures are self-reported, the method of recording and reporting can vary between authorities.



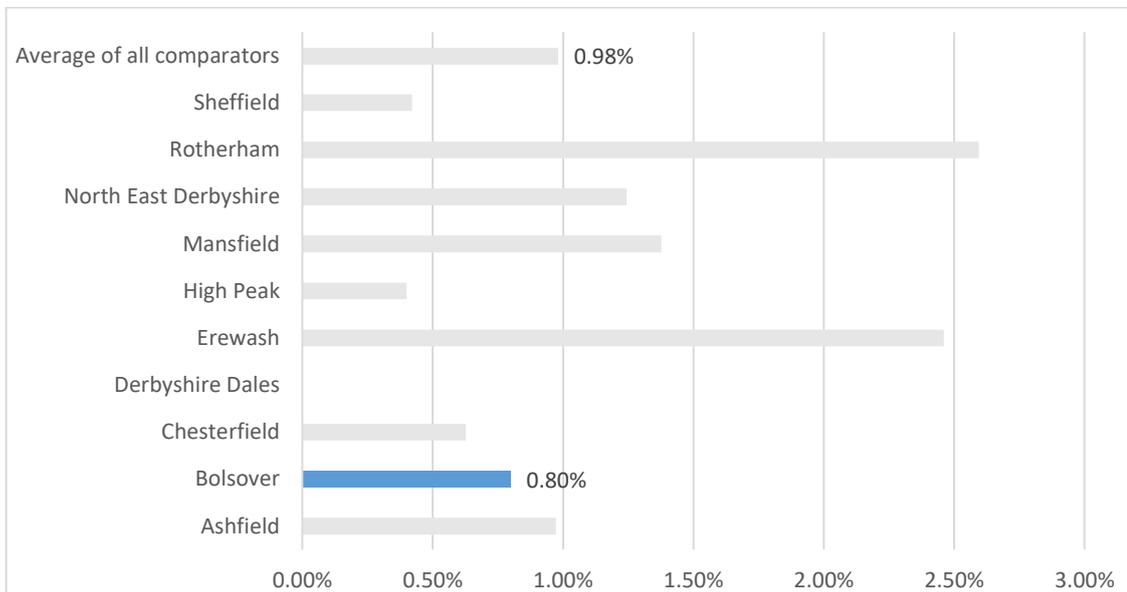
**Figure 1 - Fly tipping incidents by financial year against comparable and neighbouring authorities 2017-2021<sup>2</sup>**

1.11 In terms of enforcement actions (Figure 2), the Council compares favourably with neighbouring authorities in this period, with more formal actions than our nearest neighbouring authorities in this period with 36 Fixed Penalty Notices for fly tipping offences in this period, eight of which were issued in 2020/21. A further six fixed penalty notices have been issued for fly tipping or householder duty of care offences related to fly tipping in 2021-22 to the end of February and four prosecution cases pending for more serious offences.

<sup>2</sup> Raw data for figures 1, 2 and 3 published at <https://data.gov.uk/dataset/1388104c-3599-4cd2-abb5-ca8ddeeb4c9c/fly-tipping-in-england>



**Figure 2 - Comparison of types of enforcement actions related to fly tipping 2017-2021**



**Figure 3 - Comparison of the percentage of fly tipping related fixed penalty notices or prosecution actions taken in relation to the number of incidents 2017-2021**

- 1.12 Figure 3 also shows that in relation to the percentage of formal enforcement actions, compared with incidents the Council performs better than a number of neighbouring authorities. An equivalent of 0.8% of all incidents result in a fixed penalty notice or prosecution case, 40% more than in High Peak, 38% higher than in Sheffield and 17% higher than in Chesterfield. The public may well expect that detection rates for these offences should be higher, however the vast majority of incidents are single items or have no details as to where the waste came from.
- 1.13 The majority of successful enforcement outcomes arise from finding evidence of the source of the waste. A small number are the result of CCTV placed at hot-spot locations where the fly tipper can be identified directly. Witnesses to incidents are rare due to the times at which people fly-tip waste and the rural locations where they are deposited.

- 1.14 With the steady growth in incidents the service prioritises cases to identify sources of fly tipping or offenders, and take a more proactive approach. Investigation of incidents is focussed to incidents on public land where there is likely to be evidence in the waste, where evidence is provided by private land owners or there is photo or video evidence of the offender, including from our own CCTV deployment at hot-spot locations. Other cases are directed to the Street Scene service to remove with referrals if further evidence comes to light from the removal process.
- 1.15 To ensure that as much evidence or information can be provided, the Council's website has been updated to enable images and map locations to be provided when people report online.
- 1.16 Additional and more capable CCTV solutions have also been procured this financial year to increase the services potential to monitor hot spot locations, with the intention to use as evidence in criminal cases and to promote the problems and the work the Council is doing to tackle the issue.
- 1.17 Seizure of Vehicles
- 1.18 In 2017 the law changed to enable Councils to seize vehicles suspected of being used in waste crime offences, and destroy or sell them if the owners did not claim the vehicle or a court ordered the destruction. If an owner could be located or came forward to claim the vehicle, the Council could then deal with that person in relation to the offences.
- 1.19 The Joint Environmental Health Service has developed systems and procedures to enable the Council to use these new powers where suitable cases arise, and this can send a powerful message about the intention of the Council to deal with these offences in the most serious way.
- 1.20 Householders duty of care
- 1.21 Householders have an important part to play in preventing fly tipping, by making sure they take reasonable steps to ensure they only use legitimate, registered waste carriers and that they know their waste is going to be disposed of properly. All waste collectors, other than those working for the Council must have a waste carrier's registration and be able to show that registration. They should also give a receipt showing what they have taken and who they are. It should also say where they will be taking the waste.
- 1.22 While people can be the victims of criminal waste collection businesses, they should be able to check their waste collector if registered. If they don't they could receive a fixed penalty notice of £200. In the last two years we have issued 15 FPN's to householders for these offences, and only in cases where there was a clear failure to take steps to prevent waste from being fly tipped.
- 1.23 Fixed Penalty Notice fine levels
- 1.24 The fixed penalty fines for various environmental offences have remained the same in Bolsover for a number of years. New offences such as fly tipping and householder duty of care have been added as the legislation has been updated,

along with a Public Space Protection Order which added new dog related offences to the pre-existing dog fouling offence. This has resulted in some inconsistencies with the fixed penalty fine levels both in the significance of offences and in comparison with neighbouring authorities.

1.25 Table 1 below shows benchmarking of fixed penalty fine levels for the matters the Joint Environmental Health Service enforces. It also shows the range within which the Council can set the fixed penalty fine in accordance with the legislation. It should be noted that the fixed penalty for littering was changed in 2017 to raise the maximum fixed penalty from £100 to £150<sup>3</sup> when the fines for a range of offences were updated.

1.26 The fixed penalty amounts set locally for many of these are at their default amounts in the legislation, and are not set based on local considerations or in comparison with similar offences. For example the fly tipping penalty is currently £200 when an unregistered waste carrier would pay £300.

Offence	Value of Fixed Penalty £						
	Bolsover	North East Derbyshire	Chesterfield	Rotherham	Min	Max	Recommended
Littering	65	150 (reduced to 100 if paid early)	150 (reduced to 60 if paid early)	150 (reduced to 100 if paid early)	50	150	<b>150</b> (reduced to 100 if paid within 10 days)
Public Space Protection Order (incl. dog fouling)	100	100	80	100	n/a	100	<b>100</b>
Fly tipping	200	400 (reduced to 300 if paid early)	300	400 (reduced to 300 if paid early)	150	400	<b>400</b> (reduced to 300 if paid within 10 days)
Abandoning a vehicle	200	200	200	200	120	200	<b>200</b>
Transporting waste without authority	300	300		300	180	300	<b>300</b>
Failure to comply with duty of care (business)	300	300		300	180	300	<b>300</b>
Failure to comply with a domestic waste receptacle (sec 46) notice	60	100		80	60	100	<b>100</b>
Failure to comply with a business waste receptacle (sec 47) notice	100	100		100	75	110	<b>100</b>
Failure to comply with	200	200	250		150	400	<b>200</b>

<sup>3</sup> [The Environmental Offences \(Fixed Penalties\) \(England\) Regulations 2017](#)

duty of care (householder)							
Breach of a community protection notice	100	100	100	100	n/a	100	<b>100</b>

**Table 1 - Fixed Penalty Notice levels from neighbouring authorities - published data January 2022**

## **2. Details of Proposal or Information**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the fixed penalty fine levels for environmental offences in Table 1 of this report be adopted. Setting fixed penalty amounts at the maximum level can reduce the number which are successfully paid, and those cases would then proceed to Court, however despite the risk of lower payment rates it reflects a desire for stronger enforcement deterrent. Setting the fine too low would result in the fine not being appropriate to the offence or being out of step with other similar offences or with other areas.
- 2.2 The recommended changes would bring parity between fly tipping and business waste duty of care offences, which are closely linked, while keeping fines for householders and smaller, less serious offences more affordable. It also brings the litter and fly tipping fixed penalty in line with neighbouring authorities and to the middle of the potential range, where it is paid early. These levels are considered appropriate to the area, however will be reviewed in 12 months to understand what effect the changes may have had on offending and payment rates and whether there is a need to increase the levels further.
- 2.3 To mitigate against fines not being paid, an early payment reduction is proposed for littering and fly tipping as these fines would be at their maximum without this, and while this sends a clear message about how serious the Council views these offences, they remain high and potentially unaffordable. This would then push more cases to the Courts resulting in higher costs to the Council for relatively minor offences.
- 2.4 More serious and repeat offences, along with cases where the fixed penalty is not paid would always be forwarded to Court for a prosecution or a civil recovery process, in line with the Council's enforcement policies.

## **3. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1 Adjusting the fixed penalty amounts ensures the Council is keeping pace with national legislative changes and ensures fixed penalty amounts act as a suitable punishment for the offence, as well as ensuring they are affordable for smaller, less serious offences.
- 3.2 The increases to some of these fixed penalty amounts also demonstrates the Council's commitment to tackling environmental crime.
- 3.3 Allowing early payment reductions to £100 and £300 for littering and fly tipping offences respectively enables a higher penalty than currently but enables a

discount for early admission of offences, encourages earlier payment and the reduced burden on the Council for follow up enforcement.

#### **4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 4.1 In the financial year 2020/21, 70% of environmental fixed penalty notices were paid. It would be possible to increase penalty amounts to the maximum levels without any discount, however this would be likely to result in lower payment rates and more cases being progressed to a criminal court. This places additional resource burdens on the authority without receiving the resulting fines handed down at court.
- 4.2 It is also possible to keep the fixed penalty amounts at their current levels. That however would mean that fixed penalties for some offences are lower than those for similar issues, simply because the penalty amount was not set when the legislation came into effect.

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#### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

1. The Executive note the performance in relation to fly tipping enforcement.
2. The Executive set the fixed penalty fine levels as recommended in this report.
3. The Executive require the Joint Assistant Director – Environmental Health to carry out a further review after 12 months on the impact of the changes to the fixed penalty fine levels

Approved by Councillor Deborah Watson,  
Portfolio Holder for Environmental Health and Licensing

#### **IMPLICATIONS:**

**Finance and Risk:**            Yes             No

**Details:**

Increasing fixed penalty levels will not have a significant impact on income budgets, with an increase of approximately £1,500 based on a 20% increase in income from previous years. There is the potential for fewer fines to be paid, but limiting an increase would mitigate this risk.

On behalf of the Section 151 Officer

**Legal (including Data Protection):**            Yes             No

**Details:**

There are various statutes and regulations that create and regulate environmental offences. The legislation sets out the fixed penalty notice provisions for the specified offences. The proposed fixed penalties come within the current prescribed amounts. When implementing the fixed penalty scheme, the council must comply with the requirements of all relevant legislation.

On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

<b>Staffing:</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Details:</b> There are no impacts on staffing from this report <div style="text-align: right;">On behalf of the Head of Paid Service</div>
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**DECISION INFORMATION**

<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:  <b>Revenue - £75,000</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Capital - £150,000</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	Yes
<b>Is the decision subject to Call-In?</b> <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i>	Yes

<b>District Wards Significantly Affected</b>	All wards
<b>Consultation:</b> <b>Leader / Deputy Leader</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Executive</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>SLT</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Relevant Service Manager</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Members</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Public</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Details:</b>  Executive Director Resources (Head of Paid Service), Portfolio Holder for Environmental Health and Licensing

<b>Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy and Environment.</b>
<b>Environment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring a high standard of environmental cleanliness, undertaking appropriate enforcement activity where required.</li> <li>• Working with partners to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.</li> </ul>

<b>DOCUMENT INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Appendix No</b>	<b>Title</b>

**Background Papers**

*(These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Executive you must provide copies of the background papers).*

Guidance on Fixed Penalty Notices for Local Authorities

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/fixed-penalty-notices-issuing-and-enforcement-by-councils>

The Effectiveness of Enforcement on Behaviour Change - Fixed penalty notices from both sides of the line, Keep Britain Tidy, 2011.

[https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/sites/default/files/resources/KBT\\_The\\_Effectiveness\\_Of\\_Enforcement\\_2011.pdf](https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/sites/default/files/resources/KBT_The_Effectiveness_Of_Enforcement_2011.pdf)

The Environmental Offences (Fixed Penalties) (England) Regulations 2017



**Bolsover District Council**

**Meeting of the Executive on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

**Derbyshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-2027**

**Report of Sandra Peake, Portfolio Holder for Housing**

<b>Classification</b>	This report is Public
<b>Report By</b>	Victoria Dawson, Assistant Director Housing Management and Enforcement , 01246 242231
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Victoria Dawson, Assistant Director Housing Management and Enforcement , 01246 242231

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT**

The purpose of this report is for Executive to consider, approve and adopt the County Wide Homeless and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-2027.

**REPORT DETAILS**

**1. Background**

- 1.1 The pandemic and subsequent response by all of District and Borough authorities in Derbyshire has brought about creativity, innovation, improved partnership working and a wide recognition of the link between homelessness and health.
- 1.2 Through our co-ordinated approach to tackling homelessness and service delivery we have seen improved outcomes for many people across Derbyshire with long and complex histories of homelessness.
- 1.3 The new county wide Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy (see Appendix 1) has a core aim to break down system blockages, and confirms that a multi-disciplinary approach is required to serve the needs of customers.
- 1.4 The Homelessness Reduction Act (2017) is now fully embedded and this legislation has enabled councils to do much more for people facing homelessness. The Government are committed to ending rough sleeping by 2024 and this new Derbyshire wide strategy is fully in keeping with the positive spirit of the homelessness legislation and the ambition of the Government’s target.
- 1.5 The strategy makes reference to the new Domestic Abuse Act (2021) and contained within the list of priority actions are proposals to increase support and easier access to accommodation for abuse victims.

## **2. Details of Proposal or Information**

- 2.1 The strategy has been developed through close collaboration between the Derbyshire Homelessness Officers Group (DHOG), Derbyshire County Council, Public Health, NHS, Police, Probation, and a wide range of partner agencies including from the voluntary sector.
- 2.2 The strategy is ambitious and sets out a vision of “working collaboratively across Derbyshire to prevent and reduce homelessness – making it everyone’s responsibility.
- 2.3 The strategy will meet the vision and aims through the delivery of 4 clear priorities:
  1. Make homelessness everyone’s responsibility through a system wide approach
  2. Prevent homelessness and respond through early intervention and personalised solutions
  3. End rough sleeping and repeat homelessness
  4. Develop sustainable supported and settled housing solutions
- 2.4 The Director of Public Health for Derbyshire is a signatory and the strategy will sit under the Health & Wellbeing Board. This represents a significant shift in how homelessness strategies are implemented. With the strategy sitting within the wider health spectrum this means that we have a huge opportunity to transform housing and homelessness services for the people we serve.
- 2.5 The Derbyshire strategy will serve as the Council’s Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy for 5 years.

## **3. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1 By adopting this strategy, the Council will be able to meet the continued challenges ahead such as meeting the needs of those with multiple and complex needs and issues related to the increases in the cost of living.

## **4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 4.1 The Council could proceed with the development of a stand-alone strategy, however, it is considered that a joint strategy across all Districts, Borough and County Councils would provide a joined-up, collaborative approach to the complex issues of homelessness.

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## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

1. That Executive consider, approve and adopt the Derbyshire Homeless Strategy 2022-2027.

Approved by the Portfolio Holder - Cllr Peake, Executive Member for Housing

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**IMPLICATIONS:**

**Finance and Risk:**            Yes             No

**Details:**

There are no financial implications arising from the Strategy.

On behalf of the Section 151 Officer

**Legal (including Data Protection):**            Yes             No

**Details:**

As set out in the report.

On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

**Staffing:**            Yes             No

**Details:**

There are no staffing implications contained within the report

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

**DECISION INFORMATION**

<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:  <b>Revenue - £75,000</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Capital - £150,000</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
<b>Is the decision subject to Call-In?</b> <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i>	No

<b>District Wards Significantly Affected</b>	No
<b>Consultation:</b> <b>Leader / Deputy Leader</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Executive</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>SLT</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Relevant Service Manager</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Members</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Public</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Details:</b>  Portfolio Holder Executive Director Health and Wellbeing Board

<b>Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy and Environment.</b>
The Strategy links to the Council's Ambition by actively engaging with partners, improving health and wellbeing and providing quality housing.

<b>DOCUMENT INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Appendix No</b>	<b>Title</b>
1	Derbyshire Homeless Strategy

<b>Background Papers</b>
<i>(These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Executive you must provide copies of the background papers).</i>

# Derbyshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy

2022 – 2027



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# Foreword

## Stronger Together

**I am delighted to introduce Derbyshire's first ever countywide Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy. This strategy marks a pinnacle moment in our approach to tackling homelessness, signalling a multi-agency collaborative approach, recognising that we are stronger together.**

The reasons that lead to homelessness are multiple and often extremely complex. Many people have needs that extend beyond the basic need for a home and impact on their health and wellbeing. It is not possible for Local Housing Authorities to meet those needs in isolation, but rather a successful strategic approach to preventing homelessness is dependent upon a coordinated multi-agency response, ensuring that the right advice and support is given at the right time, with opportunities for early intervention and promotion of wellbeing being prioritised wherever possible.

Partners in Derbyshire face considerable challenges in responding to homelessness and rough sleeping, set against a backdrop of the global pandemic, increases in the cost of living and an increasingly unaffordable housing market.

The multi-agency response to protecting people experiencing homelessness during the pandemic shows what can be achieved when we work together. The close collaboration between district and borough councils, our partners at Derbyshire County Council, the NHS, criminal justice system and the Health & Wellbeing board proved what can be achieved when we work together and the driving force behind this strategy is to ensure that this new way of working remains the new normal.

Derbyshire's Homelessness Strategy builds on the work during COVID-19 by further preventing people from experiencing homelessness in the first place and helping people who are experiencing homelessness build a more positive healthier future.



The vision is simple -  
***“Working collaboratively across Derbyshire to prevent and reduce homelessness – making it everyone’s responsibility.”***

This Strategy reflects our strong shared commitment to realising this vision.

Meeting these challenges requires a radical change in how everyone works; simply carrying on as before will not deliver the reduction in homelessness and rough sleeping that needs to be achieved.

This is an exciting time with opportunities to transform our approach to tackling homelessness and ending the need for anyone to sleep rough.



**Dean Wallace**  
*Director of Public Health for Derbyshire*

## Group Members



**Cllr Paul Hillier**  
*Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing & Public Health, Amber Valley Borough Council*



**Cllr Paul Maginnis**  
*Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing, Erewash Borough Council*



**Cllr Sandra Peake**  
*Portfolio Holder – Housing, Bolsover District Council*



**Cllr Fiona Sloman**  
*Executive Councillor for Housing & Licensing, High Peak Borough Council*



**Cllr Christine Ludlow**  
*Cabinet Minister for Housing, Chesterfield Borough Council*



**Cllr Carolyn Renwick**  
*Cabinet Member for Housing & Community Safety, North East Derbyshire District Council*



**Cllr Chris Furness**  
*Chair of Community and Environment, Derbyshire Dales District Council*



**Cllr Gordon Rhind**  
*Chair of Housing & Community Service Committee, South Derbyshire District Council*



## Derbyshire Homelessness Officers Group

We are excited to be able to adopt such an ambitious Countywide Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy and are committed to working in partnership across the County to transform our response to homelessness.

# Introduction

**This is Derbyshire's first Countywide Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and signifies a transformation in our response to homelessness. Through this strategy we want to ensure a whole system approach whereby homelessness is everyone's responsibility. The development of this strategy has been commissioned by the eight district and borough Councils to ensure a collaborative and innovative approach to transforming our response to homelessness.**

This strategy has been developed at a time of significant pressures – including the recovery from the pandemic, the war in Ukraine, the largest increases in the cost of living witnessed in 10 years, and inflation at the highest level in 40 years. This is set against a backdrop of an increasingly unaffordable housing market and national increases in homelessness levels. The challenges we are facing are significant – and that is why it is more imperative than ever to have a strategic countywide response to tackling homelessness across Derbyshire.

It is widely recognised that homelessness, in its causes and consequences, is a cross-cutting issue, which cannot be tackled by one agency alone. In order to effectively prevent and respond to homelessness it is essential that all partner agencies work collaboratively together in an integrated way to both address the underlying causes that have led to homelessness, but also develop a system that meets the needs of this, often vulnerable, client group in a coordinated way.

The homelessness response to the COVID-19 pandemic has seen a collective partnership approach to protecting the most vulnerable members of our communities. Through our response to the pandemic we have demonstrated what working together can achieve and there is strong evidence to show that our actions have saved lives and prevented hospital and intensive care admissions.

This unprecedented challenge has led to creativity, innovation, improved partnership working, and a wider recognition of the intrinsic link between homelessness and health. Through a co-ordinated approach to service delivery we have witnessed



improved outcomes for some of our clients with long and complex histories of homelessness.

Through this strategy we want to build upon this collaborative approach and create a new normal that breaks down current blockages within the system, ensuring a multi-disciplinary approach designed around the needs of customers.

We now have a unique opportunity to ensure that systems change permanently. Through this strategy we want to ensure that there is a legacy; changing the way homelessness and wider services are designed, commissioned, and delivered across Derbyshire.

This strategy also provides a platform to work in partnership to meet the complex and multiple needs that some individuals experiencing homelessness present with – over recent years we have witnessed a stark increase in the complexity of need that people are presenting with. The solution to homelessness is rarely ever just a home and through the implementation of this strategy we will develop a multi-disciplinary approach that seeks to address the underlying causes of homelessness and the wider support needs that people experience, alongside developing clear pathways between services.

This strategy sets out a clear and ambitious plan to transform our response to homelessness and has been developed through close collaboration between the Derbyshire Homelessness Officer's Group (DHOG), Derbyshire County Council, Public Health, NHS, Police, Probation, and a wide range of partner agencies.

The success of its delivery will rest upon the ongoing commitment of all of these organisations to meet our vision, and to ensure that homelessness is everyone's responsibility and the response that we saw during the pandemic becomes the new normal.

Whilst the ambitions of this Strategy are to collaborate to ensure consistent and high quality provision to meet the needs of the people of Derbyshire, there will still be a need for individual local authorities to undertake localised projects to meet the individual needs of their specific communities.

## Building on Success: Derbyshire Homelessness Officers Group

Derbyshire Homelessness Officers Group's (DHOG) purpose is to promote homelessness reduction and prevention through strategic leadership and the development and commissioning of improved and integrated homelessness services in the County. DHOG's mission is to make homelessness, and the causes of homelessness, everyone's responsibility.

DHOG is made up of homeless leads from the 9 District and Borough Authorities (including Staffordshire Moorlands), together with representatives from Public Health and Derbyshire County Council.

DHOG recognises that this Strategy sets out an ambitious plan and vision for tackling homelessness over the next five years, and to successfully deliver this will require significant commitment from all of the Local Authorities and our key partners. However this strategy is built upon a successful partnership, which has a unique reputation for getting things done, and bringing about collaboration and change.

The response to the pandemic has crystallised the impact that a joint and collaborative approach can have, and the combined effort of all DHOG partners ultimately saved lives. Our response included:

- Jointly commissioning the use of a local hotel to provide emergency accommodation.
- Securing match funding of £86,000 from Derbyshire County Council in order to pool COVID-19 emergency funds to enable a collaborative approach.



- Bringing together partners from the NHS, public health, adult social care, police, substance misuse services and the charitable sector to provide support to those accommodated as part of the crisis response.
- Establishing a 'Keeping Everyone In Service' (KEIS) to continue to provide accommodation and support to clients with severe and multiple deprivation, securing funding from a wide range of partners.
- Development of the Mount Cook Winter provision to provide emergency cold weather provision, with multi-agency support available on site.

Other achievements and successes of DHOG include:

- Derbyshire Move-on support protocol.
- Joint commissioning on an integrated ICT solution to meet the requirements of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.
- Co-ordination of rough sleeper counts across Derbyshire and Staffordshire Moorlands.
- Successful Rough Sleeper Initiative funding bid to provide outreach services across Derbyshire.
- Joint commissioning of a countywide out of hours service
- Joint commissioning of Call B4U Serve to prevent homelessness from the private rented sector



- These achievements provide us with a solid platform of collaboration to meet the ambitions set out in this strategy.
- Effective and successful partnership established with the Derbyshire Law Centre to deliver the Homelessness Prevention and Court Desk liaison services.

These achievements provide us with a solid platform of collaboration to meet the ambitions set out in this strategy.

# Our Vision

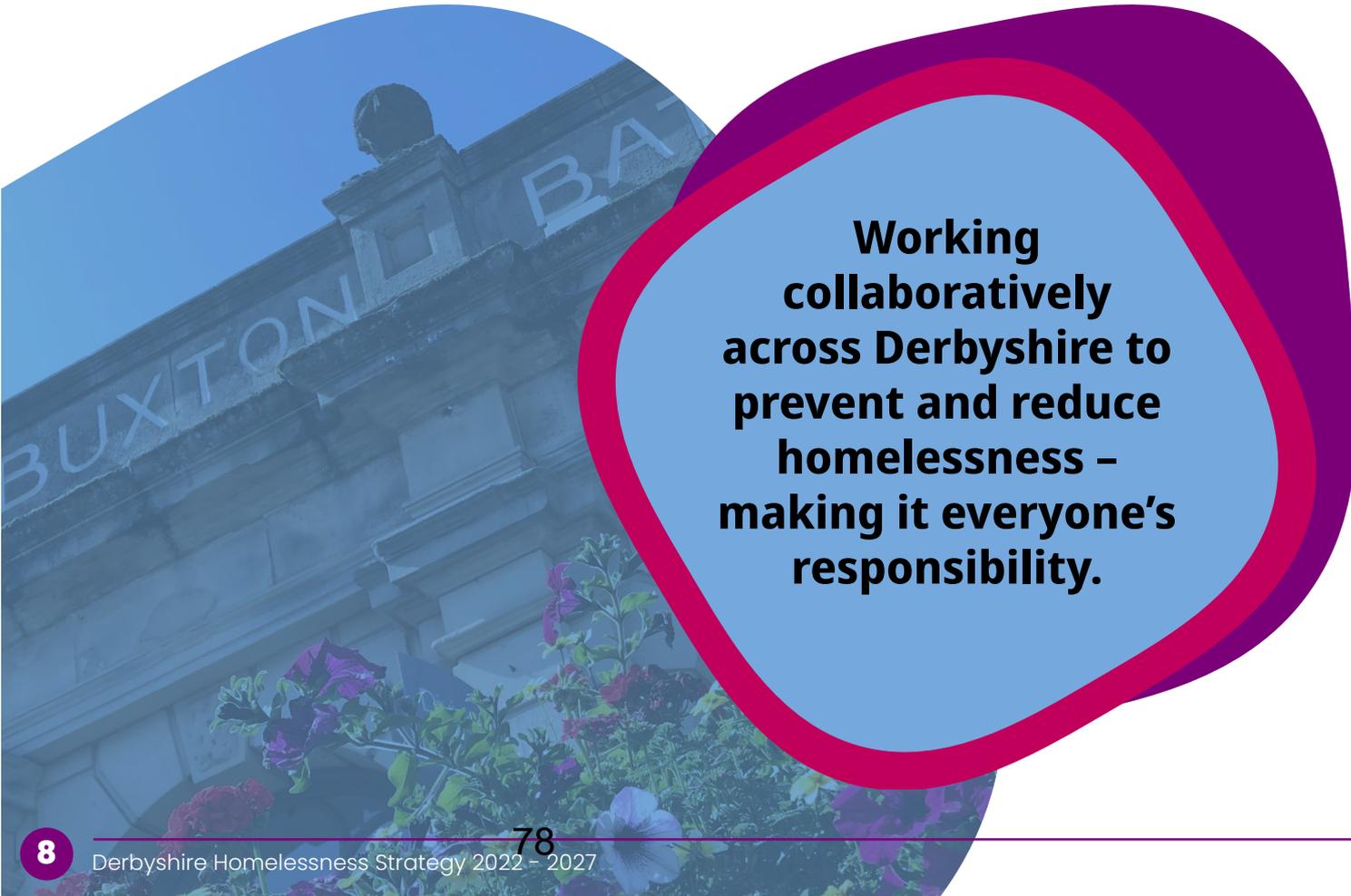
## Our Vision for Homelessness across Derbyshire

We recognise that while each district and borough is unique, many of the challenges we face in tackling homelessness are common across the whole of Derbyshire, and therefore this Strategy provides us with a platform upon which to transform homelessness services across Derbyshire. We recognise that the impact that we have when we work together is greater and we can achieve more. Together we are stronger.

Through this Strategy we aim to:

- Create, share, and replicate best practice and innovation in responses to homelessness and its prevention across Derbyshire.

- Commission and develop joint services and improve collaboration wherever possible.
- Prevent homelessness across the whole system by intervening earlier and developing individual solutions.
- Respond to homelessness by ensuring individuals have prompt access to homes and tailored support.
- Secure system wide transformation of all services in recognition that homelessness is everyone's responsibility.
- Increase the range of affordable housing options available across the County.
- Develop a better understanding of the causes of homelessness through improved data capture across the sub region.



**Working collaboratively across Derbyshire to prevent and reduce homelessness – making it everyone's responsibility.**

# Meeting our vision

## Transforming our Approach

This Strategy sets out an ambitious plan for transforming our response to homelessness across the County. The scale and complexity of the challenges that face the partnership over the lifetime of this strategy cannot be underestimated; these challenges include the recovery from the pandemic, high increases in the cost of living, national increases in homelessness and rough sleeping, and pressures on budgets – set against an increasingly unaffordable housing market.

Through the delivery of the Strategy we will continue to work closely with partners to develop a new approach to responding to homelessness that focuses on preventing homelessness at the earliest opportunity, while providing rapid housing responses to those that need them. We will work to embed homelessness prevention approaches across all public services.



To meet the vision and aims of the strategy there is a need to transform service delivery through the following principles:

### Collaboration

A collaborative partnership approach is fundamental to being able to effectively tackle homelessness. This Strategy is a multi-agency document and has been developed with partners to tackle the underlying causes of homelessness, create effective pathways out of homelessness, and design out system blockages.



## Making homelessness everyone's responsibility

We are clear that all agencies have a responsibility to prevent homelessness. We will work with partners and local communities to ensure that the factors that lead to homelessness can be better understood and identified, with effective pathways into preventative services in place, and clear and accessible referral mechanisms. We aim to embed this approach across Derbyshire, significantly reducing crisis presentations and ensuring effective homelessness prevention interventions, partnerships and pathways are in place.

## A personalised approach

We recognise that people experiencing homelessness are individuals and have different and unique circumstances and needs. Through this Strategy we intend to deliver solutions that are tailored to the individual needs of people. Our approach is to recognise the strengths and assets that individuals have, and we will build upon these strengths, empowering individuals, and ensuring a trauma informed approach across all key services.

## Strategic Priorities

This Strategy will meet the vision and aims through the delivery of 4 clear priorities:

### 1. Make homelessness everyone's responsibility through a system wide approach

- Secure System-wide commitment to transform services in recognition that homelessness is everyone's responsibility.
- Embed homeless prevention across public services.

### 2. Prevent and respond to homelessness through early intervention and personalised solutions

- Intervene earlier to ensure opportunities for homeless prevention are maximised with effective and targeted tools in place.
- Promote customer choice in developing bespoke housing solutions.



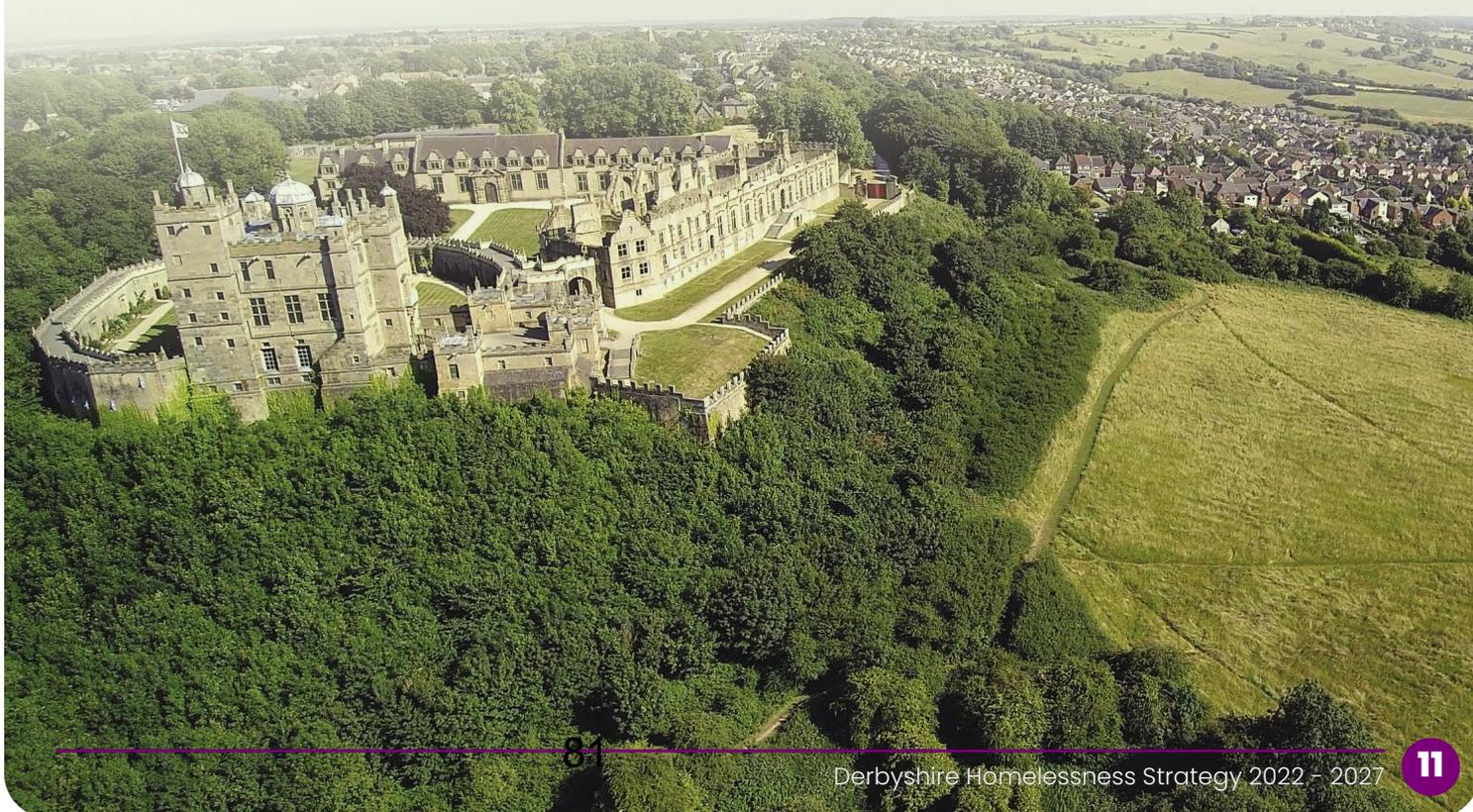
### 3. End rough sleeping and repeat homelessness

- Deliver a multi-agency, trauma informed approach to meet the multiple and complex needs of individuals through multi-disciplinary interventions
- Develop targeted rough sleeping prevention services and rapid accommodation and support
- Prevent repeat homelessness through individually tailored accommodation and support options.

### 4. Develop sustainable supported and settled housing solutions

- Advocate for higher standards in the regulation of supported housing at a national level
- Develop, improve, then maintain the standards and management of supported housing provision to meet the needs of our homeless population
- Improve access to affordable, quality, private sector homes to respond to homelessness
- Secure commitment from social housing providers to tackle homelessness as a corporate priority
- Ensure an adequate supply of temporary accommodation and minimise the use of B&B accommodation.

The Strategy sets out how these strategic priorities will be delivered.



# Homelessness in figures

## Understanding homelessness across Derbyshire

A full data report is available upon request.

In 2020/21, there were

# 2,603

households who were homeless or threatened with homelessness.



In 2020/21,

# 104

people were verified rough sleeping across Derbyshire

The main reason for homelessness in 2020/21 was family eviction

# 613

households were homeless for this reason.



# 434

households were homeless due to the loss of private rented accommodation in 2020/21.

In 2020/21,

# 382

households were homeless due to relationship breakdown.



# 344

households were homeless due to domestic abuse.



In 2019/20,

# 292

households were evicted from social housing.

In 2020/21,

# 143

people were evicted from supported housing.



In 2020/21, there were

**1,479**

people experiencing homelessness had an identified support need.



In 2020/21,

**1,031**

households had their homelessness prevented.



Mental Health is the most prevalent support need, with

**33%**

of homeless households having a mental health support need.

In 2020/21,

**796**

households had their homelessness relieved.

**28%**

people were verified increase in the use of B&Bs in 2020/21 compared with the previous year.

**592**

households were accommodated in B&Bs in 2020/21.



**43%**

increase in the use of temporary accommodation in 2020/21 compared with the previous year.

**951**

households were accommodated in temporary accommodation in 2020/21.

# Make homelessness everyone's responsibility through a system-wide approach

**In order to be able to meet the vision of this Strategy we intend to develop a clear Derbyshire Homelessness Charter for partner agencies to be sign up to.**

The Charter will set out our vision for homelessness and ask partner agencies to sign up to this and make a pledge as to what they can do to help us achieve the vision. Building upon this we will explore the feasibility of developing a commitment from partners to collaborate to prevent homelessness in order to embed homeless prevention across public services. In the meantime we will streamline the existing duty to refer process to ensure timely and quality referrals.

We know that there are currently missed opportunities across the system to prevent homelessness; a wide range of agencies have opportunities to reduce housing crisis amongst

the clients that they work with. We can achieve this by working in a more joined up way to identify those individuals that are at a greater risk of homelessness. By working to identify the triggers for homelessness and ensuring that agencies can recognise the indicators of housing stress, we can ensure that partner agencies are equipped to prevent homelessness and make appropriate timely referrals. We are clear that homelessness is everyone's responsibility, and by all agencies accepting this responsibility we can transform our approach to homelessness across the County.

While it is widely recognised that there are strong correlations between homelessness and severe physical and mental health conditions, alongside significantly reduced life expectancy, the pandemic has crystallised the links between health and homelessness like never before.

**Embed  
homeless  
prevention  
across public  
services**

**Secure system-  
wide commitment to  
transform services  
in recognition that  
homelessness  
is everyone's  
responsibility**

We will work to improve access to health services for people experiencing homelessness to address both immediate and longer term needs, while recognising that people experiencing homelessness may not find it easy to access mainstream service provision.

It is acknowledged that there are currently barriers within the current system that often mean that individuals experiencing homelessness with complex needs aren't always able to access the wider services that they need to, including mental health, substance misuse, and adult social care services. Often individuals with complex and multiple needs fail to attend appointments at specific locations and times, or engage with the necessary services, this can result in them being discharged from services. We will work closely with Public Health, the Primary Care Trust, Derbyshire Foundation Trust, and Derbyshire County Council to ensure that services are accessible to those experiencing multiple and severe deprivation and that individual outcomes are improved.

We have identified high levels of evictions from social housing in some parts of the County, we will work closely with all social housing providers to end evictions into homelessness, through the development of pre-eviction protocols and encouraging landlords to sign up to the principles of Homes for Cathy.

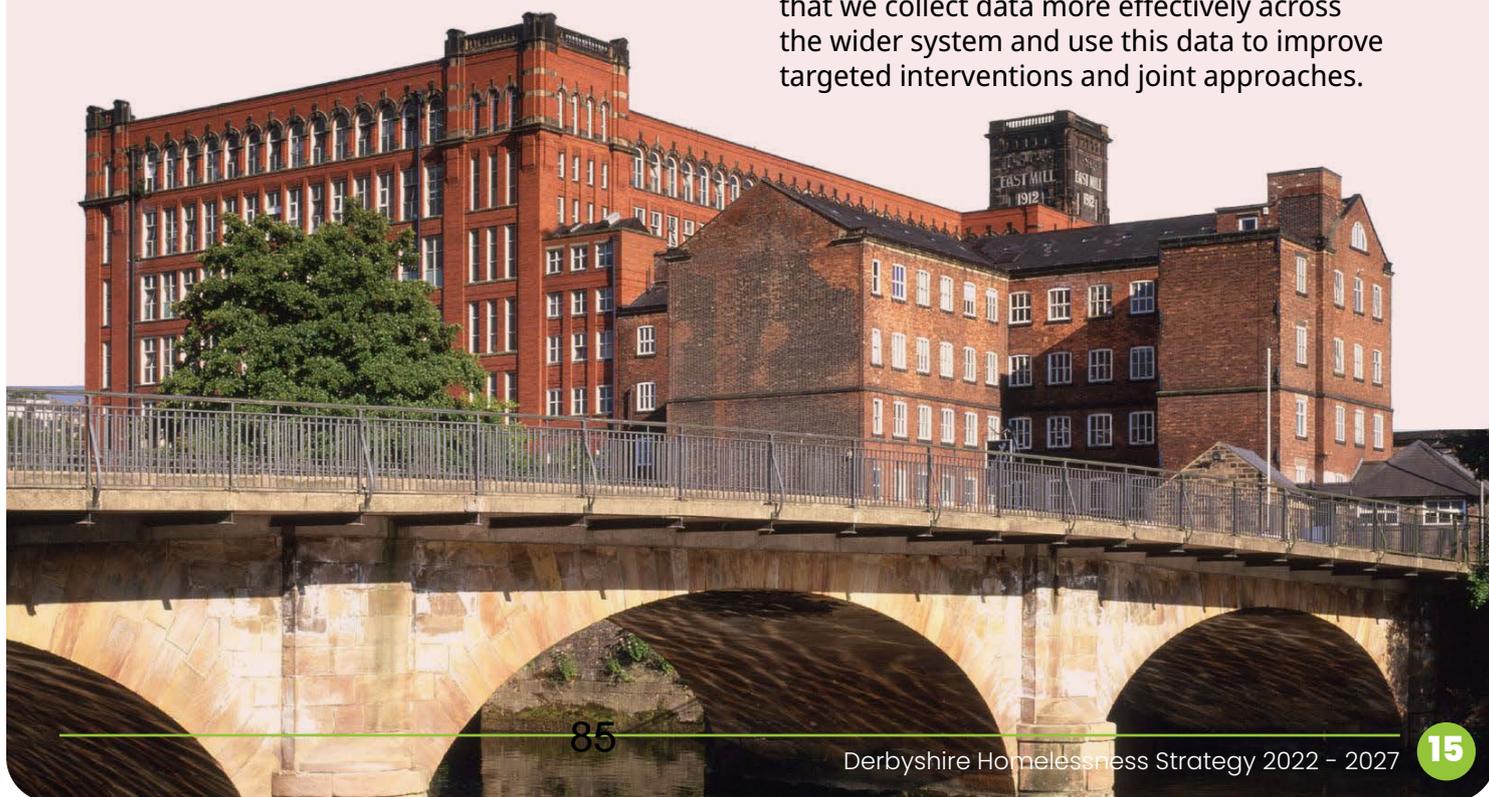
Significant parts of the County are very rural and as such homelessness in these areas is often hidden. People who are experiencing homelessness or in housing difficulty are more



likely to try and make temporary arrangements with family and friends, compared with more urban areas with greater provision available. We will undertake research into the nature and extent of rural homelessness across the County and raise awareness within rural communities of the help and support that is available to people who are at risk of experiencing homelessness.

This Strategy provides the opportunity to develop more consistent approaches to how each Local Authority delivers their housing options and homelessness services, including learning from, sharing, and replicating best practice and innovation.

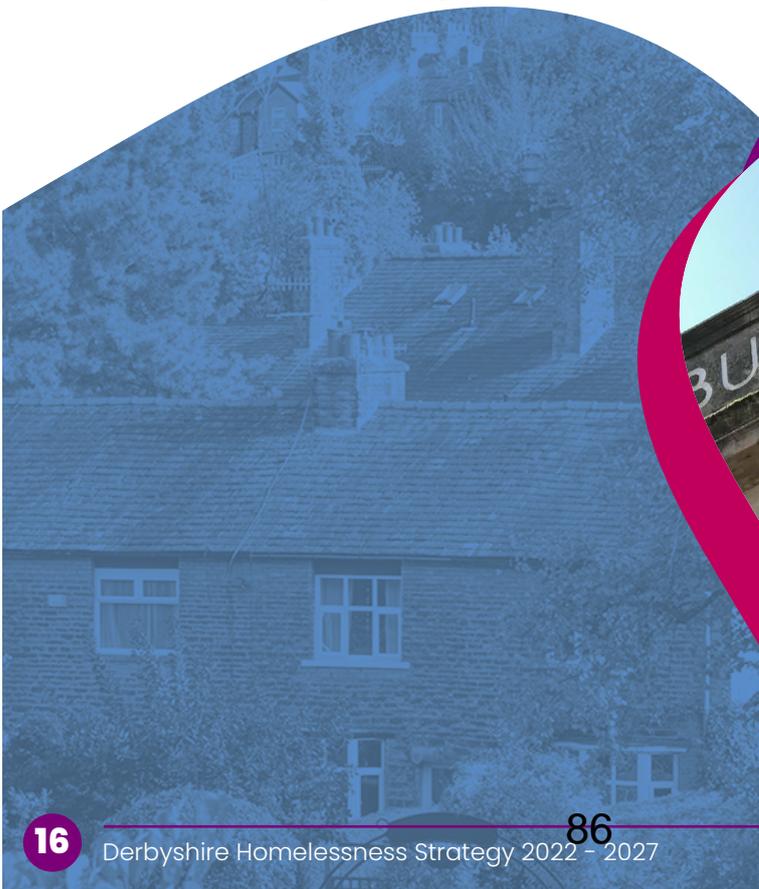
We will also ensure that data informs and underlies everything that we do. We will ensure that we collect data more effectively across the wider system and use this data to improve targeted interventions and joint approaches.



# Actions

## What we will do to make homelessness everyone's responsibility through a system-wide approach

1. Gain commitment from partner agencies across Derbyshire to develop a Homelessness Charter together.
2. Assess the feasibility of a Commitment to Collaborate in order to embed homeless prevention across Derbyshire's statutory and voluntary services.
3. Identify the key triggers for homelessness and work with partners to ensure that they are equipped to prevent homelessness and/or make seamless referrals where necessary.
4. Streamline the Duty to Refer referral system and work with partner agencies to improve the timeliness and quality of referrals.
5. Develop a Countywide Homelessness Forum as a vehicle for delivering the Countywide Homelessness Strategy.
6. Seek to better understand the health needs of the homeless population through a health needs audit with partners.
7. Improve access to health services and health outcomes for individuals experiencing homelessness, by working with partners.
8. Work with Derbyshire County Council, the Primary Care Trust, Derbyshire Foundation Trust, and Public Health to influence and inform the commissioning and delivery of mental health, substance misuse, and adult social care services to ensure they are accessible and meet the needs of clients experiencing homelessness with complex and multiple needs.
9. Seek that stock holding authorities sign up to the principles for Homes for Cathy.
10. Encourage all social housing providers to become a member of Homes for Cathy.
11. Evaluate the extent of rural homelessness across the area and the need for a specific public awareness campaign within rural communities.
12. Identify opportunities to create more consistent approaches and promote best practice in the delivery of housing options services.
13. Develop a common referral form to access supported housing services across Derbyshire.
14. Ensure that data is captured widely and effectively across the system to understand homelessness and the wider determinants, and that this data is used to improve interventions and joint approaches.



## **Prevent and Respond to Homelessness Through Early Intervention and Personalised Solutions**

Across Derbyshire we have had significant success in both preventing and relieving homelessness following the implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, but we recognise that we can always do more.

By acting quicker and earlier to identify problems alongside the provision of high-quality advice, assistance, and advocacy, we will ensure people have the best chance of staying in their home. We will also develop a greater understanding of the impact of wider social issues such as childhood poverty and disadvantage, unemployment, poor health and wellbeing, and lack of access to affordable, decent homes. We believe this will greatly increase the chances of positive outcomes for people at risk of experiencing homelessness.

Alongside our intention to promote the earliest possible prevention by embedding homelessness prevention awareness and information through a multi layered, whole system, partnership approach, we are committed to ensuring all Housing Options services work with individuals prior to the statutory 56-day threat of homelessness. We will work with people at the earliest possible point to ensure that opportunities for prevention are maximised, this will include undertaking an awareness raising campaign encouraging people to seek help at the earliest point.

In order to ensure that we are able to deliver personalised housing solutions we will develop an integrated homelessness and wellbeing assessment which will identify the wider support and wellbeing areas that people need help with alongside understanding their strengths and aspirations.

We will continue to work with partners to develop and deliver effective, targeted, and consistent homelessness prevention services targeted at the main causes of homelessness – in particular we will undertake research into the causes of family evictions across Derbyshire in order to gain an in depth insight into this area and develop targeted interventions accordingly. We will work with key partners to ensure that a range of joint protocols are in place to prevent homelessness and create clear pathways out of homelessness.

**Intervene earlier to ensure opportunities for homelessness prevention are maximised with effective and targeted tools in place.**

**Promote customer choice in developing bespoke housing solutions.**

It is anticipated that increases in the cost of living will lead to people finding it increasingly difficult to meet their housing costs. We will ensure that a range of measures are in place to prevent homelessness linked to the wider economy, increases in the cost of living, and the recovery from the pandemic. We will work in partnership to ensure adequate services are in place to improve people's financial capability, including accessing education, employment and training. We will also ensure that there are targeted interventions to support both tenants and landlords in order to minimise evictions from the private rented sector.

Following the enactment of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 we will work closely with Derbyshire County Council to meet the requirements of the Act, and ensure that for those experiencing domestic abuse there are a range of options and choice available to assist them in having a safe home to live in.

The months ahead are going to be very hard with soaring food and energy prices on top of extortionate and rising rents. If struggling families are to stand a chance at recovery, the government has to build decent social homes - it is the only solution to homelessness that will last.”

The impact of homelessness on families with children can be significant – not only do children feel an overwhelming sense of displacement having lost a sense of home, experiencing homelessness and living in emergency accommodation can impact upon access to healthy meals, limited access to bathrooms and laundry facilities, potentially having to move away from family, schools, and wider support networks. Experiencing homelessness can also lead to severe emotional trauma.

With increases in the cost of living there will be an increase in the number of children living in poverty, an increase in families being able to meet their housing costs, and a very likely increase in homelessness amongst families.

We will work closely in partnership with a range of agencies including Children’s Services to minimise the detrimental impact of homelessness on families, specifically children.

## Actions

### What we will do to prevent and respond to homelessness through early intervention and personalised solutions

1. Consider research projects into the impact of wider social issues on homelessness where shared partnership approaches are central to resolving them. Prioritise projects and seek resources for these based on impact and extent of existing research.
2. Commit to working to prevent homelessness prior to 56 days (in advance of any statutory duty), and where funding allows develop a specialist early intervention project.
3. Undertake an awareness raising campaign focusing on homeless prevention, encouraging individuals to seek help at the earliest point.
4. Work with partners to develop an integrated homelessness and wellbeing assessment.
5. Work with Derbyshire County Council to meet the requirements of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, including ensuring that there is a range of housing options, choice and information available to those experiencing domestic abuse.



6. React accordingly and ensure a range of measures are in place to prevent homelessness linked to the wider economy and increases in the cost of living.
7. Work with partners to ensure access to services to improve customer's financial capability – including access to education, training, and employment.
8. Commit to improving prevention toolkits across Derbyshire.
9. Work with partners to better understand the nature and extent of family evictions, and develop targeted preventative tools accordingly.
10. Work to maximise preventions from the private rented sector through the development of targeted interventions.
11. Explore the viability of creating a county-wide private landlords forum in order to improve landlord participation and engagement.
12. Develop a supported housing pre-eviction protocol in partnership with providers.
13. Develop a prison release protocol.
14. Secure support from leadership at relevant hospitals to develop discharge protocols with Derbyshire councils.



15. Develop a Young Persons Positive Pathway with Children's Services to include a joint protocol for 16/17 year olds.
16. Work in partnership with Children's services and other key agencies to minimise the detrimental impact of homelessness on children.



# End rough sleeping and repeat homelessness

**Through this strategy we are committed to ensure that we can end the need for anyone to sleep rough across Derbyshire. Rough sleeping is harmful to both individuals and communities and we believe that no one should have to sleep on the streets.**

We will deliver a reduction in rough sleeping and address the multiple harms it brings to individuals and communities through rapid intervention to offer a route off the street for all, improving health and wellbeing, and tackling street activity associated with rough sleeping.

**Develop targeted rough sleeping prevention services and rapid accommodation and support**

If we are to minimise the considerable harm caused by rough sleeping, the most important thing we can do is to prevent it from happening in the first place. However, we can't do this in isolation, rather, we need to ensure that the right support is in place from other key agencies, including health services, adult social care, prison, probation, police, the care system and the Job Centre working together to support the most vulnerable, with services in place that prevent people ending up in crisis.

**Prevent repeat homelessness through individually tailored accommodation and support options**

**Deliver a multi-agency, trauma-informed approach to meet the multiple and complex needs of individuals through multi-disciplinary interventions**

We will identify the key triggers that lead to rough sleeping, and work with partner agencies to ensure that these key triggers and risk factors are identified, and referrals are made. We will also ensure that effective preventative work is targeted at groups who have a greater likelihood of experiencing homelessness and rough sleeping.

We will provide a rapid intervention for all rough sleepers which will offer a route off of the streets for everyone, through an assertive outreach service, that works effectively and rapidly with those new to the streets – alongside supporting more entrenched rough sleepers into accommodation and support and providing supported reconnections to those from out of area.

We will ensure that no one in Derbyshire has to sleep rough through the creation of a clear accommodation pathway from the streets into a range of accommodation options, including exploring the feasibility of a Countywide assessment centre. We will also create specialist winter provision, building upon the success of the Mount Cook project – which provided both accommodation and multi-agency support under one roof.

While rough sleeping is the most visible form of homelessness, and one that creates the greatest risk of harm, we recognise that across the majority of Derbyshire Local Authority areas rough sleeping levels are low; however there has been over recent years an increase in the number of individuals with complex and multiple needs who have a history of repeat homelessness across all areas of Derbyshire.

For many people experiencing homelessness is not just a housing issue, it is closely linked with complex and chaotic life experiences, often having their roots in entrenched disadvantage, and leaving people socially and economically excluded.

We cannot successfully tackle homelessness and rough sleeping without addressing the multiple needs of clients, and to do this we must work in partnership.

Through the establishment of a Multi-Disciplinary Team we aim to deliver assertive and co-ordinated services to those clients with the most complex needs to ensure a holistic and collaborative approach to responding to their homelessness and the wider support and health issues that they experience, breaking down some of the



existing system blockages and preventing repeat homelessness from occurring.

We recognise that homelessness in adults is more likely amongst those who have experienced a history of childhood adversity and poverty. We are committed to working to develop trauma-informed approaches to delivering homelessness services and ensuring that existing systems do not result in retraumatising individuals.

Many of the current rough sleeping and complex needs services across Derbyshire are funded through Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) funding from central Government which is only confirmed until 2025. Over the first two years of this strategy we will assess the impact and outcomes of the RSI funded projects, including a cost benefit analysis –working to develop a business case to secure future ongoing funding for these essential services which are critical to our aim to end rough sleeping.

While rough sleeping is the most visible form of homelessness, the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the true extent of hidden homelessness across the County, individuals living in insecure accommodation, vulnerably housed and/or sofa surfing. We will undertake research to understand the nature and scale of hidden homelessness across Derbyshire and develop targeted interventions.

We will also work in partnership to develop specialist services for families with complex needs to prevent repeat cycles of homelessness occurring, with the aim of tackling inter-generational homelessness.

# Actions

## What we will do to end rough sleeping and repeat homelessness

1. As part of the Rough Sleeping Initiative, develop a targeted prevention approach to prevent the flow of new rough sleepers on to the street.
2. Develop a multi-disciplinary team to work to deliver assertive and coordinated services to rough sleepers and individuals experiencing homelessness with multiple, complex needs, with a focus on preventing repeat homelessness.
3. Explore how we can provide a rapid offer of off the street accommodation so that no-one has to spend a second night on the streets.
4. Explore the feasibility of developing an assessment centre to provide off the street accommodation for rough sleepers.
5. Plan and develop specialist winter provision for future winters.
6. Develop a supported reconnection policy to support rough sleepers to return safely to their home areas.
7. Assess the impact and outcomes of the Rough Sleeper Initiative funded projects, and develop a business case to secure future funding, including a detailed cost benefit analysis.
8. Develop an alternative giving campaign, and work to promote public awareness around rough sleeping and begging, where there is evidence that the issues exists.
9. Develop specialist education, employment, and training opportunities for those with a complex history of homelessness and rough sleeping.
10. Gather evidence and consider research projects into
  - The extent of dual diagnosis within the homelessness population in order to create an evidence base to work with commissioners to create new service pathways.
  - The nature and scale of hidden homelessness.
  - The nature and scale of intergenerational homelessness across Derbyshire.
  - Prioritise those projects needed based on impact and seek funding to progress them.



# Develop sustainable supported and settled housing solutions

**We want to maximise every mechanism to increase the number of affordable housing options available across Derbyshire to both prevent and relieve homelessness ensuring long-term solutions to people's housing situation. A range of accommodation options is needed across the social, affordable private and supported sector to cater for a wide range of housing needs.**

We will work across Derbyshire with all social housing developers to increase the provision of appropriate and affordable social housing to meet the identified need in each area.

The private rented sector plays an increasingly critical role in meeting the housing needs of those who are experiencing homelessness or threatened with homelessness.

There are clear opportunities to increase access to the private rented sector through the development of an attractive and comprehensive Derbyshire landlord offer, alongside this we will explore the feasibility of developing a countywide private sector leasing scheme.

Supported housing has an important role to play in meeting the housing and support needs of clients who are not ready to live independently. However, this must provide quality accommodation with good support. Increasingly we are seeing a rise in unscrupulous landlords taking advantage of the exempt accommodation rules and failing to provide the necessary levels

**Develop, improve, then maintain the standards and management of supported housing provision to meet the needs of our homeless population**

**Improve access to affordable, quality, private sector homes to respond to homelessness**

**Secure commitment from social housing providers to tackle homelessness as a corporate priority**

of support or expected standards of tenancy management. Through this Strategy we will advocate at a national level for higher standards in the regulation of supported accommodation. We will work closely with Adult Social Care to protect and safeguard the most vulnerable residents of supported accommodation.

Locally we will develop a Charter of Rights and Responsibilities for exempt accommodation, we also recognise we have many good private landlords of exempt accommodation, and we will support them to achieve Registered Provider status.

To ensure that supported housing provision is able to meet our customers' increasingly complex and multiple needs, we will undertake a detailed needs assessment of housing related support services, to understand the current and future needs of our residents. This will provide the basis for a robust delivery strategy.

DHOG is committed to investing in a supported housing model that acts as a place of change. We will work with the Derbyshire County Council to develop appropriate housing for clients with complex, multiple and care needs, ensuring that provision and support is psychologically informed, and builds upon the assets of the individuals supported.

We will also work closely with Derbyshire County Council to develop provision for those experiencing domestic abuse, including rapid safe provision together with advocacy support.

Where homelessness cannot be prevented, temporary accommodation is an essential part of a household's journey out of homelessness. There has been an increase in the use of temporary accommodation across Derbyshire over the last three years, including increases in the use of bed & breakfast accommodation, this is partly linked to the response to the pandemic.

By ensuring a continued focus on early intervention and prevention work we aim to reduce the flow of new placements into temporary accommodation. However, as a County we need to ensure that we have a sufficient supply of temporary accommodation to meet demand, of the right type and in the right place. This will be essential to avoid the high use of B&B.

In order to achieve this we will undertake a review of temporary accommodation identifying future need and an options appraisal for future delivery arrangements. We will also explore the feasibility of jointly commissioning nightly paid accommodation as an alternative to B&B.

**Advocate for higher standards in the regulation of supported housing at a national level**

**Ensure an adequate supply of temporary accommodation and minimise the use of B&B accommodation**



# Actions

## What we will do to develop sustainable supported and settled housing solutions

1. Work towards increasing the provision of appropriate, affordable social housing.
2. Following consultation with private landlords develop a comprehensive and attractive countywide landlord offer.
3. Explore opportunities to develop a countywide private sector leasing scheme
4. Review exempt supported accommodation leading to:
  - A needs assessment.
  - A charter of rights and quality standards.
  - Support for accommodation providers becoming Registered Providers.
  - Advocating at a national level for better regulation.
  - A delivery strategy.
5. In partnership with Derbyshire County Council, develop appropriate housing provision for clients with complex, multiple and longer-term care needs where funding permits.
6. Work with current exempt supported accommodation providers to achieve Registered Provider status.
7. Carry out a review of the use of temporary and interim accommodation:
  - Identifying future need and an options appraisal for future delivery arrangements, including the option of nightly paid emergency accommodation.
  - Explore opportunities for a countywide temporary accommodation forum.



# Transforming our approach to homelessness

## Delivering our Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy

**In order to deliver the priorities that we have set out in this Strategy we need to continue to work closely with our key partners to ensure that across Derbyshire we have the expertise, services, provision, resources, partnerships and infrastructure to deliver the Strategy.**

The Strategy and its action plan will be reviewed annually so that it is responsive to emerging needs, alongside policy, and legislative changes.

While Derbyshire Homelessness Officers Group will lead on the delivery of the strategy, it is essential that it joins up with over workstreams across the County. DHOG will report into the County's Housing and Health Systems Group, who will adopt the Strategy as priority 2 of their own work plan. The Housing and Health Systems Group operates as a coalition of partners who share good practice and expertise around housing and health, as well as explore external investment opportunities and work towards a joined-up system.

The delivery of the Strategy will be governed by Derbyshire's Health and Wellbeing Board, ensuring the intrinsic link between homelessness and health is fully understood and cementing the partnership approach required to deliver the Strategy.

We will also ensure that the Homelessness Strategy continues to feed into the Place Board and the seven Place Alliances, joining up housing, health, care and community support.

This strategy will be complemented by a detailed delivery action plan and we will work closely with all of our key partners to agree the detail on how our priorities can be met. We will annually review the strategy action plan to ensure that it remains relevant, up to date and responsive to new policy developments and external pressures.

We acknowledge that the plans set out within this Strategy are ambitious, however we are confident that with the full commitment from all of the Local Authorities and our key partners we can transform our response to homelessness across the County and make homelessness everyone's responsibility.



# Appendix 1: About Homeless Link

**Homeless Link is the national membership charity for organisations working with people experiencing or at risk of homelessness in England. We aim to develop, inspire, support, and sustain a movement of organisations working together to achieve positive futures for people who are homeless or vulnerably housed.**

Representing over 900 organisations across England, we are in a unique position to see both the scale and nature of the tragedy of homelessness. We see the data gaps; the national policy barriers; the constraints of both funding and expertise; the system blocks and attitudinal obstacles. But crucially, we also see – and are instrumental in developing – the positive practice and ‘what works’ solutions.

As an organisation we believe that things can and should be better: not because we are naïve or cut off from reality, but because we have seen and experienced radical positive change in the way systems and services are delivered – and that gives us hope for a different future.

We support our members through research, guidance, and learning, and to promote policy change that will ensure everyone has a place to call home and the support they need to keep it.

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## ***We speak your language***

Polish

***Mówimy Twoim językiem***

Romanian

***Vorbim limba dumneavoastră***

Urdu

**ہم آپ کی زبان بولتے ہیں**

Chinese

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