

REPORT TITLE: Cambridge City Homelessness Review

To: Services, Climate and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Lead Cabinet Member: Cllr Todd-Jones, Cabinet Member for Safety, Wellbeing and Tackling Homelessness

Report by: Samantha Shimmon, Assistant Director for Housing and Health

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Wards affected: All

Director Approval: Director Sam Scharf confirms that the report author has sought the advice of all appropriate colleagues and given due regard to that advice; that the equalities impacts and other implications of the recommended decisions have been assessed and accurately presented in the report; and that they are content for the report to be put to the Cabinet/Cabinet Member for decision.

1.	Purpose and reason for the report
1.1	To comment on the review that has been conducted on Homelessness services delivered by Cambridge City Council and the Homelessness system as a whole across the city. To provide feedback and help officers and cabinet shape next steps and a Rough Sleeping and Homelessness Strategy.
1.2	<i>There is an exempt annex attached to this report that is NOT FOR PUBLICATION by reason of paragraph three of Schedule 12A of Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1972 because it contains Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest test has been applied to the information contained within this exempt annex and it is considered that the need to retain the information as exempt outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.</i>
2.	Background and key issues
2.1	Cambridge City Council procured a comprehensive, independent review of the entire homelessness system in Cambridge, covering:

- Council policies and operational practice
- Partnership working across health, voluntary sector, criminal justice, housing and social care
- Funding flows and commissioning approaches
- Prevention, temporary accommodation, rough sleeping and long-term resettlement

Cambridge faces specific pressures in relation to Homelessness:

- Very high private rented sector costs
- Hidden pockets of deprivation
- A large and active voluntary and community sector
- Rising complexity of need among people experiencing homelessness

The Council is seeking to modernise and improve the effectiveness of prevention, temporary accommodation use, partnership working and funding models, and to move more activity “upstream” before homelessness occurs.

The review forms phase one of the project, with phase two being to develop a new Rough Sleeping and Homelessness Strategy 2026-28 and provide support to implement the actions.

PPL was the successful organisation to complete the review and upon successful completion of stage one it is intended they would continue onto stage two.

3.	Corporate plan
3.1	<p><i>Explain how the decision links to the Council's Corporate Plan</i></p> <p><u>Corporate plan 2022-27: our priorities for Cambridge - Cambridge City Council</u></p> <p>This review and subsequent strategy links to two of the Council's objectives in the Corporate Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling poverty and inequality and helping people in the greatest need • Building a new generation of council and affordable homes and reducing homelessness
4.	Consultation, engagement and communication
4.1	<p>There have been no consultations as part of this review. However, it has been developed with the voice of lived experience. PPL worked with an organisation called Groundswell who interviewed 20 people with current or recent experience of homelessness and/or rough sleeping.</p>

5.	Anticipated outcomes, benefits or impact
5.1	<p>The review forms phase one of the procurement, with phase two only being commissioned to the same provider if we are satisfied with the outcome and recommendations from phase one.</p> <p>Some areas for Overview and Scrutiny Committee to focus on to ensure we are satisfied with the outcome of the review are and shaping next steps are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the evidence support a “system reset”? • Temporary Accommodation – is there a clear path away from B&B use? • Prevention – Is this genuinely upstream or just “earlier crisis work”? • Funding and Commissioning – does this reduce risk and cost over time?
6.	Equalities and socio-economic Implications
6.1	An EQIA has not been completed for the review. One will be completed as part of phase two.
7.	Appendices
7.1	<i>Confidential Appendix: Draft Homelessness Review</i>
	To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact Samantha Shimmon, Assistant Director: Housing and Health