

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

HOUSING COMMITTEE

4.00pm 17 MARCH 2021

VIRTUAL

DECISION LIST

Part One

145 TENANT AND LEASEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Contact Officer: Sam Warren

Tel: 01273 296821

Ward Affected: All Wards

RESOLVED: That the Housing Committee notes and approves:

- 2.1 The delivery of more 'pro-active' styles of engagement with tenants and leaseholders to consult and engage with a wider and more diverse group of residents.
- 2.2 The proposed changes to the current engagement's structures for tenants and leaseholders as set out in Appendix One.
- 2.3 The maximisation of Estate Development Budget by agreeing a change of scope to include tenant and leaseholder led community projects as well as physical items and works. This will sit alongside the funds from the environmental improvements budget to give tenants a greater say over funding.
- 2.4 To develop a policy for extending participatory budgeting, co-designed with tenants and leaseholders for approval by Housing Committee Winter 2021.
- 2.5 The development of a co-produced Implementation Plan to support the delivery of the Tenant and Leaseholder Engagement Strategy.

146 NEXT STEPS - ROUGH SLEEPING AND ACCOMMODATION DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND RECOVERY

Contact Officer: Sylvia Peckham

Tel: 01273 293318

Ward Affected: All Wards

RESOVLED: That the Housing Committee:

- 2.1 That Housing Committee note the progress to date.
- 2.2 That Housing Committee note the continued role of the Homeless Reduction Board in monitoring progress on meeting the conditions of NSAP funding and next steps.
- 2.3 That Housing Committee note the move on projections outlined in the report for those clients covered by Next Steps Accommodation Funding (Covid-1 in the report) and the continued emergency accommodation requirements for this cohort beyond 31st March 2021.
- 2.4 That Housing Committee note the move on projections for those assessed as at risk of rough sleeping who we have continued to accommodate (Covid-2 in the report) and the ongoing emergency accommodation requirements of those we have housed during the on-going pandemic into the new (2021-22) financial year.
- 2.5 That Housing Committee agree that by 21st June 2021, the accommodation offer to those assessed as at risk of rough sleeping made for the duration of the pandemic (Covid-2 in the report) is ended where no accommodation duty is owed by the council as outlined in paragraphs 3.11 – 3.13. This to be reviewed if there is a further increase in the pandemic.
- 2.6 That Housing Committee note the low number of verified rough sleepers (para 3.23) and that the Council will continue to seek to offer accommodation to all verified rough sleepers where this is permissible within the Council's powers to consolidate this achievement.
- 2.7 That Housing Committee agree Homeless Reduction Board oversee progress with the recovery of homelessness services, including face to face services, income recovery, move on and reconnections with a report on progress to the next Housing Committee.
- 2.8 That Housing Committee recommend to full council:
 - To adopt the Homeless Bill of Rights (as referred to in the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-25) as an aspirational document and as the standard against which the Council and its partners judge its policies and practices and outcomes;
 - That a copy of this resolution is signed by the Leader and sent to FEANTSA to mark its commitment to the international movement of solidarity with homeless people;

- To commit to a process of continuous commitment, improvement and engagement to uphold rights of homeless people.

That Housing Committee recommend to Policy & Resources committee:

- 2.9 That the Executive Director of Housing, Neighbourhoods & Communities be granted delegated authority to secure accommodation up to the 31st October 2021, by entering into contracts to extend existing arrangements or alternative arrangements where necessary to extend the provision of shorter-term/interim accommodation acquired in response to the Covid 19 pandemic, including a building to deliver the No Second Night Out service up to the beginning of October 2021.
- 2.10 Agree to continue to support people in the accommodation secured as para 2.9 which includes security, support and food where necessary estimated to cost £2.900m to 1st October 2021.
- 2.11 Note that if Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) funding is not available, this could create a service pressure of £2.043m.

This committee Notes:

- That on 25th June 2019 a Petition with (currently) 2,667 signatures was presented to the Council by Brighton & Hove Housing Coalition, with the support of FEANTSA and Just Fair, calling on it to adopt the Homeless Bill of Rights.
- That the Council Plan 2019-23, states that “We will ... adopt a Bill of Rights for homeless people”;
- That the Homelessness and Rough Sleepers Strategy approved by the Housing Committee on 17th June 2020 states that “The values of the ... Strategy align to aspirations within the Homeless Bill of Rights as amended for Brighton & Hove by Housing Rights Watch, FEANTSA and Just Fair” (page 11).
- That the Next Steps report presented to the Housing Committee of 17th March 2021 proposes that Housing Committee recommend to Full Council the use of the Homeless Bill of Rights, as a standard against which the Council and its partners judge our policies and practices.
- That the Homeless Bill of Rights User Guide, by Housing Rights Watch, states that “The bravest municipalities believe that endorsing the Bill of Rights was something they wanted to do. They did this showing a public commitment to its content and

sending a signed copy of the Bill to FEANTSA. The bill is only a starting point for continuous commitment, improvement and engagement to defend rights of homeless people”;

- That according to the Legal Implications section of the said Next Steps report, “According to the council’s constitution, the ‘Endorsing, approving or otherwise committing the Council to any charter, alliance or pledge’ is a full council function. The recommendation at 2.8 is consistent with the constitution’s requirements”.

This committee resolves to recommend to full council:

- To adopt the Homeless Bill of Rights (as referred to in the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-25) as an aspirational document and as the standard against which the Council and its partners judge its policies and practices and outcomes;
- That a copy of this resolution is signed by the Leader and sent to FEANTSA to mark its commitment to the international movement of solidarity with homeless people;
- To commit to a process of continuous commitment, improvement and engagement to uphold rights of homeless people.

147 MOULSECOOMB NEIGHBOURHOOD HUB & HOUSING SCHEME UPDATE

Contact Officer: Ben Miles
Ward Affected: All Wards

Tel: 01273 290336

RESOLVED: That the Housing Committee:

- 2.1 That the Housing Committee recommends to Policy & Resource Committee that Policy & Resources Committee:
 - 2.1.1 Notes the progress made on the Moulsecoomb Neighbourhood Hub & Housing Scheme and the rationale for high-level design changes to the masterplan.
 - 2.1.2 Notes the impact that the coronavirus pandemic has had on the programme’s delivery timeline.
 - 2.1.3 Notes the current financial position of the project and the governance arrangements in place to monitor delivery.
 - 2.1.4 Authorises officers to progress the conditions on the change of use consent for the former Portslade Sixth Form site development as set out in paragraph 3.26.

148 HOUSING COMMITTEE WORKPLAN PROGRESS UPDATE AND HOUSING PERFORMANCE REPORT - QUARTER 3, 2020/21

Contact Officer: Tom Matthews
Ward Affected: All Wards

Tel: 01273 293234

RESOLVED: That Housing Committee notes the report.