

REPORT OF THE IN-DEPTH SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP

Scrutiny Committee – 9 January 2024

Status: For Consideration

Key Decision: No

Executive Summary: This report presents the outcome of the Members Working Group on the challenges and measures relating to homelessness prevention. The final findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the working group are set out in Appendix A (to follow).

Contact Officer: Phil Magee, Ext 7305

Recommendation to Scrutiny Committee:

That the Scrutiny Committee consider the report and work of the In-Depth Scrutiny Working Group; and recommend the following additional measures to Cabinet:

- a) New Key Performance Indicators for residents awaiting homeless assessment after the initial triage process
- b) Additional incentives for landlords to join schemes
- c) Satisfaction Survey for customers
- d) Review of cost of placing customers further away from their facilities

Recommendation to Cabinet: To consider the recommendations of the Scrutiny Homelessness Working Group

Reason for recommendation: To progress the recommendations of the Member working group.

Introduction and Background

- 1 At its meeting on 6 July 2023, the Scrutiny Committee resolved to set up an In-depth Scrutiny Working Group to evaluate the challenges and available measures relating to homelessness prevention, including the approach and sustainability of out-of-district placements.
- 2 The Working Group was made up of the following members of the Scrutiny Committee, and one Member from outside of the Committee:
Cllr Horwood (Chairman)

Cllr Baker

Cllr Leaman

Cllr Manston

Cllr Scott (co-opted)

- 3 The findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the working group are set out in Appendix A.

Key Implications

Financial

Sevenoaks District Council operates within a balanced, 10 year budget. Any recommendations would therefore need to be subject to further investigation to remain within the current allocated budgets.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment

No relevant legal implications or Risk Assessment

Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Net Zero Implications

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the council's ambition to be Net Zero by 2030. There is no perceived impact regarding either an increase or decrease in carbon emissions in the district, or supporting the resilience of the natural environment.

Appendices

Appendix A - Report of the Homelessness Prevention Working Group (To Follow)

Background Papers

None