

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Item Called-in following an Executive Decision</b>
	<b>Adoption of the Homelessness Review and Strategy 2013-2018</b>
<b>Report to be considered by:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	02 July 2013
<b>Forward Plan Ref:</b>	EX2580

**Purpose of Report:** To allow a review of the decision to adopt the Homelessness Review and Strategy 2013-18.

**Recommended Action:** That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission reviews the decision.

<b>Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman</b>	
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# Supporting Information

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## 1. Executive Decision

- 1.1 The Homelessness Review and Strategy 2013-18 was presented for consideration at a meeting of the Executive on 9 May 2013. The recommended action was to adopt the review and strategy which the Executive duly did.

## 2. Call-In of the Decision

- 2.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, five Elected Members (Councillors Jeff Brooks, Mollie Lock, Keith Woodhams, Tony Vickers and Roger Hunneman called in the Executive Decision (EX2580) on the basis that:

**A:** The majority of recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission in the meeting of 11 December 2013 have been ignored, in particular:

- 1 "The Executive Member for Housing should work with other local agencies to agree an accepted methodology for the counting of rough sleepers. A report outlining the production process and count should be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission within 6 months of agreement."
- 4 "The Executive Member for Housing should consider the production, either as part of the Homelessness Strategy or separately, of a 'reconnection' policy, to ensure that homeless people who have no local connection to West Berkshire are able to sustainably relocate to those places outside of the district with which they do have a link."
- 5 "The Executive Member for Strategic Support should ensure that time is made available at a District Parish Conference for Housing officers to explain to Councillors the content of, and rationale for, the Homelessness Strategy when agreed."
- 6 "At the next revision of the Council's Service Level Agreement with the Citizens Advice Bureau, the Executive Member for Strategic Support should consider the offer by SHELTER to assist with housing advice, so as to ensure that the document contains the requirement for the Bureau to provide a dedicated housing advisor."
- 7 "Performance monitoring reports received from the Citizens Advice Bureau relating to homelessness (including all financial advice), which are sent to the Executive Member for Strategic Support should be routinely made available to the Executive Member for Housing and his Shadow."
- 8 "The Executive Member for Housing should work, through the Local Government Association, the Government and especially the Valuation Office Agency, to achieve transparency of the factors and values taken into consideration by VOA when setting the Local Housing Allowance and, if possible, an appeal mechanism."
- 10 The Executive Member for Housing should ask Newbury Town Council to consider the provision of lockers to allow rough sleepers to store their possessions (for example sleeping bags) securely during the day."
- 11 The Executive Member for Housing should ask the Volunteer Centre West Berkshire to establish closer links with Loose Ends to ensure that any

shortages of volunteers and other resources to enable them to provide a better service to their clients are met urgently and effectively.”

12 “Further investigation should be undertaken into the reasons why West Berkshire seems to have a very large proportion of young families facing homelessness whose friends and extended family are unwilling or unable to provide them with temporary housing/accommodation.”

**B** There is a lack of evidence in the review or strategy that the actions in the Action Plan have sufficient resources assigned to them, including the resources of partner agencies, to achieve what it sets out to do. For example:

- (1) What Council resources go into the homelessness forum?
- (2) Do other agencies attend?
- (3) How often does it meet?
- (4) Do other agencies send reps to meetings this council hosts that relate to homelessness?

### **3. Role of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission**

3.1 The role of the Overview and Scrutiny and Management Commission is to review the decision and determine whether it concurs with the decision (in which case it will take immediate effect) or refer it back to the Executive for further consideration.

### **4. Recommendation**

4.1 It is recommended that Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission review the decision to adopt the Homelessness Review and Strategy 2013-18.

## **Appendices**

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Appendix A – Letter calling in EX2580

Appendix B – Adoption of the Homelessness Review and Strategy Report to the Executive

Appendix C – Homelessness Review 2012

Appendix D – Homelessness Strategy 2013 -18

Appendix E – Homelessness Strategy 2012 – 2017 Action Plan

Appendix F – Homelessness Strategy Flowchart

Appendix G – Homelessness Strategy EIA