
Final Shared Homelessness Strategy 2026-2031

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Sue Baxter
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Assistant Director	Judith Willis, Assistant Director Community and Housing Services
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Wards Affected	No Specific Ward Relevance
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	Not Applicable
Council Prioritie(s)	
Key Decision / Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	
This report contains exempt information as defined in Paragraph(s) of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is requested to RECOMMEND that: -

- 1) The Shared Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2026-2031 (Appendix 1) be approved.**

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 On the 25th March 2026 members resolved that :

“the draft Shared Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2026-2031 and action plan be approved for public consultation for six weeks starting 13th April 2026”

2.2 As previously reported the Homelessness Act 2002 requires all housing authorities to have a homelessness & rough sleeper strategy in place which is based on a review of all forms of homelessness in their local authority area.

2.3 It is intended that this Strategy will sit under the existing Worcestershire Strategic Housing Board Plan.

2.4 The consultation responses have been considered and included where appropriate. MHCLG have reviewed the strategy and provided separate feedback. They are satisfied that the action plan covers all the main areas and sets out clear and consistent actions and measures.

2.5 MHCLG has also provided the metrics required for the Local Outcomes Framework. These are now included, with the exception of the metric on successful prevention and relief outcomes for individuals with three or more support needs, which is the only metric not currently published. The Strategy will be updated to reflect this once it is published and the metrics below reported under the heading of Shared Homelessness Strategy 2026-2031 via the Corporate Performance monitoring process:

2.6 **Core outcome measures (metrics)**

The framework uses a small set of **national outcome indicators** (largely from MHCLG statutory data) to assess performance:

- Rate of households with children in temporary accommodation (per 1,000 households)
- Number of families in Bed & Breakfast accommodation for over 6 weeks
- Percentage of duties owed where homelessness was prevented or relieved
- Number of people sleeping rough on a single night (snapshot count)
- Number of people sleeping rough over the month who are long-term rough sleepers

These will be the primary performance indicators used nationally to judge whether local areas are reducing homelessness and rough sleeping.

2.7 We have ensured that our action plan includes targets against each of the metrics in the Outcomes Framework, and a description of how, working with partners, those targets will be achieved. The key numerical targets are achieving less than 6 week hotel placements for families and halving monthly long term rough sleeping numbers by 50% by the end of this parliament. The other targets relate to successful prevention and relief outcomes increasing while rough sleeping and families in temporary accommodation reduce.

- 2.8 Above universal prevention, we have included reference to the supply of affordable housing and the effective use and allocation of social housing stock.
- 2.9 We have reviewed our approach to rough sleeping and single homelessness. This is to ensure that services move away from verification as a way to access services and ensure a robust approach to assessment, identifying people at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness or rough sleeping quickly and assessing risk and need in order to direct services.
- 2.10 In respect of children and young people we have strengthened our approach to partnership working with Children's Services and the Care Leavers Team. This is to prevent homelessness legislation from being used as a pathway to house care leavers following the end of a Looked After Child Placement and ensuring more support is provided to care leavers in their transition to adulthood and independent living.
- 2.11 We have strengthened our approach to the Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Duty where B&B is not considered suitable or safe accommodation so that we strive to end the use of B&B in these cases.
- 2.12 In regard to temporary accommodation we have included a requirement to develop a policy to ensure temporary accommodation is suitable to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- 2.13 We have placed greater emphasis on tenancy sustainment and budgeting support as part of efforts to prevent repeat homelessness.

3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

- 3.1 The delivery of the Shared Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy actions will be overseen by the Housing Strategy Team and will sit under the existing Worcestershire Housing Board Plan.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The new Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant will provide funding to develop services to support the strategy and a report has already been taken to members to provide the detail on spending priorities for the next three years.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council has a duty under the Homelessness Act 2002 to conduct a review of the nature and extent of homelessness in its District every

5 years and to develop a strategy setting out how services will be delivered in the future to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping.

- 5.2 The Homelessness Reduction Act came into force in April 2018, and places new legal duties on local housing authorities so that everyone who is homeless or at risk of homelessness will have access to early meaningful help, irrespective of their priority need status, so long as they are eligible for assistance.
- 5.3 The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 requires local authorities to collaborate with Tier One authorities to provide safe and supported accommodation for victims/survivors of domestic abuse.
- 5.4. The Renters Rights Act 2025 shifts the local authority role from discretionary enforcement to a mandatory duty to enforce landlord legislation. The abolition of Section 21 no fault evictions is likely to result in more tenancies being ending by Section 8 Notices for rent arrears and provides an opportunity for local authorities to work with landlords to, wherever possible, sustain tenancies. The Council has utilised Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse grant to provide a new service with Citizens Advice to support this work.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Re-organisation

- 6.1 LGR does not alter the statutory homelessness duties set out under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 and Housing Act 1996, including prevention (s.195), relief (s.189B), interim accommodation (s.188) and the duty to provide free advice and information (s.179).
- 6.2 The Government's National Plan to End Homelessness sets out a cross-government expectation that homelessness cannot be reduced without multi-agency integration
- 6.3 Both the National Plan to End Homelessness and the Homelessness Code of Guidance stress the need for coordinated arrangements across the below areas,
- health
 - social care
 - children's services
 - criminal justice
 - and domestic abuse services

and it is considered that the most appropriate method is to have a shared strategy approach across as much of Worcestershire to ensure there is a coherent approach to our homelessness duties until the results of LGR are provided.

- 6.4 A single Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy must be produced for any new authority, and this strategy and action plan has been produced so that it is able to be incorporated into either one or two unitary authorities until a new single strategy for the new area, based on a fresh homelessness review is completed as required by the Homelessness Code of Guidance

Relevant Council Priority

- 6.2 Housing – The strategy provides a framework for a range of services which support this Council priority.

Climate Change Implications

- 6.3 There are no direct climate change implications from the strategy itself but individual actions/services may have an impact.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 6.4 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken as the strategy seeks to deliver a range of services for homeless households and draws on ways to improve the work of the Council in developing services and preparing links, pathways and referrals between services to prevent homelessness in the first place or minimise its impact when it happens.
- 6.5 The design of services which tackle the root causes of homelessness such as poverty, health inequalities and adversity in childhood will include ensuring that providers have appropriate policies and training in place to make sure that there is no adverse impact on equalities groups with protected characteristics under the Equalities Act 2010.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 If the strategy is not approved the Council will not be legally compliant. Furthermore, it is likely that more households who are threatened with homelessness, or who are in housing need, will have limited options for support to sustain their accommodation or find alternative suitable accommodation that meets their needs. If they have to make a homeless approach this could lead to the following negative outcomes:

- Increased B&B costs
- Increased rough sleeping in the District
- Impacts on physical and mental health, educational achievement, ability to work and similar through increased homelessness

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1 – To Follow: Shared Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan

Appendix 2 – Report to Cabinet 25th March 2026 [REPORT TITLE](#)

9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Sue Baxter Cabinet Member for Planning and Strategic Housing	27.5.26
Lead Director / Head of Service	Judith Willis Assistant Director Community and Housing Services	27.5.26
Financial Services	James Walton, Director of Finance	27.5.26
Legal and Democratic Services	Nicola Cummings – Principal Solicitor – Governance and Jess Bayley-Hill, Principal Democratic Services Officer	27.5.26
Policy Team (if equalities implications apply)	Rebecca Green Policy Manager	27.5.26
Climate Change (if climate change implications apply)	Matthew Bough Strategic Housing & Business Support Manager	N/A

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Cabinet
2026**

17th June
