

## REPORT TO EXECUTIVE



<b>DATE</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> August 2008</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>Regeneration and Economic Development</b>
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## Prevention of Homelessness Strategy 2008/13

## PURPOSE

1. The report sets out a new Prevention of Homelessness Strategy to be implemented in 2008 to 2013. The strategy sets out a framework for the effective implementation of policies and initiatives to reduce the number of households becoming homeless in Burnley. Details of these initiatives are set out in the Action Plan. A copy of the strategy is available from the Housing Unit on request.

## RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Executive approve the Prevention of Homelessness Strategy 2008/13 and the implementation of the Action Plan.

## REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. The Council is required by the Homelessness Act 2002 to undertake a review of homelessness and to formulate an effective strategy to deal with it every five years. Executive's approval is requested to ensure that the Council meets its statutory obligations.

## SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

4. Since the publication of our first prevention of homelessness strategy in 2003, we have achieved a number of successes. We have achieved a 62% reduction in homeless acceptances from 2002/3 to 2006/07, and the use of bed and breakfast accommodation as temporary accommodation for homeless households has been reduced by over 75%. We have also implemented a number of successful homeless prevention measures such as a bond scheme to enable people to access the private rented sector, a sanctuary scheme for victims of violence and family mediation to assist families to continue to live together.

Whilst our present approach has been successful, we still have issues of homelessness in the borough, particularly amongst young people, and the Prevention of Homelessness Strategy 2008/13 will enable us to further develop successful

policies and initiatives.

The key aims of the strategy are to: prevent homelessness; develop multi agency working to minimise the effects of homelessness; meet Government targets on rough sleeping, use of bed and breakfast and temporary accommodation; provide a safety net of accommodation and support; and monitor changing needs and performance.

Although this is a multi agency strategy, the Council, as part of its strategic and enabling role, will lead on the majority of actions and also undertake internal actions to continually improve the services it offers.

Small focussed groups known as Service Development Groups will deliver the actions in the strategy action plan. Each group will meet to develop a single action in the plan and have a lead officer who will be responsible for arranging meetings, circulating minutes and reporting progress to the Burnley Homelessness Forum and LSP Theme Group(s).

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION**

5. It is not anticipated that there will be any financial implications for the Council arising from this report. Any actions that require funding will be met from the existing Homelessness Grant that the local authority receives .

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

6. The Prevention of Homelessness Strategy is a key component of the Council's wider Housing Strategy and will make a significant contribution to delivering the Council's Strategic Outcome to "Improve services to the homeless and other vulnerable groups in the community".

## **DETAILS OF CONSULTATION**

7. Lead Registered Social Landlords, Social Services, Connexions, Youth and Community Service, East Lancs PCT, National Probation Service, Youth Offending Service, Supporting People, Burnley Citizens Advice Bureau, SHELTER, Child Action North West, M3 Project, East Lancs Refuge Association, Stepping Stone, New Era, Emmaus, Burnley Action Partnership.

One response has been received regarding additions to the Action Plan, which have been incorporated into the document.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8. The background document used in the preparation of this report is the Burnley Homelessness Review 2008.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

**PLEASE CONTACT:**

**ALSO:**

The draft Prevention of Homelessness Strategy can be viewed on the Council's website. The address is [www.burnley.gov.uk/homelessstrategy](http://www.burnley.gov.uk/homelessstrategy) A paper copy of the strategy is available in the Member's Room.  
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[Appx 1](#)