# HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY

## 1    SUMMARY

1.1    A draft homelessness strategy is appended for consideration and approval.

## 2    BACKGROUND

2.1    The Council has to undertake a review of homelessness and produce a strategy to address the issues that are identified. This must be completed by the end of July 2003.

2.2    The draft homelessness strategy was introduced at Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 15 July and then referred for detailed consideration to the Housing Best Value Sub-Committee, which met on 17 July and 22 July.

2.3    Various amendments to the draft document have been proposed by the Sub-Committee, and these have been incorporated into the final draft, which is appended.

2.4    The amendments include:

(a)    Removing the section in the earlier draft which deals with housing need. Members felt this could be included at a later date when more robust information becomes available.

(b)    Incorporating some amendments about the roles of some external agencies that were consulted, following responses from those agencies.

## 3    RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

3.1    The Sub-Committee noted that the action plan includes a number of initiatives which require further investigation and costing before decisions can be taken on whether they should be implemented. These are phased over more than one financial year.

3.2    Having regard to the current total spend on homelessness and housing advice services, the Sub-Committee considered that when these proposals are brought forward, Members should be reminded of the total spend and the report should show whether the change(s) being proposed will increase or decrease that spend, and the amounts involved.

**4       RECOMMENDATION**

4.1     It is proposed that the Council **RESOLVES**

That, subject to any further amendments required by Members, the homelessness strategy be approved.

G P Woolhouse

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**Background Papers:**

None.

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