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| <b>SUBJECT:</b>            | Review of Homelessness Management   |
| <b>REPORT OF:</b>          | O &S Task and Finish Group Chairman |
| <b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b> | Jim Burness – Director of Resources |
| <b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>       | Clare Gray, Scrutiny Officer        |
| <b>WARD/S AFFECTED</b>     | All                                 |

## 1. Purpose of Report

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed that a Task and Finish Group should be set up to look at the review of homelessness management following a Cabinet report which agreed to write off two temporary accommodation debts over £10,000. The Inquiry reviewed the function of assessing clients for temporary accommodation and the subsequent management of placements. Evidence was gathered from the Portfolio Holders for Resources and Healthy Communities and officers from Healthy Communities, Finance and Revenue and Benefits. The findings and recommendations are included in the powerpoint presentation attached to this report.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. That Cabinet responds in writing to the Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to each of the recommendations made by the Task and Finish Group by the end of November, and the response is made available to all members of the Council.**
- 2. Where recommendations are not to be implemented that a detailed written explanation be given to Overview and Scrutiny by the Cabinet on the reasons why.**
- 3. The Council develops a Homeless Strategy Action Plan to manage and monitor the implementation of the recommendations of this report.**

## 2. Executive Summary

The outcomes of the Task & Finish Group are set out in Appendix 1.

## 3. Reasons for Recommendations

The Task and Finish Group have put forward these recommendations as a result of their Inquiry.

## 4. Content of Report

Recommendations have been set out in the report under the following headings :-

- Assessment
- Placement
- Interaction between Housing and Finance Services

- Interaction with Housing Benefit
- Management of Homelessness
- Processes
- Debts
- Budget and Performance Monitoring
- Next steps – Supply of affordable housing and temporary accommodation

There are exempt appendices to the report which detailed operational information, an overview of some specific homelessness cases and debt information.

**5. Consultation**

Not applicable

**6. Corporate Implications**

The Cabinet will be asked to respond to these recommendations and this response may include financial and legal implications.

**8. Links to Council Policy Objectives**

The recommendations within the report comply with the Joint Business Plan and the three headline objectives :-

1. Delivering cost- effective, customer- focused services
2. Working towards safe and healthier local communities
3. Striving to conserve the environment and promote sustainability.

Key Objectives available here:

<http://www.chiltern.gov.uk/Aims-and-Objectives>

<http://www.southbucks.gov.uk/prioritiesandperformance>

**9. Next Step**

Cabinet will be asked to respond to the Overview and Scrutiny recommendations and whether they agree or disagree with them with an action plan about how to take this forward. Lead Officers will be required to provide written response updates for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, and the Portfolio Holders and relevant lead officers will be invited to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to follow up on progress after six months.

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| <b>Background Papers:</b> | Any background papers have already been included as links within the powerpoint presentation. There are confidential agendas for the meetings held on 10 August, 15 August, 31 August and 7 September 2017. The Assurance Review of Temporary Accommodation is available via this link:-<br><a href="http://sbdc-spider2.southbucks.gov.uk/democracy/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=117&amp;MId=2612&amp;Ver=4">http://sbdc-spider2.southbucks.gov.uk/democracy/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=117&amp;MId=2612&amp;Ver=4</a> |
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