

COMMENTS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (CUSTOMERS AND PARTNERSHIPS)

HOMELESSNESS & ROUGH SLEEPING - REVIEW AND STRATEGY 2021

- 3.2 The Panel discussed the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Review and Strategy 2021 at its meeting on 8th July 2021. Members were advised that the strategy had previously been approved in February 2020 but that due to the global pandemic, formal consultation with wider partners and stakeholders had been postponed. The 2021 strategy has been updated to reflect changes brought about by the pandemic.
- 3.3 Following a question regarding whether an increase in homelessness applications was expected due to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, the Panel were reassured that the Council continues to work with other agencies and the County Council as the main provider of domestic abuse support services to ensure that these are available to all those in need. The Council will continue to help, including offering emergency accommodation where appropriate, to people fleeing a domestic abuse situation.
- 3.4 The Panel heard that a significant number of households are rehoused as both relief and prevention duty cases. Councillors were advised that on occasion contact is lost with homeless individuals, this can be due to the transient nature of their lifestyles or a refusal to engage with services, however Members were reassured that Huntingdonshire District Council is committed to supporting all those in need.
- 3.5 Members expressed their thanks for a comprehensive and well written report and encouraged the Cabinet to endorse the recommendations contained within the report.