



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

**NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL
NEATH PORT TALBOT SOCIAL SERVICES, HOUSING AND
COMMUNITY SAFETY CABINET BOARD**

11th October 2022

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF ADULT SERVICES – A. THOMAS

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected All wards

**APPROVAL AND PUBLICATION OF NEATH PORT TALBOT
HOUSING SUPPORT PROGRAMME STRATEGY**

Purpose of the Report

To inform members of the outcome of the 90 day public consultation of the draft Neath Port Talbot Housing Support Programme Strategy and seek approval to implement and publish the final Strategy.

Executive Summary

This Strategy sets out how Neath Port Talbot Council ('the Council') and its partners can work together towards the aim of ending homelessness.

Background

The Housing Support Grant ("HSG") was established in 2019 and brought together three previous grants; Supporting People Programme Grant, Homelessness Prevention Funding and Rent Smart Wales Enforcement Grant. The funding is a non-statutory early intervention grant programme, focussing on preventing homelessness and

avoiding the escalation of other housing related support needs in order to avoid institutionalisation.

Local Authorities are required to develop a Housing Support Programme Strategy every four years, with a mid-point review every two years. The purpose of this Strategy is to outline the strategic direction of the Local Authority for housing support services and provide a single strategic view of the Local Authority's approach to homelessness prevention and housing support services, including both statutory homelessness functions funded through the revenue settlement and non-statutory preventative services funded through the HSG.

The Neath Port Talbot Strategy was developed following a comprehensive needs assessment, a review of the existing Neath Port Talbot Homelessness Strategy 2018-22, and feedback from stakeholders and clients. A first draft was submitted to Welsh Government (“WG”) in January with feedback from them subsequently incorporated into the public consultation draft Strategy.

On 3rd March 2022, Members approved a 90 day consultation on the first draft. In light of the public consultation responses, it is proposed that no significant amendments are required.

It should be noted that the essence of the original Strategy remains intact, i.e. it sets out the Council's strategic direction for housing support services and provides a single strategic view of our approach to homelessness prevention and housing support services. Furthermore, it will be subject to regular review to ensure it maintains relevance.

A copy of the Final Strategy is attached at Appendix 1.

Financial Impacts

At the time of writing this report, WG have confirmed the Council's HSG settlement for 2022/23 as being £6,496,185.63, with no change against

the 2021/22 allocation. The indicative amount of Housing Support Grant funding awarded to the Council has been agreed by WG until the end of March 2025 at the 2022/23 level (£6,496,185.63). Taking forward the priorities within the Strategy will be undertaken in line with the available budget.

Integrated Impact Assessment

A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016). The first stage impact assessment has indicated that a more in-depth assessment was required.

An overview of the Integrated Impact Assessment has been included below in summary form only and it is essential that Members read the Integrated Impact Assessment, which is attached to the report at Appendix 3, for the purposes of the meeting.

- No negative impacts identified at this stage and the indication is that the impact will be positive. Processes are in place to monitor the impact for any unintended negative consequences.

Valleys Communities Impacts

The consultation undertaken did not identify any negative impact on Valleys Communities.

The Strategy is a high level document intended to meet the needs of the whole county borough including the Valleys Communities. As actions to take forward the priorities within the Strategy are developed, consideration of the impact on supporting Valley Communities will be given as part of the individual impact assessments.

Workforce Impacts

The contents of this report do not have any impact on the Council's workforce.

Legal Impacts

The publication of this Strategy is a requirement of Part 2 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

Risk Management Impacts

There are no known risks associated with this item; however, services commissioned via the Housing Support Grant will have the following positive impacts:

Crime and Disorder Impacts

Activity outlined in the Plan should have a positive effect on the below Crime and Disorder Impacts:

- a) Crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); and
- b) The misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area; and
- c) Re-offending the area

This is due to the Strategy supporting achievement of the WG outcome measure of 'promoting personal and community safety'.

Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Impacts

Activity outlined in the Plan should have a positive effect on the below Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Impacts:

Section 2(1) of the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 introduced a general duty where a person exercising relevant functions must have regard (along with all other relevant matters) to the need to remove or minimise any factors which —

- (a) Increase the risk of violence against women and girls, or

(b) Exacerbate the impact of such violence on victims.

This is because a number of services purchased with HSG relate to the provision of domestic abuse support.

Consultation

On 3rd March 2022, Members approved a 90 day public consultation in respect of the Strategy. During this period, 30th May to 28th August 2022, on-line surveys were made available via the Council's consultation portal. In addition, officers attended various forums to reach as many stakeholders as possible.

A consultation document, an easy read version of the Strategy, and plan on a page were all developed prior to the consultation. In addition, all materials were available in Welsh.

The outcome of the activity is detailed in Appendix 4, and has helped confirm the content of the final draft of the Strategy which is the subject of this report.

Recommendations

Having had due regard to the Integrated Impact Assessment it is recommended that Members grant permission for Officers to implement and publish the Housing Support Programme Strategy attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

To ensure a range of good quality housing related support is available to meet the needs of residents of Neath Port Talbot and that the Council is compliant with Part 2 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

Implementation of Decision

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Housing Support Programme Strategy

Appendix 2: Housing Support Programme Strategy – Plan on a Page
Appendix 3: Integrated Impact Assessment
Appendix 4: HSG Strategy Consultation Report

List of Background Papers

None

Officer Contact

Angela Thomas, Head of Adult Services Phone: 01639 68 3328

Email: a.j.thomas@npt.gov.uk

Chelé Zandra Howard, Principal Officer for Commissioning Phone:
01639 685221 Email: c.howard@npt.gov.uk