

## Informal Discussion with Members– Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy

Notes of meeting held on 7 October 2019

Members present: Councillors Bower, Kemp, Lawrence, Moriarty, Morley, Sampson and de Whalley.

### **Purpose of the meeting**

The purpose was to provide an informal opportunity to share some thoughts on the draft and ask questions, prior to the Environment and Community Panel meeting on 15 October.

1. Councillor Bower mentioned that mental health issues had been referenced widely and highlighted the work of the 'One to One' project. The initiative had worked alongside service providers such as Purfleet Trust/ Benjamin Foundation/ YMCA. Proposed that the value of this type of work may be reflected more in the plan.
2. Councillor Kemp led a discussion around the accommodation and support needs of young people. Reference was made to the positive work Youth Advisory Board and the Youth Offending team. Councillor Kemp mentioned that the Leaving Care Team at NCC was instigating 11 training houses including some in the west. Councillor Lawrence stressed the importance of ensuring such work was co-ordinated and mentioned the role of the Benjamin Foundation and Purfleet Trust in this field.
3. Amongst the group it was proposed that linkages could be made to the Empty Homes Strategy, and strengthened with regard to the relevance of the Council's activities in promoting wider housing delivery
4. Councillor Morley made the point that the Strategy is somewhat scattergun and does not identify as a project plan what resources would be required to deliver the identified actions. Duncan Hall stated that funding streams were characterised by uncertainty and the need to often fit initiatives to funding pot bids – which made planning activities very scattergun. Duncan Hall accepted the point about resource planning and would seek to take this forward in future.

Duncan Hall mentioned that all his previous emailed comments had been very helpful and will be factored in to a final draft.

5. Councillor de Whalley asked about accommodation and support for those fleeing domestic violence. Discussed the implications of the new Bill and mentioned some service proposals.