

Decision Number: 23 (2016/17)

Portfolio Holder Executive Decision Statement

The Local Authority (Executive Arrangements)(Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

Subject: To approve the this Council's updated Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) for Rough Sleepers

Details of Decision taken

The SWEP details this Council's updated procedures to ensure that anyone identified as sleeping rough during severe cold weather can be offered overnight accommodation during this period.

Reason for Decision

This Council is committed to supporting people who are rough sleeping within the District. The SWEP aims to ensure that people sleeping rough are not at risk of harm during periods of cold and severe weather. This Council recognises the need to have a SWEP in place to safeguard the wellbeing of those identified as sleeping rough during a period of severe weather, although the numbers rough sleepers in this District are consistently low.

The SWEP aims to work with partners to identify people rough sleeping during severe weather and enables the Housing Advice Team to engage with them to offer and provide overnight accommodation whilst the SWEP is activated. This also triggers further engagement to deliver long term housing solutions to reduce the risk of someone rough sleeping in the future through advice and support by the Housing Advice Team as part of this Council's housing and homelessness duty.

All Documents considered:

Severe Weather Emergency Protocol for Rough Sleepers (SWEP)

Details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the Member when making the Decision:

None

Financial implications

Where necessary a nightly cost of bed and breakfast accommodation may be incurred by this Council. This forms part of the Government's Homelessness Prevention Fund provided to this Council to deliver targeted interventions to reduce homelessness.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement

When completed a copy of this record must be sent to the Democratic Services Section by e-mail and a signed copy by internal mail

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SWEP operates outside usual eligibility criteria as part of the Housing and Homelessness duty as it applies to those who in ordinary circumstances this Council would not have a duty to accommodate.

Eligibility and assessment through homelessness reduction advice and support provided by the Housing Advice Team will be carried out with individual cases to assess whether this Council has a housing duty to those who may be eligible.

Equality Impacts (Consideration of impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty)
The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Local Member (s), other Portfolio Holders and/or Directors/Heads of Service Consulted

Cllr Michelle Lowe – Deputy Leader & Portfolio Holder for Housing & Health
Lesley Bowles – Chief Officer for Communities & Business
Hayley Brooks – Head of Housing & Health



Details of any conflicts of interest

a) declared by any executive member who is consulted by the Decision Taker

N/A

b) and any details of dispensations granted by the Chief Executive in respect of any declared conflict

N/A

Decision taken by:	Cllr Michelle Lowe, Deputy Leader & Portfolio Holder for Housing & Health
Signed by Portfolio Holder	
Date of Decision	1/12/16
Record made by:	
Date of record:	2/12/16

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