



**NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**20 JUNE 2018**

**BRIEFING NOTE:**

**SCRUTINY PANEL 1: HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPERS**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned Scrutiny Panel 1 to undertake a Review regarding: Homelessness and Rough Sleepers the rationale being “To review the way in which the Council and its partners engage with rough sleepers, consider the best way in which ‘Housing First’ can be used to reduce rough sleeping in the borough, and understand the nature and extent of ‘hidden homelessness’ and how it can best be addressed.”
- 1.2 Membership of the Scrutiny Panel comprises Councillor Cathrine Russell (Chair); Councillor Zoe Smith (Deputy Chair); Councillors Aziz, Sally Beardsworth, Jane Birch, Janice Duffy, Gareth Eales and Dennis Meredith.
- 1.3 The Scrutiny Panel suggested that the Director of the Umbrella Fair Committee is co-opted to this Review.
- 1.4 At the inaugural meeting of the Scrutiny Panel, Councillors agreed the scope of the Review; a copy is attached at Appendix A, for the Committee’s approval.

**2 UPDATE**

- 2.1 In discussing the rationale for the Review, the Scrutiny Panel felt that the required outcomes should be:
  - To understand how rough sleepers are engaged with and to make recommendations for improvement, as appropriate.
  - To understand the ‘Housing First’ model and to make recommendations on how it could be used to reduce rough sleeping in the borough

- To understand the nature and extent of 'hidden homelessness' and to make recommendations on how it could be tackled
- To understand how people become homeless

2.2 The schedule of meetings comprises:-

May 2018 – March 2019

- 15 May 2018 - Scoping meeting
- 5 July - Evidence gathering
- 6 September - Evidence gathering
- 8 November - Evidence gathering
- 24 January 2019 - Evidence gathering
- 14 March - Approval final report

2.3 Various site visits will be programmed in during this period, if required.

2.4 Meetings of the Scrutiny Panel will commence at 6.00pm and be held in both the Jeffery Room at the Guildhall and various locations around the borough.

2.5 In accordance with the Scrutiny Panel Protocol the Chair of this Scrutiny Panel will provide written progress reports to future meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for information.

### **3 RECOMMENDATION**

3.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee approves the scope of the Scrutiny Panel 1, as attached at Appendix A.

Author: Tracy Tiff, Overview and Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of Councillor Cathrine Russell, Chair, Scrutiny Panel 1

29 May 2018