

**NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**POST SCRUTINY – CABINET RESPONSE**

In respect of:

**The Overview and Scrutiny Homelessness (Rough Sleepers) Task and Finish Group Report – March 2007**

Portfolio Holder: Councillor  
 Contact Officer:  
 Date: 2 July 2007

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Cabinet Response</b>	<b>Officer Responsible</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Action By (Date)</b>
The Task and Finish Group asks the Cabinet to implement the following recommendations:-				
Northampton Borough Council takes the lead with all Agencies working together on rough sleeper initiatives, through the Single Homeless Forum				
The membership of the Rough Sleepers Forum be re-visited to ensure that all relevant Agencies are included.				
All members of the Rough Sleepers Forum to sign a confidentiality protocol to ensure there is no breach of confidentiality especially when individual clients are discussed.				
The rough sleepers database is developed as a high priority.				
The 'Green Book' 'A Pocket Guide for anyone Threatened with Homelessness' be updated				

<p>and be used for all Agencies as a basis for information regarding available services for rough sleepers. A flow chart be produced detailing the process for rough sleepers and be included in the development of the 'Green Book.'</p>				
<p>A Rough Sleepers Strategy be produced with an emphasis on prevention.</p> <p>The evidence contained in this report should form part of that Strategy.</p> <p>The Portfolio Holder for Housing Services and the Corporate Manager for Housing Services meets with the Research and Development Department of the Salvation Army regarding the potential for the Salvation Army to develop its existing projects for rough sleepers. This should be investigated in conjunction with a current funding bid to the Department of Communities and Local Government for a purpose built hostel in the town.</p>				
<p>Research is undertaken regarding further funding opportunities and joint working for the provision of extra beds for rough sleepers and the provision of a 'halfway house'.</p>				
<p>Improved communication between CAN and the Town Centre Partnership regarding rough sleepers is encouraged.</p>				

The Town Centre Partnership is requested to donate funds to help alleviate the problem with rough sleepers particularly in the town centre and the Grosvenor Centre.				
Northampton Borough Council works jointly with Northamptonshire County Council regarding providing provision for rough sleepers during severe weather conditions.				
The involvement of Neighbourhood Wardens in providing information of the location of rough sleepers is formalised.				
Dialogue takes place with DAAT regarding the potential for joint working to provide more counselling facilities.				
The Council looks at ways that it can support CAN to reduce its waiting time for triage provision.				
The Council's links with the Prison Service and Probation Service is continued. There is a need for a representative from the Probation Service to attend the Rough Sleepers Forum.				
Funding of £90,000 per year, for rough sleeping initiatives, from the Department of Communities and Local Government is maximised.				
The Council works with local hospitals regarding the introduction of a Protocol for the discharge of its patients.				

The Council works with the Hope Centre regarding the development of its day centre facility.				
Consideration is given to a multi Agency networking event, hosted by the Council, to facilitate joint working and highlight awareness of rough sleepers.				
A copy of this report is forwarded to the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).				