

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**ASSET MANAGEMENT, CULTURE AND
HOUSING CABINET MEMBER**

ROUGH SLEEPERS UPDATE

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Cabinet Member on the current level of rough sleeping in North Lincolnshire.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Rough Sleeping remains the most visible and damaging manifestation of homelessness.
- 2.2 In 1998, the Government set a target to reduce by two thirds the number of rough sleepers within four years. To achieve this, in 1999 they launched *Coming in from the Cold*, the Government's strategy for tackling rough sleeping which set out detailed plans for meeting the target.
- 2.3 The current Government is committed to reducing rough sleeping to as near to zero as possible.
- 2.4 Progress against the target is measured by a single night's street count in areas where there is a known, or suspected, rough sleeping problem. Counts have taken place in most local authority areas since 1997. The results have helped establish robust annual estimates of people sleeping rough across England.
- 2.5 Since 1997, local strategies have been developed in all areas with a significant rough sleeping problem (more than 10 rough sleepers identified). The count helps inform the continuing development of such strategies, measures their success and identifies gaps in services.
- 2.6 Councils can now submit a robust estimate of the number of people rough sleeping on a typical night rather than an actual physical count. To do so, they must consult with and gather

information from all agencies dealing with rough sleepers in their area, including the local community.

ROUGH SLEEPING IN NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

- 2.7 Since 2008, North Lincolnshire has undertaken a rough sleeper count and, more latterly estimates. The last physical street count was in 2011. In 2012, an estimate indicated 14 people sleeping rough. The last estimate, which took place in November, gave a figure of nine rough sleepers.
- 2.8 The most up to date figures for rough sleepers within the sub region are from 2012. North East Lincolnshire had nine, Hull had ten and the East Riding had 11. In 2013, the estimate of rough sleepers in North East Lincolnshire was six.
- 2.9 The opening of the Place of Change homeless hostel in February together with the continuing prevention work by the Housing Advice Team is expected to reduce still further the number of rough sleepers in North Lincolnshire.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 No decision necessary, this report is for information only.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

- 4.1 The count was completed using existing resources and partnerships.

5. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

- 6.1 Homeless Link and the Department for Communities and Local Government provide the guidance and recommendations used in the count. They also validate and approve the final estimate, in accordance with agreed methodology.
- 6.2 The council consults with various agencies that are involved with rough sleepers in the area to collate information on the number of people sleeping rough.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 That the Cabinet Member notes the contents of the report.

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: N/A