Classification: Open	Decision Type: Discussion

Report to:	Housing Advisory Board	**Date:** 10 November 2026
Subject:	Draft Homeless Strategy and action plan	
Report of	Amanda Mullen	

1.0 Summary

1.2 The purpose of this report is to present the draft Homelessness Strategy 2026-2029 and accompanying Action Plan for consideration by the Housing advisory Board. The Strategy provides a three-year framework for preventing and reducing homelessness across the borough and has been developed through extensive stakeholder engagement, co-production and input from people with lived experience.

1.3 The Board is asked to provide feedback on the proposed strategic priorities, governance arrangements and public consultation

2.0 Recommendation(s)

2.1 Note the development the extensive work undertaken to develop the draft Homelessness Strategy and supporting documents, attached at Appendix 1 (Comprehensive Review), Appendix 2 (Draft Homelessness Strategy) and Appendix 3 (Action Plan)

2.2 Note the stakeholder engagement, co-production activity, and consultation undertaken with the Bury Homelessness Partnership, governance boards, key stakeholders and people with lived experience provide a robust foundation for the draft Strategy prior to formal public consultation. This approach ensures that co-production is fully embedded within governance, service development and system-wide change

2.3 Note that the draft Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan for formal public consultation for a period of eight weeks, ensuring that residents, stakeholders and partners can provide feedback and help shape a final strategy that is inclusive, equitable and responsive to local need

2.4 Note the interim publication of the draft Homelessness Strategy, Comprehensive Review and Action Plan during the consultation period, to align with Ministry of Housing conditions and requirements

2.5 Provide feedback on the proposed strategic priorities, actions and outcomes.

2.6 Provide feedback on the four emerging strategic priorities that have been identified through the extensive engagement, consultation and partnership work undertaken to inform the strategy

2.7 Approve the Bury Homeless Partnership as the governance body responsible for overseeing the Homelessness Strategy and supporting the further development and delivery of the associated Action Plan, ensuring that co-production and the voices of people with lived experience remain central to its implementation.

2.8 Approve the Health and Wellbeing Board as the overarching strategic governance body responsible for receiving progress updates and providing strategic oversight of the delivery of the Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s)

3.1 Local authorities have a statutory duty under the Homelessness Act 2002 to publish a Homelessness Strategy. In addition, authorities are expected to have a published Action Plan and Outcomes Framework in place by 2 December 2026.

3.2 The draft Homelessness Strategy, supporting evidence review and action plan have been developed through extensive stakeholder engagement, co-production and lived experience involvement. A formal public consultation will broaden engagement and help ensure the final strategy reflects the views of residents, partners and stakeholders.

3.3 Undertaking a formal public consultation constitutes a Key Decision under the Council's governance arrangements and therefore requires approval through the appropriate governance boards. This approach supports effective governance, transparency and accountability, ensuring that residents and stakeholders could contribute to the development of the strategy

3.4 Interim publication of the draft Homelessness Strategy, supporting evidence review and Year 1 Action Plan will promote transparency and enable residents, partners and stakeholders to provide informed feedback on the Council's proposed approach to preventing homelessness, while supporting compliance with Ministry of Housing requirements.

4.0 Alternative options considered and rejected

4.1 Retaining the existing Homelessness Strategy would result in the Council not meeting current statutory and national requirements, including the publication

of an updated Homelessness Strategy, Action Plan and outcomes framework by December 2026. This option is therefore not recommended.

4.2 This option has been rejected as the current Strategy no longer reflects changes in national policy or the findings of the homelessness review undertaken in 2025/2026. An updated Strategy is required to ensure the Council's strategic approach remains relevant, evidence-based and aligned to current priorities and legislative expectation

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5.0 Background

5.1 In March 2025, a project group was established to undertake a comprehensive review of Bury Council's Homelessness Strategy 2022-2026. This included extensive stakeholder engagement and co-production activity with partners, services and people with lived experience to help shape the priorities and actions within the new Homelessness Strategy.

5.2 The Homelessness Strategy provides a three-year, borough-wide framework for preventing and tackling homelessness. It ensures compliance with the statutory requirement to maintain a Homelessness Strategy and responds to recent Government expectations by setting out a clear action plan with defined outcomes.

5.3 Four emerging strategic priorities have been identified through the evidence review, stakeholder engagement and development of the action plan. These priorities will be tested and refined through the public consultation process before being finalised:

- Priority one: Strengthening early intervention and prevention
- Priority two: Ensure access to safe, suitable and quality accommodation
- Priority three: Prevent and reduce rough sleeping in the borough
- Priority four: Right support at the right time for all

5.4 The Strategy is supported by a detailed Action Plan and outcomes framework and has been developed in response to expectations from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) for local authorities to publish an updated Homelessness Strategy, Action Plan and outcomes framework by 2 December 2026

5.5 The strategy and accompanying Action Plan will be presented to Cabinet in December for approval to undertake a formal public consultation. This will enable wider engagement with residents, partners and stakeholders, ensuring all interested parties can provide feedback and help shape the final strategy.

5.6 The strategy and accompanying Action Plan will be presented to Cabinet in December for approval to undertake a formal public consultation. This will provide an opportunity to engage a wider range of residents and stakeholders, ensuring that those who have not previously contributed are able to provide feedback and help shape the final strategy.

5.7 Given the extensive engagement, co-production and lived experience input already undertaken through face-to-face sessions, community engagement, drop-ins and online activities, it is proposed that the final eight-week consultation period is conducted online via the Bury Council website.

5.8 Following completion of the formal public consultation, the draft Homelessness Strategy, supporting Action Plan and consultation findings will be reported back to Cabinet for consideration and final approval prior to implementation

6.0 Next Steps

Follow the consultation, a further report will be presented to cabinet seeking approval of the final strategy and accompanying action plan. This report will incorporate the findings and feedback from the consultation process. Subject to approval, the strategy will be formally adopted and published, providing a clear framework to guide future homeless delivery across the borough

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Links with the Housing and Corporate Priorities:

Please summarise how this links to Let's Do It Strategy and Let's Do Housing.

All

Tenant voice

n/a

Equality Impact and Considerations:

Please provide an explanation of the outcome(s) of an initial or full EIA. There must be a signed off EIA template appended with a full analysis or explanation as to why an analysis is not needed for the report to be put forward to HAB.

Environmental Impact and Considerations:

Please provide an explanation of the Environmental impact of this decision. Please include the impact on both ***Carbon emissions*** *(contact climate@bury.gov.uk for advice) and* ***Biodiversity*** *(contact S.Tinsley@bury.gov.uk and Dennis.whittle@bury.gov.uk for advice)*

This will be reported on the cabinet draft

Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

Link to Housing Strategic risk register = make sure you use risks that are on the housing strategic risk register

N/A

Risk / opportunity	**Mitigation**

Procurement Implications:

Add in any procurement implications if any

Legal/ Regulatory Implications:

Add in any legal or regulatory implications

Financial Implications:

Add in any financial implications - if requiring additional budget speak to your finance lead

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Appendices:

Please list any appended documents (please save these as clearly labelled separate documents in the Teams folder).



Homeless Strategy Data Review v5 pdf.pd



Draft Homeless strategy 2026.pdf



draft action plan pdf.pdf

Background papers:

Please list any background documents to this report and include a hyperlink where possible.

Bury Homeless strategy 2021–2025 - Homelessness strategy - Bury Council

Temporary Accommodation three-year delivery plan 2026-2029



Temporary accommodation 3 ye

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning