Telford & Wrekin Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest to create a better borough

Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Cabinet

Thursday 12 November 2026

Better Homes for All

Cabinet Member:	Cllr Nathan England – Cabinet Member: Safer Streets and Better Housing
Lead Director:	Katherine Kynaston – Director: Housing, Commercial & Customer Services
Service Area:	Housing, Commercial and Customer Services
Report Author:	Toni Guest – Head of Housing Solutions
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Wards Affected:	All Wards
Key Decision:	Not Key Decision
Forward Plan:	Not Applicable
Report considered by:	SMT – 13 October 2026 Business Briefing – 22 October 2026 Cabinet – 12 November 2026

1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

It is recommended that Cabinet:-

1.1 Welcome the continued impact of the Better Homes For All Programme supporting tenants, landlords and communities across the borough by improving housing standards, supporting access to safe and decent homes, tackling poor housing conditions and rogue landlord activity, In the last 2 years alone we have:

- Responded to over a 1000 requests from tenants for support due to poor living conditions
- Carried out over 700 property inspections resulting in over 240 Improvement Notices and addressing 1000s of property hazards.
- Undertaken prosecutions with over £130,000 of fines reinvested into services to grow our proactive approach to maintaining housing conditions

- Supported over 200 landlords with proactive inspections and advice.
- Engaged in dozens of multi agency taskforce activities targeting rogue landlords, roughsleeping and hotspots for crime and anti social behaviour across our neighbourhoods
- Addressed c.100 referrals since June through our Tenancy Intervention Officer who through support and landlord/tenant mediation has sustained tenancies at risk of failure or supported tenants identify alternative accommodation

1.2 Welcome the continued focus of Better Homes for All on Engagement, Education & Enforcement set out in the report.

1.3 Note the introduction of the proposed Article 4 Directive which will require all new Houses in Multiple Occupation to have planning approval from February 2027.

1.4 Welcome the impact of work to relieve, prevent and support those presenting as homeless and its multi agency focus recognised in this year's Housing Excellence Awards.

1.5 Approve the programme of work set out in the Report, in line with the Council's adopted Homelessness Strategy, to further support individuals and families faced with Homelessness and Rough Sleeping.

1.6 Welcomes the Government's renewed focus and new investment into tackling homelessness and rough sleeping and supports the continued national focus on prevention and improving outcomes for those at risk of homelessness.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 This report provides an update on how the Council's Better Homes For All programme is improving housing standards, supporting access to safe and decent homes, tackling poor housing conditions and rogue landlord activity, and responding to changes in housing legislation. It outlines key achievements to date and priorities for the year ahead.

2.2 This report also provides an update on the activity carried out across the borough to prevent or relieve homelessness and to support those faced with rough sleeping. The Report sets out a plan of actions and priorities following partner engagement which supports delivery of the Council's existing Homelessness Strategy.

3.0 Background

3.1 Housing is a key priority for the Council and we are committed to ensuring that all residents have access to safe, affordable and good-quality housing. Alongside announcing our plans to deliver a significant programme of new affordable social homes this commitment includes making the best use of our existing homes including ensuring these provide decent, safe and secure places to live for tenants and homeowners and providing housing opportunities to support and empower our most vulnerable people. Through the actions driven by our Better Homes For All

Programme and Homelessness Strategy we are delivering positive outcomes for residents and neighbourhoods.

Better Homes for All

3.2 The private rented sector continues to play a vital role in meeting housing need, providing homes for a significant proportion of residents both nationally and across the Borough.

3.3 Census 2021 data shows that 21.2% of households in Telford & Wrekin were privately renting, slightly above the England average of 20.5%. Social rented housing accounted for 18.0% of housesholds in the borough, compared with 17.1% nationally. This indicates that both the private rented sector and social rented sector play a significant role in meeting local housing need.

3.4 Between 2011 and 2021, Telford & Wrekin experienced a substantial increase in the private rented sector which grew from 15.2% to 21.2%. In addition, the borough also saw an increase in the social rented sector from 16.5% to 18%.

3.5 The Better Homes For All Programme was established to improve housing standards, address poor property conditions, tackle rogue landlord activity and support vulnerable residents living in the private rented sector.

3.6 Since its introduction, Better Homes For All has developed into a well-established programme of engagement, education and enforcement which combined with partnership working aims to raise housing standards across the Borough.

3.7 The introduction and implementation of the **Renters' Rights Act 2025** which came into force on 1st May 2026, represents the most significant reform of the private rented sector in a generation, strengthening tenants' rights, improving housing security and introducing new responsibilities for landlords. The legislation supports the Government's wider ambition to deliver a fairer, safer and more accountable private rented sector, with an increased emphasis on homelessness prevention, tenancy sustainment, improved housing standards and earlier intervention where tenancies are at risk. The Council has continued to prepare for and respond to these changes through landlord engagement, tenancy support and regulatory activity to support successful implementation across the Borough.

Homelessness

3.8 National homelessness pressures continue to increase, with 127,890 households living in temporary accommodation in England at the end of 2024, a record high and an increase of 13.6% compared to the previous year. This includes more than 81,000 households with children, highlighting the growing demand on local authority homelessness services.

3.9 Rough sleeping remains a significant national challenge, with the number of people estimated to be sleeping rough on a single night in England increasing to 4,667 in autumn 2024, a 20% increase on the previous year and the third consecutive annual rise.

3.10 Locally while requests for housing advice and support continue to rise year on year, Telford & Wrekin continues to achieve strong outcomes against the Government's homelessness indicators. The Council's position within the Local Outcomes Framework for homelessness has improved from 50th to 16th among English upper-tier local authorities. Long-term rough sleeping reduced from 7 people in December 2025 to 3 in March 2026, improving the Council's ranking for this indicator from 51st to 21st nationally. Alongside this, the Council has reduced bed and breakfast use from 237 placements in 2024 to 15 in 2026, while continuing to focus on preventing and relieving homelessness – successfully supporting 946 households last year alone (over 1900 over the last 2 years) - and providing suitable temporary accommodation where homelessness cannot be avoided. Residents in temporary accommodation are provided with tailored support from a Tenancy Sustainment Officer to develop the skills and confidence needed for long-term housing stability, while a Housing Solutions Officer works with them to identify and access appropriate move-on accommodation

3.11 In December 2025, the Government published *A National Plan to End Homelessness*, setting out a renewed national commitment to shift homelessness policy away from crisis response and towards earlier prevention, intervention and long-term housing stability. The strategy places a strong emphasis on preventing homelessness before it occurs, reducing rough sleeping, limiting the use of unsuitable temporary accommodation, strengthening partnership working and improving outcomes for vulnerable households.

3.12 The Council's Housing Solutions Service is already delivering an approach that strongly aligns with national homelessness policy and the Government's focus on prevention, early intervention and housing stability. Through coordinated homelessness prevention, tenancy sustainment, temporary accommodation and multi-agency partnership working, the service supports residents to secure and maintain suitable housing and achieve positive long-term outcomes.

4.0 Summary of main proposals

Better Homes For All

4.1 Better Homes for All continues to play a key role in improving housing standards. Through a combination of licensing, compliance inspections, advice and engagement with landlords, the work helps to safeguard residents, improve living conditions and support the provision of safe and well-managed individual, family and shared accommodation across the Borough. The Council has received close to 1000 requests for support from tenants and landlords over the last 2 years. This has lead to c.700 inspections with over 240 improvement notices being served addressing 1000s of individual hazards in properties. While dominated by tenant contact the Team has supported over 200 landlords who have made contact, with proactive inspections and advice.

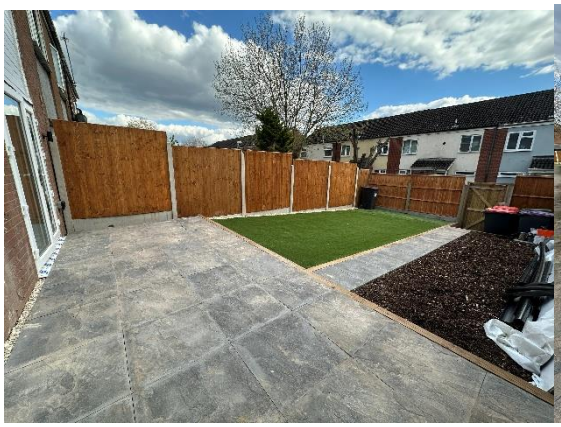
4.2 Our approach combines support, engagement and enforcement. The example below illustrates the positive impact of engagement with a landlord who was provided with advice and guidance to address conditions causing a blight to the

neighbourhood leading to the property being brought up to full compliance with amenity standards by the landlord and a quality home for the tenants.

Before




After:




4.3 However where a collaborative approach does not work and landlords fail to meet their legal responsibilities we will take enforcement action. Over the last year successful prosecutions were brought with fines totalling c.£60,000 ensuring urgent improvements were made addressing hazards for tenants. Further civil penalties, property charges and repayment orders have lead to fines/repayment orders in excess of a further £66,000 and many tenants living in improved conditions as well as providing a strong signal that we will take proactive enforcement action where housing conditions are threatening lives. With over 200 Notices served over the last two years by the Private Sector Housing Team. The fines are used to continue to deliver a service to the community which improves the living conditions and properties of those renting in the borough.

4.4 An example of this work is illustrated below. The tenant approached the council regarding significant damp and mould in their property. Officers undertook an inspection and identified a range of disrepair issues within the property. The team acted swiftly by serving a 28-day Schedule of Works on the landlord and a 7-day

Abatement Notice under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to secure the prompt remediation of the mould and improve living conditions for the household.

Before





After





4.5 Partnership working is at the heart of the Better Homes for All programme with regular multi agency activities to tackle crime, Anti-Social Behavior and disorder. Targeted work with the fire service has lead to improvements to key blocks of flats. This has included a joint enforcement programme lasting nearly a year which is successfully improving conditions in 36 blocks of flats in Hollinswood. This has lead to a sustained improvement in the area with residents reporting the door entry systems improving safety and security of the blocks and a reduction in fly tipping in communal areas significantly improving fire safety in the blocks.

Example of a Door Entry System now in place





We have replicated this work in other areas including blocks in Sutton Hill.

4.6 Better Homes for All supports the Council's Safer and Stronger Communities priority through targeted housing support, proactive enforcement and intervention activity focused on poor housing conditions and problematic HMOs. By tackling property hazards, improving management standards and working with landlords and residents to resolve issues at an early stage, the programme helps create safer neighbourhoods, protects vulnerable households and contributes to stronger, more resilient communities.

Going Forward

4.7 We will sustain our existing engage, eductate and enforce programme with a renewed focus on working within a mutli agency context to target work to tackle rogue landlords and with a focus on our Safer, Stronger Programme communities.

4.8 To support the implementation of the Renters' Rights Act 2025 and strengthen tenancy enforcement across the Borough, alongside our existing Landlord/Tenant Support programme which already provides information and signposting, a new Tenancy Enforcement Officer post has been established. The post will support compliance with new legislative requirements, investigate allegations of illegal eviction and harassment, promote awareness of rights and responsibilities, and work collaboratively with landlords to resolve issues before enforcement action becomes necessary. The role will also strengthen the Council's ability to undertake targeted enforcement where required, ensuring a balanced approach of support, engagement and regulation across the private rented sector

4.9 Locally close to 400 HMO are licensed under the Mandatory License Scheme and this number continues to grow through BHFA providing p rotection to 1000s tenants living in HMO.

4.10 The Council is preparing for the introduction of the new national Private Rented Sector Database, with the West Midlands chosen as the first region for

implementation. The scheme will require landlords to register both themselves and eligible rental properties, providing a new mechanism to improve transparency, support compliance and tackle poor housing standards. This will increase the visibility of rented properties including all HMO allowing for proactive enforcement to identify and target rogue landlords. The Private Sector Housing Team will play a key role in promoting awareness, supporting landlords through the transition and undertaking proportionate enforcement activity where registration requirements are not met. The information provided through the database will strengthen the Council's ability to identify and address poor practice within the private rented sector.

4.11 In addition in February 2027, the proposed Article 4 Directive requiring all new HMO to have planning approval will come into effect. This will add to the visibility and potential to control the proliferation of HMO where these are impacting local communities

4.12 The Council will be monitoring the impact of the Renters Rights Act and Article 4 in driving improvements in housing conditions, and working with partners including the Wrekin Landlords Association to understand the effect of the reforms on the sector. In the light of this we will continue to develop our existing Landlord/Tenant Support Programme and consider what further local measures including reviewing the introduction of Additional Licensing of smaller HMO are needed to ensure we continue to address the standard of accommodation in the private rented sector.

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping

4.13 The Council's homelessness prevention and relief activity directly supports the Government's ambition to end homelessness and tackle rough sleeping. Our strategy and investment into delivery is recognised by MHCLG as representing best practice.

4.14 Founded in prevention and early intervention we seek to prevent homelessness wherever possible, reduce reliance on crisis services and support residents to achieve long-term housing stability. Through, multi-agency working and a focus on sustainable housing solutions, the service supports residents before housing crises escalate, helping to reduce rough sleeping, limit the use of temporary accommodation and improve outcomes for some of the Borough's most vulnerable households.

4.15 Year on year we continue to see rising demand for advice and support with over the last 2 years close to 3000 from individuals and families within the Borough who are homeless or faced with homelessness. Through the work of the Housing Solutions Service, we have successfully prevented or relieved the homelessness threat for over 1900 of these. This requires bespoke case work, support and guidance to find the right outcome for each client's situation. For others where we cannot prevent or relieve the situation we provide safe, flexible, quality temporary accommodation while we continue to work with individuals/families to minimise their stay and support them into sustainable housing.

4.16 As an example of the work that the Housing Solutions Services carries out in order to prevent homelessness:

> A tenant approached the service who was faced with financial difficulties after losing his job and becoming reliant on Universal Credit, which did not fully cover his rent. Following concerns that he could face possession action from his landlord, officers provided early intervention support, helping the tenant to review his options and secure a Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) while he completed training and awaited the start of new employment. This timely assistance enabled the tenant to remain in their home, preventing homelessness and supporting a successful transition back into work.

4.17 Another example of how the Housing Solutions Team has worked with landlords to help prevent homelessness:

> A Housing Solutions Officer worked with a private landlord and tenant where rent arrears had risen to £3,750 and the tenancy was at significant risk of failure. Through early intervention, officers identified underlying personal circumstances that had contributed to the arrears and facilitated a joint solution between both parties. This included securing a contribution towards the arrears, arranging for Universal Credit housing costs to be paid directly to the landlord, agreeing an affordable rent level, and establishing a sustainable repayment arrangement. As a result, the tenancy was successfully sustained, homelessness was prevented, and communication between the landlord and tenant significantly improved, delivering a positive outcome for all parties involved.

4.18 The Rough Sleeper Task Force which was initially set up during Covid and still meets daily provides a coordinated multi-agency response to rough sleeping, bringing together housing, health, support services and voluntary sector partners to identify and address the complex needs of individuals sleeping rough. Through joint working and targeted interventions, the Task Force supports individuals into accommodation, enables access to recovery services and helps deliver sustainable pathways away from rough sleeping. This also has a positive impact in our communities where entrenched roughsleeping can cause neighbourhood concerns. Through partners, we provide outreach services to identify those rough sleepers and to offer support where the individuals are, along with accommodation offers. This innovative partnership working has been recognised by the Housing Executive Awards as ‘Homelessness Team of the Year’.

4.19 The Council has expanded its Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) offer to operate Rough Sleeper Emergency Accommodation with support, 365 days a year. In less than 12 months we have already provided accommodation to 109 clients providing dedicated on site support and access to specialist services including substance misuse and mental health support. Not all those roughsleeping are ready or wanting to take up accommodation but where this is the case outreach support is provided to those refusing emergency accommodation. This commitment ensures that no resident has to sleep rough in the Borough and aligns with the new National strategy to End Homelessness and Rough Sleeping.

4.20 <u>An example of the dedicated and partnership approach in supporting those rough sleeping:</u>

> An individual has been rough sleeping for a prolonged period consistently refusing regular offers of emergency accommodation. He is supported on a continual basis despite this with the offer of accommodation regularly renewed
>
> Throughout the week, partners continue to work with the individual, building trust and encouraging them to access appropriate services. This includes engagement and support around substance misuse, opportunities to access mental health support, access to drop-in services and other practical support, provision of food and warm drinks and ongoing contact, conversation and a listening ear.
>
> While offers of accommodation continue to be declined, the partnership remains committed to maintaining engagement rather than withdrawing support. The aim is to build trust and ensure support remains available – alongside accommodation – for when the individual feels ready to accept them.
>
> This case demonstrates that ending rough sleeping is not always achieved through an accommodation offer alone. Persistent engagement, relationship-building and coordinated support across partners are essential, alongside recognising the individual's own choices, circumstances and readiness to engage with the support available.

4.21 Recognising the growth of private rent, rising housing costs and legislative changes in the sector we have strengthened our preventative approach with a dedicated Tenancy Intervention Officer offering practical support and mediation to landlords and tenants where tenancies are at risk of failure. This early intervention model aims to reduce avoidable evictions, sustain successful tenancies and support the effective implementation of the Renters' Rights reforms. Since June 2026 this post has received 98 referals and has saved 20 tenancies from ending immediately preventing homelessness with the service continuing to work with other clients to move them to alternative accommodation while working with them on long term housing options.

4.22 The Housing Solutions Service receives multiple positive feedback, as an example:

> I would like to express my deepest appreciation for my housing officer, who is truly a remarkable and compassionate individual. During our stay in temporary accommodation, she supported us as our caregiver with unwavering dedication. She is loving, hardworking, and genuinely committed to helping those in need, always ready to go the extra mile. She ensured that every issue we faced was met with a prompt and effective response, and she played a vital role in making our transition from temporary to permanent housing as smooth and stress-free as possible. Her kindness, professionalism, and passion for what she does are truly inspiring. We are incredibly grateful for everything she has done for us. She is a wonderful human being, and I wish her all the best for the future—please keep doing the amazing work you do.

4.23 The service works closely with Domestic Abuse Services and the Local Partnership including the police. Over the last year investment into target hardening measures has helped to prevent and relieve clients homelessness where they have been suffering from Domestic Abuse. As an example of the close partnership working between Housing Solutions, Domestic Abuse and Mental Health Services a resident with complex trauma, domestic abuse history and significant mental health needs was supported to successfully transition from refuge accommodation into her own settled home. The case demonstrated the value of linking homelessness prevention, safe accommodation pathways and target hardening measures to improve safety, reduce the risk of repeat homelessness and support long-term tenancy sustainment for vulnerable residents.

4.24 The Council has increased its ownership and provision of temporary accommodation, reducing reliance on the use of bed and breakfast accommodation for households experiencing homelessness. We have seen a reduction n B&B usage from 237 occasions in 2024 to 15 in 2026. The new provision has enabled more residents to be accommodated in suitable, self-contained temporary homes, providing greater stability, improved outcomes for individuals and families, and a more cost-effective approach to meeting our statutory homelessness duties while we continue to work with them to find long term housing solutions.

Going Forward

4.25 In line with new government requirements, a Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Plan setting out the Council's priorities and commitments for the coming years has been developed. The plan aligns with the Council's adopted Homelessness Strategy and has been developed in partnership with members of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Forum. The Action Plan is a live action plan, which will continue to be shared and developed with Forum members and overseen by the Council's Housing Management Board. It will be refreshed according to local demand and need. The details of the Plan are set out in Appendix A and includes a focus on preventing homelessness, reducing the need for temporary accommodation, reducing rough sleeping and supporting greater partnership working.

5.0 Alternative Options

5.1 A less proactive approach would reduce the Council's ability to effectively discharge its statutory housing functions and homelessness duties and could adversely affect outcomes for vulnerable residents.

6.0 Key Risks

6.1 Delivering the Better Homes for All programme requires maintaining an effective balance between supporting landlords to improve standards and taking proportionate enforcement action where significant risks to tenants' health, safety and wellbeing are identified.

6.2 The introduction of significant reforms within the private rented sector may lead to increased demand for advice, tenancy support and homelessness prevention

services during the transition period. There is also a risk of unintended impacts on the availability of private rented accommodation within the Borough.

6.3 Failure to identify and address poor housing conditions, rogue landlord activity and non-compliance within the private rented sector could result in residents living in unsafe or unsuitable accommodation, increased health inequalities and a failure to meet statutory housing obligations.

6.4 Significant changes arising from the Renters' Rights Act 2025 and the introduction of new landlord regulatory requirements may increase demands on enforcement, compliance and advisory services, requiring continued investment in landlord engagement and regulatory activity.

6.5 Failure to maintain effective homelessness prevention measures, suitable temporary accommodation provision and strong partnership working may result in increased homelessness, higher financial costs, increased rough sleeping and poorer outcomes for vulnerable residents.

6.6 Increasing demand for homelessness assistance, temporary accommodation and support services may place additional pressure on Council budgets and available resource

7.0 Council Priorities

7.1 This report supports the delivery of the Council's Vision 2032 by contributing to the ambition that residents live in safe, secure and healthy homes and communities.

7.2 The report also supports the aspirations of a Child Friendly Telford by improving housing conditions for families, reducing the impacts of homelessness on children and young people, and helping ensure children can grow up in safe, stable and suitable homes.

7.3 This report also supports the council priorities:

- Every child, young person and adult lives well in their community.
- Everyone benefits from a thriving economy
- All neighbourhoods are a great place to live.
- A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.

8.0 Financial Implications

8.1 The implementation of the **Renters' Rights Act 2025 (RRA)** is supported by two new burdens grants, including Renters' Right Act £108k and Enforcement of the tenancy system of £141k in 2026/27, we will receive a further £51k for RRA in 2027/28. These grants are specified to be used to implement the reform of the private rented sector in a generation, strengthening tenants' rights, improving housing security and introducing new responsibilities for landlords and enforcement.

8.2 There is also a ring fenced S31 grant from MHCLG in 2026/27 for Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse (*note* that the homelessness and rough

sleeping elements were previously known as HPG Homelessness Prevention Grant), with £1,595k allocated to homelessness and rough sleeping and £529k for domestic abuse. This grant has conditions attached and a financial spend declaration is required in June 2027. There is also an ongoing requirement to submit monthly data to MHCLG via the ongoing H-CLIC and Rough Sleeping Management Information data collection.

8.3 In addition to the above, MHCLG has recently announced ring fenced S31 funding of £255k for the Rough Sleeping Programme in 2026/27. The delivery of the Programme must be in accordance with the published Rough Sleeping Programme Guidance and the stated programme objectives and outcomes. Grant recipients must ensure that expenditure funded through this Programme is additional to existing provision and complements other grants such as the Homelessness Rough Sleeping Domestic Abuse Grant, and contributes directly to the objectives of this Programme

9.0 Legal and HR Implications

9.1 The Council has a wide range of powers to address issues relating to private sector housing which are contained in various pieces of Legislation to include the Housing Act 2004, the Housing and Planning Act 2016 and the Renters Rights Act 2025.

9.2 The Renters' Rights Act 2025, (with main commencement in 2026) abolishes section 21 "no fault" evictions under the Housing Act 1988 while strengthening local authority enforcement alongside the Housing Act 2004 (including a new section 6A enabling new/expanded civil penalties for Category 1 hazards and enhanced investigatory powers) and the Housing and Planning Act 2016. The Act broadens rent repayment orders, establishes a national private rented sector database/register and introduces new grounds for possession.

9.3 Legal implications linked to statutory powers given under legislation are also contained within the body of the report.

9.4 The proposals contained in this report can be delivered using existing resources.

10.0 Ward Implications

10.1 As the services cover all wards, it will impact on all areas of the Borough by improving housing conditions, neighbourhoods, reduce homelessness and rough sleeping.

11.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications

11.1 Access to safe, secure and suitable housing is a key determinant of health and wellbeing. The Better Homes for All programme contributes to improved physical and mental health outcomes by addressing poor housing conditions, reducing exposure to hazards such as damp and mould, supporting vulnerable residents and preventing homelessness and rough sleeping.

11.2 The programme delivers wider social benefits through homelessness prevention, domestic abuse support, tenancy sustainment and the provision of suitable accommodation, helping residents maintain stability, independence and connections to their local communities.

11.3 Improving housing conditions and preventing homelessness can reduce demand on health, social care and emergency services, while supporting better outcomes for children, families and vulnerable adults.

11.4 The programme also delivers economic benefits by reducing the costs associated with poor housing, homelessness, temporary accommodation and crisis intervention, whilst supporting residents to access employment, education and training opportunities through stable housing.

12.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

12.1 The Better Homes for All programme and Homelessness Services has a positive impact on equality, diversity and inclusion by supporting residents who may be disproportionately affected by poor housing conditions, homelessness, rough sleeping and housing insecurity. This includes individuals with protected characteristics, particularly disabled people, older residents, women experiencing domestic abuse, people with mental health needs, and households experiencing financial hardship. The programme seeks to ensure that services, interventions and support are accessible, inclusive and responsive to individual needs.

12.2 The Council remains committed to supporting the Armed Forces community in accordance with the Armed Forces Covenant. Housing services provide advice, assistance and homelessness prevention support to serving personnel, veterans and their families, ensuring they are not disadvantaged in accessing housing and support services.

12.3 The report supports the Council's commitment to Care Leavers by providing tailored housing advice, homelessness prevention support and access to appropriate accommodation pathways. This helps promote equality of opportunity, supports independent living and seeks to improve housing outcomes for young people leaving care.
The Council works with care leavers to minimise the risk of homelessness and to provide appropriate support and accommodation pathways.

12.4 Through homelessness prevention, tenancy sustainment, domestic abuse support, rough sleeping initiatives, housing standards enforcement and improvements to housing conditions, the programme contributes to reducing inequalities and improving outcomes for some of the Borough's most vulnerable residents.

13.0 Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environmental Implications

13.1 The Better Homes for All programme contributes to the Council's environmental and climate ambitions by supporting the improvement of housing standards across the Borough. Improvements to housing conditions can help improve energy efficiency,

reduce fuel poverty, lower household energy consumption and contribute to reductions in carbon emissions.

13.2 Preventing homelessness and reducing reliance on temporary accommodation also contributes to more sustainable housing outcomes by helping residents remain in settled accommodation and reducing the need for emergency housing interventions.

14.0 Background Papers

14.1 None.

15.0 Appendices

A Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Plan.

16.0 Report Sign Off

Signed off by	Date sent	Date signed off	Initials
Director	05102026	08102026	KK
Legal	07/10/2026	08/10/2026	DTW
Finance	07/10/2026	08/10/2026	AM