

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 27 NOVEMBER 2017

**HOUSING TASK GROUP**

**Summary**

The Task Group has reviewed the current work by staff in getting the Council into shape to ensure we are ready for the implementation of new homelessness legislation in April 2018. The government had helpfully provided a draft code of guidance and we had visited another authority who had been operating the scheme already. Members should be in no doubt that both setting up the new processes and subsequent operation of the scheme, designed to prevent homelessness, will involve a heavy workload and additional staff and skills.

A long list of housing policies was noted and in particular the need to update the Housing Strategy which expired in 2016, perhaps including other more recent policies on specific housing topics.

The loss of housing-related financial support of £187,000 from Surrey County Council in its cost saving drive meant some decisions would be required from WBC as to the extent we might fill any gaps. We were looking to collaborate with other boroughs in relation to the Homelink service as part of re-working how residents are supported in an effective manner.

**Recommendations**

The Committee is requested to

**RESOLVE That** the update be noted.

**Background Papers:**

None

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