

Public Document Pack

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Thursday, 14th December, 2023
at 5.30 pm

PLEASE NOTE TIME OF MEETING

Council Chamber, Civic Centre,
Southampton

This meeting is open to the public

Members

Councillor Blackman (Chair)
Councillor Moulton (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Evely
Councillor Y Frampton
Councillor Galton
Councillor Greenhalgh
Councillor Lambert
Councillor Dr Paffey
Councillor Quadir

Appointed Members

Catherine Hobbs, Roman Catholic Church
Francis Otieno, Primary Parent Governor
Rob Sanders, Church of England

Contacts

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PUBLIC INFORMATION

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee holds the Executive to account, exercises the call-in process, and sets and monitors standards for scrutiny. It formulates a programme of scrutiny inquiries and appoints Scrutiny Panels to undertake them. Members of the Executive cannot serve on this Committee.

Role of Overview and Scrutiny

Overview and Scrutiny includes the following three functions:

- Holding the Executive to account by questioning and evaluating the Executive's actions, both before and after decisions taken.
- Developing and reviewing Council policies, including the Policy Framework and Budget Strategy.
- Making reports and recommendations on any aspect of Council business and other matters that affect the City and its citizens.

Overview and Scrutiny can ask the Executive to reconsider a decision, but they do not have the power to change the decision themselves.

Southampton: Corporate Plan 2022-2030 sets out the four key outcomes:

- **Strong Foundations for Life**.- For people to access and maximise opportunities to truly thrive, Southampton will focus on ensuring residents of all ages and backgrounds have strong foundations for life.
- **A proud and resilient city** - Southampton's greatest assets are our people. Enriched lives lead to thriving communities, which in turn create places where people want to live, work and study.
- **A prosperous city** - Southampton will focus on growing our local economy and bringing investment into our city.
- **A successful, sustainable organisation** - The successful delivery of the outcomes in this plan will be rooted in the culture of our organisation and becoming an effective and efficient council.

Procedure / Public Representations

At the discretion of the Chair, members of the public may address the meeting on any report included on the agenda in which they have a relevant interest. Any member of the public wishing to address the meeting should advise the Democratic Support Officer (DSO) whose contact details are on the front sheet of the agenda.

Access is available for disabled people.

Please contact the Democratic Support Officer who will help to make any necessary arrangements.

Fire Procedure: -

In the event of a fire or other emergency a continuous alarm will sound, and you will be advised by Council officers what action to take.

Mobile Telephones: - Please switch your mobile telephones to silent whilst in the meeting

Use of Social Media: - The Council supports the video or audio recording of meetings open to the public, for either live or subsequent broadcast. However, if, in the Chair's opinion, a person filming or recording a meeting or taking photographs is interrupting proceedings or causing a disturbance, under the Council's Standing Orders the person can be ordered to stop their activity, or to leave the meeting. By entering the meeting room, you are consenting to being recorded and to the use of those images and recordings for broadcasting and or/training purposes. The meeting may be recorded by the press or members of the public. Any person or organisation filming, recording, or broadcasting any meeting of the Council is responsible for any claims or other liability resulting from them doing so. Details of the Council's Guidance on the recording of meetings is available on the Council's website.

Smoking Policy: - The Council operates a no-smoking policy in all civic buildings.

Dates of Meetings for the Municipal Year:

2023	2024
10 August	11 January
14 September	01 February
12 October	07 March
22 November	11 April
14 December	

CONDUCT OF MEETING

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The general role and terms of reference for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, together with those for all Scrutiny Panels, are set out in Part 2 (Article 6) of the Council’s Constitution, and their particular roles are set out in Part 4 (Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules – paragraph 5) of the Constitution.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

The meeting is governed by the Council Procedure Rules and the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules as set out in Part 4 of the Constitution.

BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED

Only those items listed on the attached agenda may be considered at this meeting.

QUORUM

The minimum number of appointed Members required to be in attendance to hold the meeting is 4.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Members are required to disclose, in accordance with the Members’ Code of Conduct, **both** the existence **and** nature of any “Disclosable Pecuniary Interest” or “Other Interest” they may have in relation to matters for consideration on this Agenda.

DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

A Member must regard himself or herself as having a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter that they or their spouse, partner, a person they are living with as husband or wife, or a person with whom they are living as if they were a civil partner in relation to:

- (i) Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
- (ii) Sponsorship:

Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from Southampton City Council) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expense incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

- (iii) Any contract which is made between you / your spouse etc (or a body in which the you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interest) and Southampton City Council under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed, and which has not been fully discharged.

- (iv) Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of Southampton.
- (v) Any license (held alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of Southampton for a month or longer.
- (vi) Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) the landlord is Southampton City Council and the tenant is a body in which you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interests.
- (vii) Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of Southampton, and either:
- a) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body, or
 - b) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interest that exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

Other Interests

A Member must regard himself or herself as having an, 'Other Interest' in any membership of, or occupation of a position of general control or management in:

- Any public authority or body exercising functions of a public nature
- Any body directed to charitable purposes
- Any body whose principal purpose includes the influence of public opinion or policy

Principles of Decision Making

All decisions of the Council will be made in accordance with the following principles:-

- proportionality (i.e. the action must be proportionate to the desired outcome);
- due consultation and the taking of professional advice from officers;
- respect for human rights;
- a presumption in favour of openness, accountability and transparency;
- setting out what options have been considered;
- setting out reasons for the decision; and
- clarity of aims and desired outcomes.

In exercising discretion, the decision maker must:

- understand the law that regulates the decision making power and gives effect to it. The decision-maker must direct itself properly in law;
- take into account all relevant matters (those matters which the law requires the authority as a matter of legal obligation to take into account);
- leave out of account irrelevant considerations;
- act for a proper purpose, exercising its powers for the public good;
- not reach a decision which no authority acting reasonably could reach, (also known as the "rationality" or "taking leave of your senses" principle);
- comply with the rule that local government finance is to be conducted on an annual basis. Save to the extent authorised by Parliament, 'live now, pay later' and forward funding are unlawful; and
- act with procedural propriety in accordance with the rules of fairness.

AGENDA

1 APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN PANEL MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)

To note any changes in membership of the Panel made in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.3.

2 DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL AND PECUNIARY INTERESTS

In accordance with the Localism Act 2011, and the Council's Code of Conduct, Members to disclose any personal or pecuniary interests in any matter included on the agenda for this meeting.

NOTE: Members are reminded that, where applicable, they must complete the appropriate form recording details of any such interests and hand it to the Democratic Support Officer.

3 DECLARATIONS OF SCRUTINY INTEREST

Members are invited to declare any prior participation in any decision taken by a Committee, Sub-Committee, or Panel of the Council on the agenda and being scrutinised at this meeting.

4 DECLARATION OF PARTY POLITICAL WHIP

Members are invited to declare the application of any party political whip on any matter on the agenda and being scrutinised at this meeting.

5 STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR

6 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING)

(Pages 1 - 2)

To approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings held on 22nd November, 2023 and to deal with any matters arising, attached.

7 PORTSWOOD BROADWAY CONSULTATION - UPDATE (Pages 3 - 28)

Report of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport providing an update to the Committee on transport proposals for Portswood Broadway.

8 FORWARD PLAN (Pages 29 - 186)

Report of the Scrutiny Manager enabling the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to examine the content of the Forward Plan and to discuss issues of interest or concern with the Executive.

9 MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE

(Pages 187 - 190)

Report of the Scrutiny Manager enabling the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to monitor and track progress on recommendations made to the Executive at previous meetings.

Wednesday, 6 December 2023

Director – Legal, Governance and HR

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 NOVEMBER 2023

Present: Councillors Blackman (Chair), Evemy, Y Frampton, Galton, Greenhalgh, Lambert and Dr Paffey
Appointed Member Rob Sanders

Apologies: Councillors Quadir

Also in attendance: Councillor Letts, Cabinet Member for Finance and Change

34. **APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN PANEL MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)**

It was noted that following receipt of the temporary resignation of Councillor Moulton from the Committee, the Monitoring Officer, acting under delegated powers, had appointed Councillors Fitzhenry to replace him for the purposes of this meeting. Apologies were also noted from Councillor Quadir.

35. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING)**

RESOLVED that the minutes for the Committee meetings held on 5th and 12th October, 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record.

36. **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC - CONFIDENTIAL PAPERS INCLUDED IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM**

The Chair moved that in accordance with the Council's Constitution, specifically the Access to Information Procedure Rules contained within the Constitution, the press and public be excluded from the meeting in respect of any consideration of the confidential appendices to the following Item.

Appendices 7 and 8 of the Cabinet report contained information deemed to be exempt from general publication based on categories 3 and 5 of rule 10.4 of the council's Access to Information Procedure Rules i.e. information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person and information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings. It is not in the public interest to disclose this information due to ongoing legal proceedings. If the information was disclosed, then the council's financial position would be available to other parties to the proceedings and prejudice the council's ability to achieve best value.

37. **FORWARD PLAN - BUDGET MATTERS - MTFS**

The Committee considered the report of the Scrutiny Manager which enabled the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to examine the content of the Forward Plan and to discuss issues of interest or concern with the Executive.

BUDGET MATTERS – MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY UPDATE

The Committee considered the draft Cabinet report shared with the Committee and published online prior to the meeting.

Sue Atkins, Trade Unionists and Socialist Coalition, Councillor Letts, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, Mike Harris, Chief Executive, Mel Creighton, Executive Director Corporate Services and Steve Harrison, Head of Financial Planning and Management were present and with the consent of the Chair addressed the meeting.

The Committee discussed the progress made on 2024/25 savings proposals identified so far in addition to cost control measures in place.

RESOLVED that the Committee received further details of the proposed savings being considered at their meeting in January 2024.

38. **MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE**

The Committee noted the report of the Scrutiny Manager which enabled the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to monitor and track progress on recommendations made to the Executive at previous meetings.

Agenda Item 7

DECISION-MAKER:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
SUBJECT:	PORTSWOOD BROADWAY UPDATE
DATE OF DECISION:	14 DECEMBER 2023
REPORT OF:	COUNCILLOR KEOGH CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
Executive Director	Title	Place	
	Name:	Adam Wilkinson	Tel: 023 8254 5853
	E-mail	Adam.wilkinson@southampton.gov.uk	
Author:	Title	Service Manager Integrated Transport	
	Name:	Wade Holmes	Tel: 023 8083 3326
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY	
Not Applicable	
BRIEF SUMMARY	
This report provides a summary of the Portswood Broadway Transforming Cities Fund scheme following a second public consultation carried out between August - October 2023.	
RECOMMENDATIONS:	
(i)	That OSMC notes that the Portswood Broadway Transforming Cities Fund scheme consultation has happened, and is used as an opportunity for stakeholders to express their view, concerns and alternatives to the proposal.
(ii)	That OSMC notes that a “You Said / We Did” response is to be provided to the main themes in the consultation results to assist in shaping a recommendation for the scheme.
(iii)	That OSMC notes that a decision on the Portswood Broadway scheme is due at Cabinet in January 2024.
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS	
1.	To allow the opinions of relevant stakeholders and members of the public to inform the decision making process for the scheme.
2.	Compliance with the Southampton City Council (SCC) Corporate Plan goal - Embed a culture of listening to our residents, community groups, partner organisations and businesses so their voices can shape our actions.
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED	

3.	Not to incorporate the views of the public and stakeholder into the decision making process for the Portswood Broadways scheme. Not recommended as this would not be democratic or in line with the Corporate Plan.
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)	
4.	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>In 2020, Southampton City Region was one of 12 cities that received funding through the Department for Transport's (DfT) Transforming Cities Fund (TCF). This joint bid with Hampshire County Council (HCC) was awarded £57M of DfT funding towards a £68.5M programme to be delivered over four years to March 2024. The remainder of the funding is to come from local match funding contributions from SCC, HCC and partners, including bus operator investment (such as new buses in 2024).</p>
5.	The TCF programme is delivering sustainable transport improvements on corridors linking Southampton City Centre with surrounding towns including the Southampton to Eastleigh Corridor. This aims to better connect Fair Oak and Bishopstoke to Eastleigh, and onwards to Southampton Airport and Southampton City Centre by sustainable transport options. This is to support future sustainable development growth and improve productivity.
6.	The focus for the Eastleigh Corridor is the provision of new cycle facilities, bus priority, better bus stops and access to them, access to the rail stations at Eastleigh, Southampton Airport Parkway, Swaythling and St Denys, improvements to St Denys Road, and providing alternatives such as scooter or cycle hire at a travel hub in Portswood. Projects are being developed and implemented by both SCC and HCC as part of the complete package for the corridor to achieve the aims of TCF.
7.	As part of the strategy for the corridor, improvements to A335 Thomas Lewis Way were implemented with the aim of enhancing the strategic function of the A335 for the movement of through traffic in and out of the city. This additional capacity aims to reduce the demand and need for through traffic using Portswood Road. These works are complete with four junctions upgraded including Thomas Lewis Way/St Denys Road.
8.	<p><u>Portswood Broadway Project</u></p> <p>One of the key TCF projects is enhancements to the Portswood Broadway District Centre section of Portswood Road. This would contribute to the overall aims for the corridor for cycling and buses.</p> <p>This scheme has a budget of £2.9M and includes the following additional objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To regenerate and make the District Centre a more vibrant, competitive economic destination. • Make the District Centre a more attractive and a more enjoyable place to spend time and money. • Provide greening, improve bio-diversity and more space for walking and wheeling within the District Centre. • Improve walking and cycling connectivity to and through the District Centre. • Provide safer crossing opportunities and better bus stops. • Improved bus reliability and journey times via facilities (such as making part of Portswood Broadway bus, cycle & taxi only) and upgraded signal technology in the junctions at either end (St Denys Road and Brookvale Road).

9.	<p>Alongside the main Portswood Broadway project is a complementary works that aim to widen travel choices through a Travel Hub. This is proposed to be located in St Denys Road 'stub' and would enable users access to micromobility (escooters, ebikes), car clubs and EV charging, and localised greening.</p> <p>The objectives of Portswood Travel Hub, budgeted at £0.31m, are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve transport mode options • Increase disabled access and parking • Improve public realm and green spaces.
10.	<p>As part of package of mitigation for the works on Portswood Broadway that might displace traffic, an Active Travel Zone in the Highfield area to the north-west is proposed. This would be developed through co-design with the local community to ensure buy-in and includes the following key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve road safety • Reduce the amount of through route traffic on local roads • Improve air quality • Encourage walking, wheeling and cycling as a mode of transport.
11.	<p><u>Consultation</u></p> <p>To develop the Portswood Broadway scheme the Council undertook a first phase of consultation which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October-November 2020 – online Perceptions Survey to gain people’s experiences / thoughts on the current conditions and aspirations for the Portswood Broadway area. • September-October 2021 - On-street customer survey to gain insights into behaviours of people visiting the Portswood Broadway area. • October / November 2022 – public consultation online and in-person events providing details of proposed schemes for Portswood Broadway. The consultation including drop in events and an online survey to collect feedback.
12.	<p>As part of the October / November 2022 consultation, the Council received a petition, “Say NO to Southampton City Council’s proposals to close part of Portswood Broadway to through traffic”, which received 2,868 respondents.</p>
13.	<p>The item was referred to the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee for consideration at 2 February 2023 meeting. At this meeting the Committee recommended to the Executive that the next phase of consultation is more neutral, that additional updated traffic information is gathered and presented to the public and consideration is given on how that information is presented. The resolution is attached as Appendix 1.</p>
14.	<p>A second phase of public consultation with the additional requested information was carried out between 22nd August and 1st October 2023. This included an updated website https://transport.southampton.gov.uk/tcf/eastleigh-to-southampton-corridor/portswood-project/, an online survey, letter drop to 16,612 properties, email to stakeholder list gathered from previous consultations and drop in sessions (where information and materials were on display and members of the public were able to ask questions of the project team) during September 2023. These drop-in sessions were held at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portswood Broadway (x2 sessions) • Bashir Ahmed Mosque • With the Highfield Residents Association

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the Outer Avenue Residents Association • University of Southampton. <p>Businesses in and around Portswood Broadway were invited to a “Meet the Leader” event, with the Leader of the Council held in the Leader’s Civic Centre office in September 2023. A follow up business meeting was held in October 2023 at October Books meeting rooms.</p> <p>A special presentation was given to members of the Accessibility Forum online in September 2023.</p>
15.	<p>The additional information and materials provided at the events and available online is attached as Appendix 2, this includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact on local roads • Impact on the local economy • Maintaining access for people with mobility issues and people with disabilities • Phased Implementation of the scheme • Air Quality and Environmental Benefits • Improving Public Transport Services • Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour • A335 Thomas Lewis Way Improvements • Emergency Strategy for A335 Thomas Lewis Way.
16.	<p>The online survey ran concurrent to the public consultation events, created by the Southampton Data Observatory (SCC Insights team) – independent from the Integrated Transport team delivering the project. When closed, the survey received 1,371 responses and the details are currently being analysed.</p> <p>It is important to note that a consultation is not a vote, it is an opportunity for public and stakeholders to express their views, concerns and alternatives to a proposal.</p> <p>The survey asked questions about the where people lived, how, why, when and how often they used Portswood Broadway and how they travel to or through Portswood Broadway. Specific questions were asked about how people felt the impact would be on a range of issues via asking if they felt it would have a positive impact, no impact or negative impact. A copy of the survey questions is attached as Appendix 3.</p>
17.	<p>Following the full analysis of the results, a “You Said / We Did” response will be provided to the main themes to assist in shaping a recommendation for the scheme. The consultation results and analysis will inform the next steps with consideration of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the scheme should proceed or not • If the scheme should be introduced as a trial or straight to permanent construction • If the scheme should be a full time restriction (bus gate or no motor vehicles) or a part time restriction • If the scheme should have community co-design of the final scheme for the Broadway scheme / Active Travel Zone scheme. <p>This work is ongoing and will be reported to the Cabinet Member and Cabinet for approval at the 16 January 2024 Cabinet meeting.</p>
18.	<p><u>Next Steps</u></p> <p>Following the completion of the review by officers the timeline for the project is anticipated to be:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A recommendation to Cabinet on the scheme for January 2024 meeting on the consultation outcomes and if the scheme is to proceed / what form (noting the above potential options). • If a scheme is to proceed, commence work with Community Co-design options in Spring 2024. • Any mitigation measures if required in Summer 2024 • Formal consultation on any required Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) Summer 2024. • Any construction of schemes at Portswood Broadway in Winter 2024/2025.
19.	If a scheme was implemented the impacts would be monitored by SCC and reported back after 1 year and 5 years from completion, and as part of the DfT's National TCF Monitoring & Evaluation programme.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
20.	<p>The value of the Portswood Broadway schemes is £3.21M, the TCF programme is funded by the Department for Transport, SCC match funding from Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport Block grant, and S106 Developer Contributions.</p> <p>It is included in the Council's Capital Programme for 2023/24 and has sufficient funds from the awarded grants to carry out the implementation of any agreed proposals, additional surveys, modelling and impact assessments including post-scheme monitoring & evaluation.</p>
21.	There are no direct revenue implications from the consultation.
<u>Property/Other</u>	
22.	None
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
23.	S.1 Localism Act 2011 together with Road Traffic Regulation and Highways legislation (substantive proposals)
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
24.	An equality impact assessment has been carried out on the substantive proposals in accordance with the public sector equality duty under the Equality Act 2010.
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
25.	There is a risk related to the delivery timeline for the project being delayed with further reviews. Timelines for the project have now been adjusted to allow for the gathering of further analysis and as such the risk has been mitigated. The funding from the DfT stipulates that the funds must be spent by March 2024, and the Council is in negotiations with the DfT to extend the deadline to enable completion of the TCF programme, particularly for Portswood. If a scheme propose was not in line with the TCF programme bid then the funding would need to either be reallocated to other TCF schemes in Southampton that provide a similar or better improvement for buses, or the monies would need to be returned to the DfT.
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	

26.	<p>The Council's Local Transport Plan (LTP4) - Connected Southampton 2040, sets out a vision for transport to make Southampton a modern, liveable and sustainable place to live, work and visit by investing in better and more innovative transport.</p> <p>The TCF Programme and Portswood Broadway project support this and the LTP has objectives of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'A System for Everyone, making Southampton an attractive and liveable place to improve the people's quality of life, so that everyone is safe, and has inclusive access to transport regardless of their circumstances.' • A Connected City, with fast, efficient transport options available that effectively and reliably connect people with the places they want to go. As part of that, the Southampton Mass Transit System (STMS) has been identified that will be a high-quality system comprising of various types of public transport – including bus and future other mass transit schemes.
27.	<p>The Council's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), which sets out the ambition for buses in Southampton, has listed ambitions for buses as an attractive choice where the bus network is built on reliability, carbon-neutral, integration, value for money, inclusivity & partnership.</p> <p>The TCF Programme and Portswood Broadway project support this and specific ambitions within the BSIP, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambition 2 – Buses are an attractive alternative – fast, reliable and attractive – providing bus priority helps to improve attractiveness of buses, growing patronage, speed up journeys and foster further service enhancements and vehicle investment. • Ambition 6 - The City and District Centres as hubs within the network served by buses to support their sustainable growth. • Ambition 9 – development of the integrated SMTS with future aspirations for Mass Rapid Transit on the corridor.
28.	<p>The Council's Cycle Strategy Cycling Southampton 2017-2027 sets out how Southampton can become a true cycling city, with the identification of the Southampton Cycle Network (SCN). The SCN has a series of corridors for cycling improvements including SCN6 on Portswood Road to Eastleigh.</p>

KEY DECISION?	Yes
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	Portswood Ward
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	February 2023 OSMC recommendations
2.	Additional information gathered for consultation
3	Online consultation survey
Documents In Members' Rooms	
1.	None
Equality Impact Assessment	

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out?		Yes
Data Protection Impact Assessment		
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out?		Yes
Other Background Documents		
Other Background documents available for inspection at:		
Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)	
1.	None	

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Appendix 1 - 2 February 2023 Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee Recommendations

1. That the Cabinet Member and officers commit to ensuring that the next iteration of the Portswood Corridor consultation survey is worded in such a way that it is neutral and does not appear to favour the proposed schemes.
2. That further traffic counts are undertaken along the Portswood Corridor to monitor changes to travel habits and to improve understanding of the journeys that are being undertaken and traffic trends.
3. That modelling for individual roads is undertaken to help develop understanding of the additional traffic that could be diverted to neighbouring residential streets as a result of the introduction of the proposed schemes.
4. That, reflecting concerns about the potential impact the closure of Thomas Lewis Way could have on the area if the proposed scheme is introduced, an emergency mitigation plan is developed that identifies the potential impact and models alternative routes to be followed to reduce the predicted impact.
5. That bus journey time and trend data for Portswood is provided to the Committee and is available for the second phase of public consultation.
6. That, for the second phase of public consultation, improvements are made to the clarity of the information about the proposed schemes to raise awareness of the actual proposals.
7. That the second phase of public consultation includes a wider geographical area reflecting the potential impact of the proposals.
8. That instead of procuring an independent assessment on the impact of the proposals on the prosperity of Portswood District Centre, traders are contacted individually, or through a Portswood Traders Association, and are asked about their views on the proposals.
9. That, if the Cabinet Member agrees to the independent assessment on the impact of the proposals on the prosperity of Portswood District Centre, the Cabinet Member and officers commit to separately engaging directly with Portswood traders about the proposals.
10. That the Cabinet Member and officers demonstrate how the proposals will impact on the city's net zero ambitions.
11. That the Cabinet Member recognises the strength of feeling and opposition to the proposed closure of Portswood Broadway to through traffic and goes back to the drawing board and scraps plans to close the road to through traffic and instead comes back with alternative proposals for Portswood Broadway that will make the district centre greener and more attractive.

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Appendix 2 – Additional information for the Portswood Broadway consultation

<https://transport.southampton.gov.uk/tcf/eastleigh-to-southampton-corridor/portswood-project/additional-information-and-assessments/>

- Impact on local roads – Additional traffic counts were taken in April 2023, with modelling carried out rerouting traffic locally to Thomas Lewis Way and to local streets in the area, with daily traffic levels shown for current, predicted with a proposed bus gate, predicted with bus gate + light touch Active Travel Zone, and bus gate + Active Travel Zone via traffic filters.
- Impact on the local economy – An independent Economic Impact Assessment Report was prepared and made available for the public to see the predicted impact of the scheme for economic activity in the area.
- Maintaining access for people with mobility issues and people with disabilities – a local access map was produced indicating how to access the Portswood Broadway if a bus gate restriction was to go ahead.
- Phased Implementation of the scheme – information was provided on how a phased implementation of the scheme may be possible.
- Air Quality and Environmental Benefits – information was provided on the Green City Charter (2020) and air quality information as part of the Southampton Net Zero Strategy.
- Improving Public Transport Services – information was given on the level of delay for bus running times in the area and a link to the Council's Bus Service Improvement Plan.
- Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour – information was provided on the work done in conjunction with advice from the Police on how to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour through several measures including a Portswood Business Engagement Forum.
- A335 Thomas Lewis Way Improvements – information about improved journey times along A335 Thomas Lewis following recently completed congestion reduction schemes.
- Emergency Strategy for A335 Thomas Lewis Way – information about measures to retain access in the area if there is an emergency situation on A335 Thomas Lewis Way including messaging to drivers and use of Portswood Broadway.

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Portswood Broadway Transport Scheme Consultation**Consultation questionnaire****Background****Welcome to the Portswood Corridor Phase 2 Consultation**

Welcome to phase 2 of the consultation for the proposals for the Portswood Corridor. This consultation will run from the 21st August 2023 until the 1st October 2023

On our website **HERE** you will be able to access all information related to the proposed Portswood Corridor schemes which include:

- Changes to Portswood Broadway
- A new Active Travel Zone (ATZ) for Highfield
- A Travel Hub, next to Trago Lounge

You can access information about the aims of these proposals, the impact they would have and background behind why they are being proposed.

You will also be able to access all the information and results related to phase 1 of the consultation which was conducted at the end of 2022, Council assessments and additional investigations to address concerns raised.

Once you have had time to read this information and have your questions answered, we ask that you complete this online survey and leave feedback below.

Should you have any further questions you do not feel is covered on these pages, please email us at portswoodcorridor@southampton.gov.uk

Proposals for Portswood Broadway

The Portswood Broadway proposals look to introduce a bus gate along Portswood Road from Highfield Lane to Westridge Road (approximately 150 metres in length).

The bus gate would restrict general traffic from passing through the 150m of bus gated road, however general traffic will continue to have access to the Broadway area and any existing parking areas will be retained albeit via adjusted routes. The bus gate would still allow buses, cycles, taxis and other authorised vehicles to pass fully along the Broadway.



By restricting general traffic through the Broadway but still allowing access to car parking spaces, we will improve bus journey times and deliver economic, social and environmental benefits, supporting Southampton Pound [link to: [Southampton Pound - Social Value and Community Wealth Building in Southampton](#)] locally, or as social value more widely, through:

- Creation of additional pedestrian space of over 550m2, equivalent of two tennis courts
- Attract more people to visit and spend at local businesses
- Installation of seven benches allowing elderly, disabled and families to sit and rest
- Two new zebra Crossings
- Improved bus journey time and reliability
- Addition green space such as planters and over ten trees
- Additional tables and chair for alfresco dining, with a potential for 50 tables and 100 seats
- Improvements to air quality
- Making our junctions safer for people who choose to walk or cycle

The proposals would improve the junction of Portswood Road and Highfield Lane to provide better walking and cycling access, upgrade the junction to smart signals to reduce waiting time and further improve bus journey time and reliability.

Q. If these plans were to go ahead, what impact do you feel it would have on the following?						
	Very positive impact	Fairly positive impact	No impact at all	A fairly negative impact	A very negative impact	Don't know
The attractiveness of Portswood District Centre						
Visitor numbers to Portswood District Centre						

The ease of travelling more sustainably (e.g. on foot, bicycle, or public transport)						
The experience for bus passengers traveling to and from the Portswood District Centre						
The ease of travelling by car to and from the Portswood District Centre (driver or passenger)						
Safety of those walking and crossing roads on the Portswood District Centre						
Safety of those cycling on the Portswood District Centre						
Overall experience of traveling across the city for all road users.						
Air quality						

Q. Please use the following space to tell us if there is anything else we should consider (e.g. what alternatives we could look at, or any other impacts there might be):

Free text

The following sections of the questionnaire will cover more detail on: impacts on the local economy, access for people with mobility issues; and impacts on crime and antisocial behaviour.

Phased Implementation

We are currently investigating the phased introduction of the bus gate should the proposals move forward. We would also be able to provide temporary additional paving along the Broadway to provide the extra pedestrian space the bus gate would allow us to install. It is important to know that during a phased approach of this scheme we would not be able to provide any of the additional green space initially and it would be added over a longer time frame.

Q. If plans were approved, which of the following would you prefer?

- Trial the proposals first
- Proceed straight to implementing the proposals
- Something else
- Don't know

Q. Please use the following space to tell us if there is anything else we should consider (e.g. what alternatives we could look at, or any other impacts there might be):

Free text

Impact on the local economy

One of the key concerns raised by residents in the consultation was about the economic impact on local businesses of a bus-only zone on a section of the Broadway. To address these concerns and measure the impact we commissioned an independent **Economic Impact Assessment** to look more specifically at the impact it would have on the Portswood Area ([link to report](#)). Key findings from the initial assessment include:

- **The Portswood Broadway scheme will generate around £8 for every £1 of investment.** The long-term economic benefits to the Southampton economy through uplift in sales and increased employment opportunities, supporting the Southampton Pound objective of community wealth building.
- **An additional 30 full-time equivalent jobs.** The proposals are predicted to generate additional jobs on the Broadway as the consumer benefits from increased trading space and longer opening hours to attract more people.
- **An additional £32,705,000 (GVA) Gross Value Added over 10 years to the local economy.** This is due to the increased footfall, compared with if the scheme was not implemented.
- **A 5% uplift in trade.** Businesses trading in retail, leisure, food services and other business services could expect a 5% uplift in trade from the additional footway space and improvements

We hope the Economic Impact Assessment provides residents and businesses with some supporting information to support informing their responses to the phase 2 consultation. We want to make sure that local businesses are fully supported as part of the second phase of consultation and we will focus on providing advice and guidance on how businesses can get the full benefit of the scheme should it go ahead and continue to work with them on the specific concerns raised.

Next Steps:

- Form Portswood Business Engagement Forum for local retailers;
- Ensuring servicing needs are designed into any future scheme; and
- Providing guidance on how to get the most benefits from these proposals.

If you are a local retailer and want to find out more about the Portswood Business Engagement Forum please email us [HERE](#).

Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have adequately assessed and provided sufficient information on the potential economic impact of the proposals?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Q. Please use the following space to explain your response please

Free text

Q. If these plans were to go ahead, what impact do you feel it would have on the local economy?

- Very positive impact
- Fairly positive impact

- No impact at all
- A fairly negative impact
- A very negative impact
- Don't know

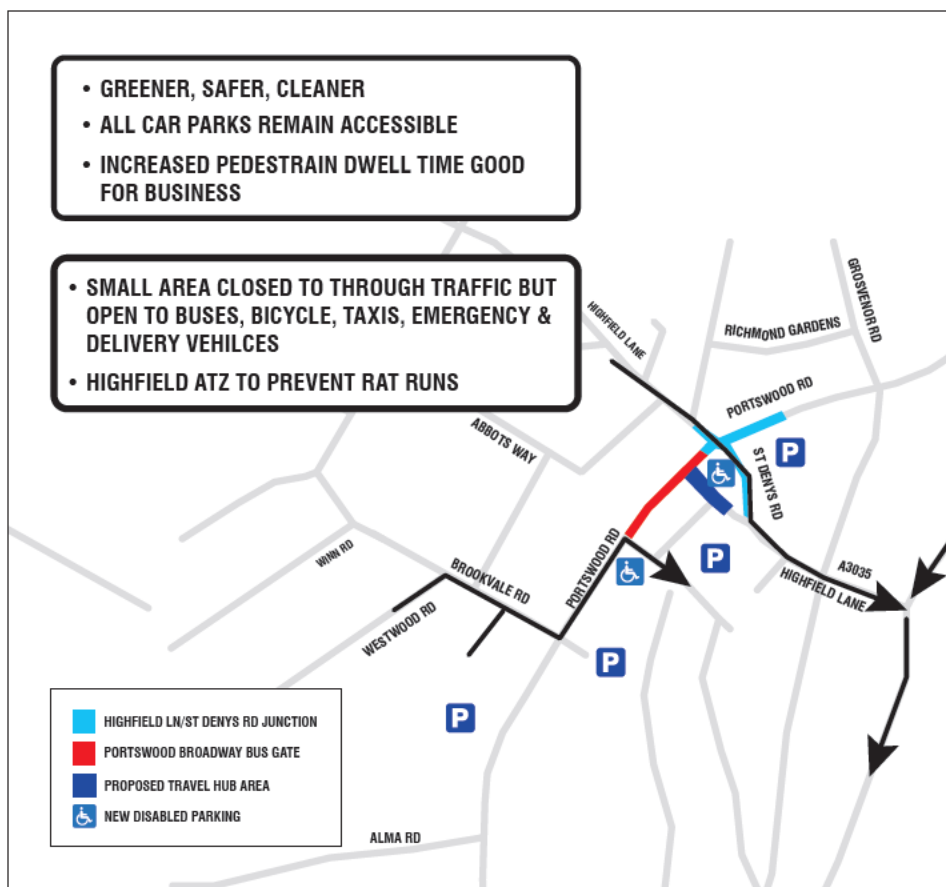
Q. Please use the following space to tell us if there is anything else we should consider (e.g. what alternatives we could look at, or any other impacts there might be):

Free text

Maintaining access for people with mobility issues and people with disabilities

Access for people with mobility issues, especially those that have no alternative but to use their car will also be improved with better pedestrian access into Westridge Road car park and more parking for people with disabilities around the area.

As part of the work on the Active Travel Zone we would also include additional disabled compliant crossings and improve the condition of our footways.



There will be at around seven additional benches along the Broadway for people to sit and rest, and hospitality businesses will be able to offer outdoor seating, where people can socialise with family and friends. The area will be improved with dementia friendly design principles being applied to the design of the future Broadway layout. Our new [The Accessibility Forum \(southampton.gov.uk\)](https://www.southampton.gov.uk) will play a crucial role in reviewing the scheme and the design detail.

While some people may need to make longer journeys around the bus gate, we commit to maintaining access to all car parks in the area and improving existing access.

Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree that we have taken sufficient steps to maintain access for people with mobility issues and people with disabilities

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Q. Please use the following space to tell us if there is anything else we should consider (e.g. what alternatives we could look at, or any other impacts there might be):

Free text

Impact on crime and anti-social behaviour

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour was a key concern raised in phase 1 of the consultation and one we share. Local street drinking, assaults, theft and other crimes are something we all take very seriously.

The Council, in partnership with our local Police Officers, are working to ensure these proposals would help address these problems and make the Portswood area safer for us all to enjoy. These proposals would allow us to:

- Provide additional CCTV along the Broadway, helping the police to gather evidence and monitor crimes;
- Design out blind spots and improve street lighting;
- Work with local businesses to form the Portswood Business Engagement Forum which will help the council and the police to work better together with local businesses; and
- Working on community schemes that allow people to better and more easily report crimes.

Q. What impact do you feel the proposals would have on the following?

	Very positive impact	Fairly positive impact	No impact at all	A fairly negative impact	A very negative impact	Don't know
Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour						
Making crime and antisocial behaviour easier to report						

Q. Please use the following space to tell us if there is anything else we should consider (e.g. what alternatives we could look at, or any other impacts there might be):

Free text

Proposals for Portswood Travel Hub

To improve access to the Broadway for all users we are proposing the installation of a Travel Hub on St Denys Road alongside Portswood Broadway, next to Trago Lounge. Adjacent to the Travel Hub, additional parking for people with disabilities will be provided.

The Travel Hub will provide people with access to a range of transport options including disabled parking bays, e-bike or scooter hire, secure cycle parking and electric vehicle charging points. It will link to improved bus stops on Portswood Broadway. On top of this, the Hub could include improvements to the public space such as art, greening and seating and additional facilities like parcel lockers, information boards and wayfinding, bringing more visitors to the Broadway and providing reasons for them to stay. Final elements of the Travel Hub will be refined as the project progresses based on the feedback received from this consultation.

Q. If these plans were to go ahead, what impact do you feel it would have on the following?						
	Very positive impact	Fairly positive impact	No impact at all	A fairly negative impact	A very negative impact	Don't know
The attractiveness of St Denys Road						
Air quality						
The ease of travelling more sustainably (e.g. on foot, bicycle, or public transport)						
Safety of those cycling						
Visitor numbers to Portswood District Centre						
The experience for bus passengers traveling to and from the Portswood District Centre						

Q. Listed below are some potential features of a Travel Hub. How likely would you be to use each element if included in the Portswood Travel Hub?					
	Very Likely	Fairly likely	Neither	Fairly unlikely	Very unlikely
Disabled parking spaces					
Bicycle hire					
E-bike hire					
Electric cargo bike hire					
E-scooter hire					
Electric car hire					
Electric van hire					
Electric vehicle charging points					
Secure, covered cycle parking					
E-bike charging points					
Taxi pick-up/drop-off point					
Parcel lockers					
Public bicycle pump & tools					
Digital boards with live bus timetables and information					
Green space and public seating					
Sheltered waiting area					

Public toilets					
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Proposals for Highfield Active Travel Zone

Traffic modelling in the area predicts that with the introduction of the bus gate around 8,000 vehicles would choose to use A335 Thomas Lewis Way (TLW) as a faster alternative, depending on the level of mitigation we adopt for the area to prevent rat running. This will be supported by the recent improvements along TLW such as the introduction of additional turning lanes and an upgrade to smarter junctions which has improved journey times along TLW to make it more reliable and increase capacity to ensure it is the preferred option for through traffic.

Some remaining through traffic is likely to choose to rat run through local roads though. To prevent this and protect local roads for those who live in the area, we could introduce an Active Travel Zone for Highfield to prevent this. The Council is committed to providing an Active Travel Zone for the Highfield area ahead of any improvements to the Portswood Broadway area.

Active Travel Zones (ATZs) are neighbourhoods that encourage active travel through a range of measures which calm or discourage traffic, reduce rat running and instead prioritise people walking and cycling while at the same time maintaining motor vehicle access for those who live there. Interventions for ATZs are scalable and can range from speed cushions, improved crossing points or road closure points which would be designed with local residents at co-design meetings.

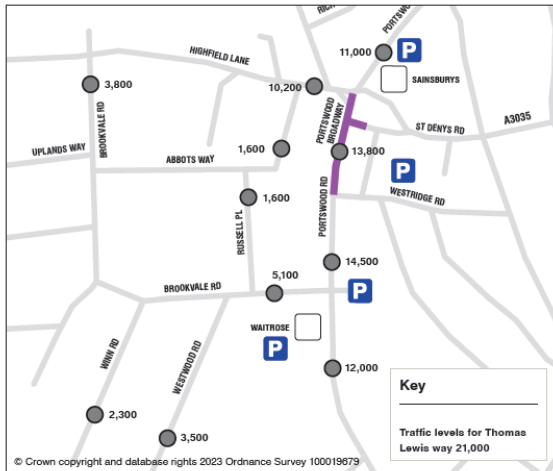
The Council has delivered an ATZ in the St Denys area in conjunction with local residents, and is now implementing ATZs in the Polygon, Woolston and Itchen areas.

New traffic data has been provided in this consultation to better inform residents of the impacts of various options for an Active Travel Zone for the area, but no decision will be made on the type of Active Travel Zone without community co-design with residents.

ATZ traffic modelling: vehicles per 24 hours (both directions)

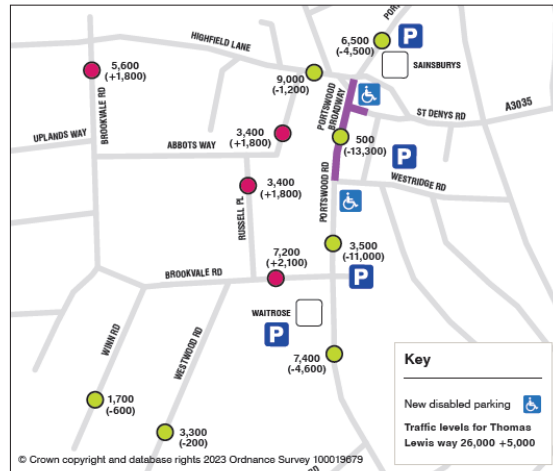
Existing Levels: April 2023:

This shows the existing levels of traffic flowing through the area on a normal weekday in April (figures are number of vehicles per day in a 24 hour period on the road).



Bus gate + no mitigation:

This shows the impact on traffic flows along the Broadway and local roads should a bus gate be installed with no mitigation measures included, with the majority of traffic diverted to A335 Thomas Lewis Way. This is not something that would be implemented and is purely for demonstration only.

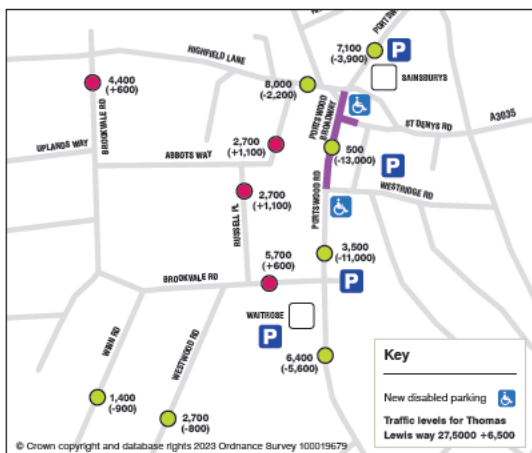


Bus gate + Light-touch ATZ:

This shows the impact on traffic flows should a bus gate be installed with a light touch ATZ.

A light-touch ATZ for Highfield in the form of new pedestrian crossings, speed cushions, priority buildouts which will deter people driving through residential streets with the majority of traffic directed to A335 Thomas Lewis Way. This would help reduce overspill from the proposed bus gate and in most cases reduce traffic from existing levels.

This would lead to increased level on some local streets, but a significant reduction of traffic in the area as a whole. The final mix of interventions to deter people driving through residential streets would be based on community co-design.

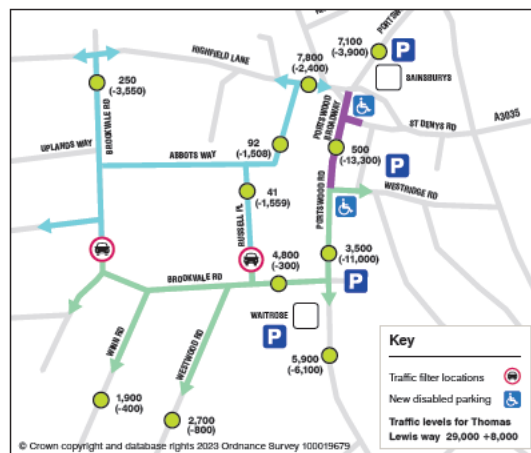


Bus gate + ATZ with Traffic Filter on Russell Place and Brookvale Road:

This shows the impact on traffic flows should a bus gate be installed with an ATZ, which would include a traffic filter on Russell Place and on Brookvale Road.

Traffic filters prevent motorised vehicles from passing through that area, without preventing people who walk and cycle. The predicted modelling shows that with the introduction of the ATZ and the traffic filters in these locations the roads around this area would be preserved for local residents only and deliveries access only and prevent all through traffic.

Similar arrangements already exist in Outer Avenue (filters at Alma Avenue and at Avenue Road) and have just been introduced in St Denys (Kent Road, North Road and the existing filter at Horseshoe Bridge).



Q. If these plans were to go ahead, what impact do you feel it would have on the following?

	Very positive impact	Fairly positive impact	No impact at all	A fairly negative impact	A very negative impact	Don't know
Safety of those walking and crossing roads within the Highfield area						
Safety of those cycling within the Highfield area						
Journey times by car through the Highfield area						
Access to properties within the Highfield area						
Reducing drivers using residential streets within the Highfield area as shortcuts						
Overall experience of traveling across the city for all road users.						
Air quality						

Q. Should these proposals be approved which ATZ option would you prefer?

***Please note that a detailed design phased would be conducted as a co-design process with local residents and this question is just to inform the co-design process.**

- Light-touch ATZ
- ATZ with Traffic Filter on Russell Place and Brookvale Road
- Something else
- Don't know

Q. Please use the following space to tell us if there is anything else we should consider(e.g. what alternatives we could look at, or any other impacts there might be):

Free text

About you

Q. Roughly, how often do you use these forms of transport in and around the area?

	Daily or most days	Once or twice a week	Once or twice a month	Less often	Never
Walk					

Cycle					
Bus					
Car/Van (including Car Club or rental)					
Motorcycle/Moped					
Wheelchair/Mobility Scooter					
Taxi/Private Hire Car					
Community Transport (eg Dial-a-Ride, Volunteer car scheme)					
E-Scooter					

Q. Roughly, how often do you do the following?					
	Daily or most days	Once or twice a week	Once or twice a month	Less often	Never
Visit Portswood Broadway (E.g. for food shops, work, the library, cafes, bars, faith based worship)					
Pass through Portswood Broadway without stopping to visit					

About you

Q. (Individuals only) What is your postcode? (This is used for geographical analysis only and will not be used to contact or identify you)

Q. (Individuals only) What is your sex?
--

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to say

Q. (Individuals only) Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

If no, please write in gender identity:

Q. (Individuals only) What is your age?

- Under 18
- 18 – 24
- 25 – 34
- 35 – 44
- 45 – 54
- 55 – 64
- 65 – 74
- 75 +
- Prefer not to say

Q. (Individuals only) How would you describe your ethnic group?

- Asian / Asian British
- Black / African / Caribbean / Black British
- Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups
- White British
- White Other
- Other ethnic group
- Prefer not to say

Q. (Individuals only) Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

If yes, do any of your conditions or illnesses reduce your ability to carry out day-to-day activities?

- Yes, a lot
- Yes, a little
- Not at all
- Prefer not to say

Businesses and organisations

Q. Are you responding on behalf of a business or organisation?

- No
- Yes, a private business
- Yes, a public sector organisation
- Yes, a third sector organisation (Voluntary groups, Community groups, Charities)
- Prefer not to say

Q. (Businesses and organisations only) Can the name of your business or organisation be attributed to your response?

- Yes
- No

Q. (Businesses and organisations only) Can we contact you about your response to this consultation and to find out more about the Council led Portswood Business Engagement Forum?

- Yes
- No

Q. (Businesses and organisations only) If yes, please provide us with the following details:

- Business or organisation name:
- Contact name:
- Contact email:

What happens next?

The consultation closes on 01 October 2023. After this date, all feedback will be analysed and considered before a final decision is made. Suggestions and concerns will be taken into account and further assessed as needed

Q. Would you like to be emailed a copy of your response to this consultation?

- Yes
- No

Q. If yes, please provide the following details. This will only be used to send you a copy of your response.

Name:
Email:

Thank you for your time, please click submit to complete the survey.

The information collected about you during this survey will only be used for the purposes of research. We may use it to contact you about this. We will only share your information with other organisations or council departments if we need to. We may also share it to prevent, investigate or prosecute criminal offences, or as the law otherwise allows. Please be aware that any comments given on this form may be published in the report. However, the council will endeavour to remove any references that could identify individuals or organisations. Our Privacy Policy (<http://www.southampton.gov.uk/privacy>) explains how we handle your personal data, and we can provide a copy if you are unable to access the Internet.

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Agenda Item 8

DECISION-MAKER:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE		
SUBJECT:	FORWARD PLAN		
DATE OF DECISION:	14 DECEMBER 2023		
REPORT OF:	SCRUTINY MANAGER		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
Executive Director	Title	Executive Director – Corporate Services	
	Name:	Mel Creighton	Tel: 023 8083 3528
	E-mail	Mel.creighton@southampton.gov.uk	
Author:	Title	Scrutiny Manager	
	Name:	Mark Pirnie	Tel: 023 8083 3886
	E-mail	Mark.pirnie@southampton.gov.uk	
STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY			
None			
BRIEF SUMMARY			
This item enables the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) to examine the content of the Forward Plan and to discuss issues of interest or concern with the Executive to ensure that forthcoming decisions made by the Executive benefit local residents.			
RECOMMENDATIONS:			
	(i)	That the Committee discuss the items listed in paragraph 3 of the report to highlight any matters which Members feel should be taken into account by the Executive when reaching a decision.	
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS			
1.	To enable Members to identify any matters which they feel Cabinet should take into account when reaching a decision.		
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED			
2.	None.		
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)			
3.	The Council's Forward Plan for Executive Decisions from 19 December 2023 has been published. The following issues were identified for discussion with the Decision Maker:		
	Portfolio	Decision	Requested By
	Adults, Health & Housing	Draft Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy	Cllr Blackman
	Adults, Health & Housing	Protection of Green Spaces/Amenity Space in Council Housing Estates	Cllr Blackman & Cllr Moulton

4.	Briefing papers responding to the items identified by members of the Committee are appended to this report. Members are invited to use the papers to explore the issues with the decision maker.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
5.	The details for the items identified in paragraph 3 are set out in the Executive decision making report issued prior to the decision being taken.
<u>Property/Other</u>	
6.	The details for the items identified in paragraph 3 are set out in the Executive decision making report issued prior to the decision being taken.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
7.	The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
8.	The details for the items identified in paragraph 3 are set out in the Executive decision making report issued prior to the decision being taken.
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
9.	The details for the items identified in paragraph 3 are set out in the Executive decision making report issued prior to the decision being taken.
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
10.	The details for the items identified in paragraph 3 are set out in the Executive decision making report issued prior to the decision being taken.
KEY DECISION	No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	None directly as a result of this report
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	Briefing Paper – Draft Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy
2.	Briefing Paper - Protection of Green Spaces/Amenity Space in Council Housing Estates
Documents In Members' Rooms	
1.	None
Equality Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessments (ESIA) to be carried out?	Identified in Executive report
Data Protection Impact Assessment	

Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out?		Identified in Executive report
Other Background Documents Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:		
Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)	
1.	None	

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BRIEFING PAPER

SUBJECT: HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY 2024-2029
DATE: 14 DECEMBER 2023
RECIPIENT: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

THIS IS NOT A DECISION PAPER

SUMMARY:

1. Under the Homelessness Act 2002, local council housing authorities must publish a homelessness strategy every five years. The strategy must be informed by a review of homelessness in the local area. The current homelessness strategy in Southampton is due to expire in 2023. This is Southampton City Council's new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy ('the strategy') for 2024-2029. The Homelessness Strategic Assessment 2023 has informed this new strategy. Both documents are appended to this briefing paper.
2. The council's Homelessness Strategic Assessment 2023 highlights that the rate of homelessness in Southampton (10.4 per 1000 households) is significantly higher than the national average (6.1 per 1000). The strategy aims to tackle the high rates of homelessness and rough sleeping across the city in the next five years. Our vision is to create a city where everyone has a safe place to call home.
3. The strategy will be adopted in December 2023, subject to Cabinet approval.

BACKGROUND and BRIEFING DETAILS:

4. The following Acts set out the statutory responsibilities of the council to those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness and are eligible for assistance:
 - Housing Act 1996;
 - Homelessness Act 2002;
 - Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.
5. The strategy has been informed by the Homelessness Strategic Assessment 2023, relevant research, internal services, and partners. This includes adult and children's social care services, the housing service, and frontline staff. The council also engaged with registered providers of social housing, commissioned services, and charities.
6. A 12-week public consultation ran from the 10 July 2023 to the 1 October 2023. The consultation was promoted through social media posts, the council's e-bulletin, Tenants Link, the council's website, and a press release. The consultation was also shared with people living in temporary accommodation via email, with homelessness teams and the Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Partnership Board. There were 315 responses. There was a high level of agreement on the priorities of the strategy. 91% of respondents agreed with Priority 1, 90% agreed with Priority 2, 89%

BRIEFING PAPER

agreed with Priority 3, and 87% agreed with Priority 4. These responses have been carefully considered and some amendments were made to the strategy in response to the feedback. The full consultation report and consideration of the feedback table are appended to the briefing paper.

7. A strategy review was undertaken to ensure that this strategy aligns with the council's Corporate Plan (2022-2030) and other relevant council strategies and policies, such as the [Strategy for the Provision of Support in Safe Accommodation 2021-2024](#).
8. The four key priorities align with the priorities outlined in the Government's current rough sleeping strategy, [Ending Rough Sleeping for Good](#). This was published in September 2022 with the following priorities: prevention, intervention, recovery and a joined-up transparent approach.
9. The key priorities of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-2029 are:
 - Priority 1: Prevention**
 - Move beyond a reactive response and focus on reducing individual and population-wide risks of homelessness across the city.
 - Priority 2: Intervention**
 - Provide timely, appropriate, and effective interventions to alleviate homelessness and help those sleeping rough.
 - Priority 3: Working Together (Partnerships/Systems)**
 - Combine skills, resources, and experience to improve homelessness solutions and outcomes.
 - Priority 4: Housing Solutions**
 - Exploring new and innovative ways to diversify our accommodation and support options in the city.
10. A new Homelessness Prevention Board will be created with key partners across Southampton. The Board aims to bring together knowledge, skills, resources, and funding to achieve these outcomes. The Board will oversee, implement, and monitor the strategy and action plan.
11. An action plan will be developed to detail how the outcomes will be delivered. The action plan will outline who is accountable for each action and provide key performance indicators and a timeline for implementation.

RESOURCE/POLICY/FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

12. Homelessness Act 2002 requires local council housing authorities to publish a homelessness strategy every 5 years. The strategy must be based on a review of homelessness in the local area.
13. The following Acts set out the statutory responsibilities of the council to those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness and are eligible for assistance:

BRIEFING PAPER

- Housing Act 1996;
- Homelessness Act 2002;
- Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.

14. The consultation and design of the proposed strategy, as well as the Equality Safety Impact Assessment, has been undertaken having due regard to the requirements of the Equality Act 2010, in particular s.149 relating to the Public Sector Equality Duty (“PSED”) and the Human Rights Act 1998. All actions delivered under the strategy and associated action plans will be implemented having regard to these duties.
15. The strategy will be funded by the council’s own budget and Government grants, such as the Homelessness Prevention Grant and Household Support Fund. The Homelessness Prevention Board will work with partners to combine resources and funding to achieve the outcomes.
16. The current forecast for 2023/24 is around £0.26M overspent due to demand pressures, with pressure on temporary accommodation costs and irrecoverable housing benefits costs. This comes after £0.3M was added to the 2023/24 budget, due to rising demand experience last year.
17. In developing the strategy, a review has been conducted to ensure the strategy is in accordance with relevant Policy Framework policies and strategies. The strategy is consistent with the council’s corporate objectives as set out in the Corporate Plan 2022-2030. The strategy also aligns with the Strategy for the Provision of Support in Safe Accommodation 2021-2024, the Housing Strategy 2016-2025 and the Safe City Strategy 2022-2027.

OPTIONS and TIMESCALES:

18. The strategy will be adopted in December 2023, subject to Cabinet approval on 19 December 2023. The Homelessness Prevention Board will oversee and monitor the delivery of this five-year strategy and action plan.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

19. Under the Homelessness Act 2002, the strategy must be renewed every five years and informed by an assessment of homelessness needs in the city. If this strategy is not renewed by the end of 2023, there is a risk that we will not meet our statutory obligation to renew every five years.
20. The strategy is to be overseen, implemented, and monitored by the Homelessness Prevention Board. If the strategy is approved by the Cabinet at the end of December, it will be ready for implementation by January 2024. If this Homelessness Prevention Board is not established before January 2024, it will not be ready to deliver on the strategy. The team is engaging with the potential members of the Board, and a draft of the Terms of Reference is being circulated to relevant officers and partners.

BRIEFING PAPER

21. The role of the Cabinet is to approve the strategy. There is a risk that the Homelessness Prevention Board will not wholly agree with the current strategy. The council must be prepared to consider any of the Board's feedback and recommendations. If any changes are recommended, the council must follow the correct governance routes for approval. To mitigate the risk of major amendments being recommended, potential Board members have been involved with the development of the strategy. Potential Board members were also contacted directly to review and provide feedback on this strategy.

Appendices/Supporting Information:

- Annex 1 - Draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-2029
- Annex 2 - Homelessness Strategy Equality Safety Impact Assessment
- Annex 3 - Homelessness Strategy Consultation Results Report
- Annex 4 - Consultation Considerations Table
- Annex 5 - Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-2029 – short version
- Annex 6 - Homelessness Strategic Assessment 2023

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SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY
2024-2029

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Foreword

Southampton City Council believes everyone deserves a good quality of life, to be healthy and safe and have somewhere they can call home. Taking a multi-agency approach working alongside community partners, stakeholders and the wider public has helped us to develop our new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.

We recognise that homelessness is broader than people rough sleeping and includes those living in insecure accommodation. We also understand homelessness is a complex problem that is difficult to describe and doesn't have a simple solution. Tackling this challenge requires fresh thinking and will need us to apply new approaches to old issues, as we work towards our aim of minimising repeat and long-term homelessness, supporting individuals and families to find sustainable long-term solutions, which focuses on their needs and aspirations.

The strategy is designed to tackle this challenging issue alongside the community and partners who will support us to deliver for those who use our services.

Critical to how we resolve this issue includes working with individuals who have lived experience or who have been disproportionately affected by homelessness to help shape our services so that they best meet the needs of those who access them.

We welcome your support.



Councillor Fielker - Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Housing



Claire Edgar - Executive Director for Wellbeing, Adults & Housing

Summary

“Not having a home as a stable and secure base can make it harder for people to find a job, stay healthy and maintain relationships. People often experience feelings of isolation, increasing their chances of taking drugs or experiencing mental health problems.” (Homeless Link, 2022)

We believe that everybody has the right to a safe, suitable, and stable home. Home gives stability, a sense of belonging, and keeps people safe, together, and protected from the outside elements. It is where we make memories with friends and families, and it helps us to build a strong foundation for our lives.

Yet sadly, figures from Shelter indicate that at least 271,000 people were recorded as homeless in England in January 2023 (123,000 being children). In Southampton, the rate of homelessness is significantly higher than the national average.¹

Homelessness and rough sleeping are not new problems. However, there has been a new national focus on rough sleeping since the Covid-19 pandemic with the Government’s new ‘Everyone In’ policy. This ensured that all people sleeping rough were housed in temporary accommodation to keep them safe during the pandemic. Nationally, this scheme supported 37,000 people. This policy enabled councils to build relationships with people who were homeless. This includes people who had not previously been known to local housing services. During the pandemic, the Government temporarily banned evictions. This meant that many people were able to remain in their homes, who may have otherwise become homeless.

These policies have since ended, but we want to build on this momentum to tackle homelessness and end rough sleeping. We have a lot of work to do, and we face the same funding and budget challenges as many local authorities.

We have analysed key information and data to understand the current needs in Southampton around homelessness. This strategy is our plan to address these needs and tackle homelessness and rough sleeping in Southampton over the next 5 years. The strategy will be accompanied by an action plan explaining in detail how we will achieve our aims.

¹ In Southampton (2021/2022) the rate was 10.4 per 1k households and the national average is 6.1 per 1k households.

Vision, goals, and values

Our vision:

- A city where everyone has a safe place to call home.

Our goals:

- Work proactively to ensure people receive the right support at the right time to help them find or remain in a stable home.
- Break the cycle of intergenerational homelessness. We want to support children and young people to build strong foundations for life.
- Listen to those we are trying to help and those with lived experience to understand their needs. Everybody's journey is different. We want to address the underlying factors that led them to become, or be at risk of becoming, homeless and to work with each person to reach the best housing solutions we can.
- End rough sleeping in Southampton.
- Deliver the right housing solutions.
- Improve resident experience and making every contact count.

Our values:

- 1. Trauma Informed.** A trauma-informed, person-centred, and compassionate approach, showing empathy for the housing situation that people find themselves in.
- 2. Unconditional Positive Regard.** Unconditional positive regard involves showing complete support and acceptance of a person no matter what that person says.
- 3. What works.** Use a data-driven and evidence-informed approach and develop Best Practices across the council to improve interventions and outcomes.
- 4. Working Together.** Collaborate with partners across the city to end homelessness.
- 5. Lived Experience.** Listen to and learn from the voices of people with lived experience.

Defining Homelessness

We define “homelessness” and “threatened homelessness” using the definition in [Section 175 of the 1996 Housing Act](#).

Someone is homeless if:

- they have no accommodation they are legally entitled to occupy, either in the UK or overseas;
- they have accommodation but cannot secure entry to it;
- they have accommodation designed or adapted to be lived in that consists of a ‘moveable structure’ (such as a caravan, mobile home, or canal boat) but they have nowhere to put it;
- they have accommodation but it is not reasonable or suitable to continue living there.

Somebody is threatened with homelessness if:

- they are likely to become homeless within 28 days;
- they have been given a valid legal notice to leave the accommodation such as a notice to quit, Section 21 notice) verbal or written notice for excluded licences, and that notice will expire within 56 days.

Local authorities have legal responsibilities to support people who are threatened with homelessness or who are homeless. The legislation which set out the duties local authorities must follow is explained in more detail in Appendix 1.

To achieve our vision and tackle homelessness, we must first understand the context within which we are working.

Understanding homelessness nationally

Local authorities are working in an increasingly challenging environment. Since the previous Homelessness Prevention Strategy (2018-2023), we have faced the Covid-19 pandemic, the rising cost-of-living, and international events forcing people to flee to the UK for shelter. As a result, there is a rising demand on homelessness and housing services, with increasingly limited options to provide support and relief.

The [Government's Statutory Homeless Annual Report](#) outlines that in England alone, 278,110 households were assessed as either being at risk of homelessness or already homeless in April 2021 to March 2022.

Covid-19, and a new national strategy

In 2020, during the Covid-19 pandemic, the Government implemented the 'Everyone In' policy. This policy equipped local authorities with the mandate and resource to provide temporary accommodation for all rough sleepers to keep them safe during the pandemic. Around 37,000 rough sleepers in England were housed in temporary accommodation. The policy enabled housing teams to help even the hardest-to-reach and street-attached rough sleepers.

However, [Shelter's 2021 'Everyone In: Where Are They Now?'](#) report estimated that more than 77% of those 37,000 rough sleepers that the policy helped, had not moved into settled accommodation. This policy was a short-term solution which successfully provided rough sleepers with temporary accommodation. Yet, it did not tackle the issue of limited affordable accommodation for people to move into. It also did not ensure that there was adequate support to help people maintain long-term tenancies.

Housing affordability and availability

There is a growing lack of affordable housing in the UK. Recent global factors, such as cost-of-living crisis, rising energy bills and inflation rising at unprecedented level, has made it much more challenging for residents to pay essential housing bills. As well as this, welfare support, such as Universal Credit and the Local Housing Allowance, have not increased in line with rising costs. Figures from [Shelter](#) indicate that the average home in 2000 cost 4 x the average salary. By 2021, this had risen to 8 x the average salary. The rise in interest rates between August 2022 and March 2023 has further impacted on the affordability of mortgages for homeowners and prospective buyers. Landlords are also impacted by the challenge in paying mortgages and as a result many increase their rental rates.

There is also a shortage of available accommodation. There has been a [decline of national housebuilding](#), halving in 50 years. This includes a drop in new social homes being built. Social houses are also being purchased under the Right to Buy schemes so, many are no longer available for renting. The pool of available rented accommodation is also reducing as many landlords are selling up and exiting the sector entirely. So, whilst residents are increasingly struggling to afford housing costs, there is a growing lack of available accommodation. Therefore, people are struggling to find affordable housing to buy or to rent, and there is an increasingly long waiting list in social housing. People face a lack of viable options if they do become homeless or are threatened with homelessness.

Local councils are having to use temporary accommodation in higher numbers and for longer periods to house people who are homeless. In England, the number of people living in temporary accommodation has risen by an alarming 74% in the last 10 years, according to [Shelter England](#). Figures in [Crisis' 2022 Homelessness Monitor Report](#) indicate that in England, over half of homelessness expenditure now goes on temporary accommodation, depleting spending from other vital interventions. This is largely due to a reduction in options of affordable accommodation for people to move into.

Refugees and EU Nationals

Local authorities have also faced additional demands on their housing during 2021 and 2022 with international developments resulting in UK policy changes. Local authorities have a duty to provide accommodation for people who have been evacuated from danger, under various schemes. This includes the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) and Afghanistan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, Ukrainian placement schemes, and the Hong Kong UK Welcome Programme. For example, Ukrainian nationals were hosted by UK families, but many placements have now ended. Therefore, local authorities have a responsibility to help them secure housing and avoid homelessness.

The impact of Brexit also means that there is a new sub-group of European nationals who no longer have the right to work in the UK. If they are homeless or sleeping rough, they no longer qualify for public funding and their housing options through local authorities are highly limited. This inevitably impacts local health services and frontline workers who face worsening health conditions for those people due to their unresolved housing situation.

Our strategy aims to provide support in this challenging environment. To meet the specific needs of our residents, it is important to understand the homelessness needs of our city.

Understanding homelessness locally

We have collated and analysed recent data around homelessness and housing in Southampton, including trends over the lifetime of the previous strategy, to understand the current need in our city. The full data analysis is available in our [2023 Southampton Homelessness Strategic Assessment](#).

This section provides a snapshot of the local needs in Southampton around homelessness.

Rate of homelessness

- In Southampton, the rate of households threatened with homelessness (5.3 per 1000 households) is similar to the national average (5.6 per 1000 households).
- The rate of homelessness (10.4 per 1000 households in 2021/22) is significantly higher than the national average (6.1 per 1000 households).

Number of rough sleepers

- The number of people rough sleeping on a single night in Southampton was three times higher in 2022 (27 people) compared to 2021 (9 people). The average number rough sleeping on a single night in Southampton between 2010 and 2022 was 20.
- In December 2022, the number of people sleeping rough over the course of a month in Southampton was 78, slightly lower than November (86) and October (95). Of the 78 in December 2022, around a third (26) were new to rough sleeping.

Factors increasing the risk of homelessness in Southampton.

- **Deprivation and Poverty** - a lack of income and resource can increase the likelihood of becoming homeless.
 - Southampton is ranked 55th most deprived of the 317 Local Authorities in England (IMD 2019).
 - Southampton is ranked 3rd worse in the country for crime deprivation.
 - Additionally, around 12% of Southampton's population live in neighbourhoods within the 10% most deprived nationally. This rises to 18% for the under 18 population, suggesting that deprivation disproportionately impacts upon young people in the city.
- **Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic** – more people are claiming benefits and on lower pay.

- The number of adults in Southampton claiming out of work benefits more than doubled between March 2020 (6,550 claimants) and March 2021 (12,145). Whilst this claimant has been on a downward trend, it is yet to return to pre-pandemic levels.
- **Earnings in Southampton** – pay has declined so residents have tighter budgets and less income to spend on rent or mortgage rates.
 - Pay has declined in ‘real’ terms because of inflation.
 - Adjusted for inflation, weekly resident (-£21, -3.0%) and workplace (-£24, -3.1%) earnings for full time workers both declined between 2021 and 2022.
- **Affordability of housing** – there is a lack of affordable housing options for people.
 - This is measured by the Office of National Statistics through a ratio between yearly median house prices and median workplace earnings. Full-time employees in Southampton who wish to buy a home would have to spend around 7.4 times their annual earnings to buy a home (2022).
- **Social housing** – demand for social housing in the city far exceeds supply.
 - According to Census 2021 data, 21.9% (22,397) of households in Southampton live in socially rented accommodation. Demand for social housing in the city far exceeds supply, with 7,379 households on the social housing waiting list in Southampton at the end of March 2022.
- **A shortage of housing and limited land to build on** – lack of space to build affordable housing.
 - This requires innovative solutions to be explored. For example, repurposing vacant commercial buildings or redeveloping existing buildings to ‘build up’ where we do not have the space to ‘build out.’
- **Domestic Abuse** – domestic abuse can result in people fleeing their homes and becoming homeless. This is a leading cause of homelessness and largely for women.
 - 32.6% of all violent crimes in Southampton were flagged as domestic in 2021/22. 68.8% of domestic flagged crime victims in 2021/22 were female.
- **Substance Use** – substance use, with a lack of mental health support, can make it challenging to maintain a tenancy.
 - In addition, an estimated 5,355 people who live in Southampton are estimated to be alcohol dependent, and 1,200 local people use illicit opiates (heroin) or crack cocaine.
- **Complex cases** – this refers to people who have more needs than just housing support, such as mental health and substance use needs. These cases require more time-intensive, person-centred, and multi-agency solutions.
 - 76.6% of households threatened by homelessness or presented as homeless with homelessness duties accepted had additional needs.

Most frequent reasons for households being threatened with homelessness in Southampton (2021-2022), were:

- Family and friends unable/willing to accommodate people (37.8% compared to 25.5% nationally).
- End of the assured shorthold private rented tenancy (27.7%, compared to 33.1% nationally).
- Being evicted from supported housing (8.1% compared to 3.2% nationally).
- Social rented tenancy ending (7.4% compared to 5.7% nationally -not statistically significant).
- Domestic abuse (3.9% compared to 7.8% nationally).

Challenges with data collection

The data outlined above, and in more detail in the [2023 Southampton Homelessness Strategic Assessment](#), aims to present a clear picture of the complex issues in Southampton. However, it is difficult to present an accurate picture of homelessness due to limitations in recording and collecting data. Local authorities have a duty to collect data on households who approach them for assistance. Yet, there are “hidden” forms of homelessness. For example, people who sofa surf or live in severely overcrowded conditions do not always present themselves to local authorities so, are less likely to be recorded in official statistics.

Moreover, there can be anomalies within the data collected. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the “Everyone In” policy resulted in all rough sleepers being housed in temporary accommodation. Therefore, data reflected that there were virtually no rough sleepers during this period.

Data informed strategy.

Despite these challenges, using this data, we have developed an understand of what the key needs around homelessness are in Southampton. We have used this information to develop this strategy. We aim to use our resources effectively to tackle current issues and help achieve our overall aim to ensure everyone has a safe and secure home to live.

The strategy has been informed by a range of sources as well as the [2023 Southampton Homelessness Strategic Assessment](#). For example (non-exhaustive list):

- [Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities – Ending Rough Sleeping for Good \(2022\)](#).

- [Southampton Strategic Assessment – Homelessness Prevention Review \(2023\).](#)
- [Southampton Data Observatory.](#)
- [Southampton’s Strategy for the Provision of Support in Safe Accommodation \(2021-2024\).](#)
- [Crisis – The Plan to end homelessness.](#)
- [Office for National Statistics – “Hidden homelessness in the UK: evidence review” \(2023\).](#)
- Engagement with homelessness and housing, adult social care, children’s service, public health, homelessness service providers and other relevant teams.

Solutions

Homelessness and rough sleeping go beyond housing. They affect mental wellness, physical health, independence, self-esteem, and life choices. Without homes and the sense of community they can provide, it is easy to feel isolated and alone.

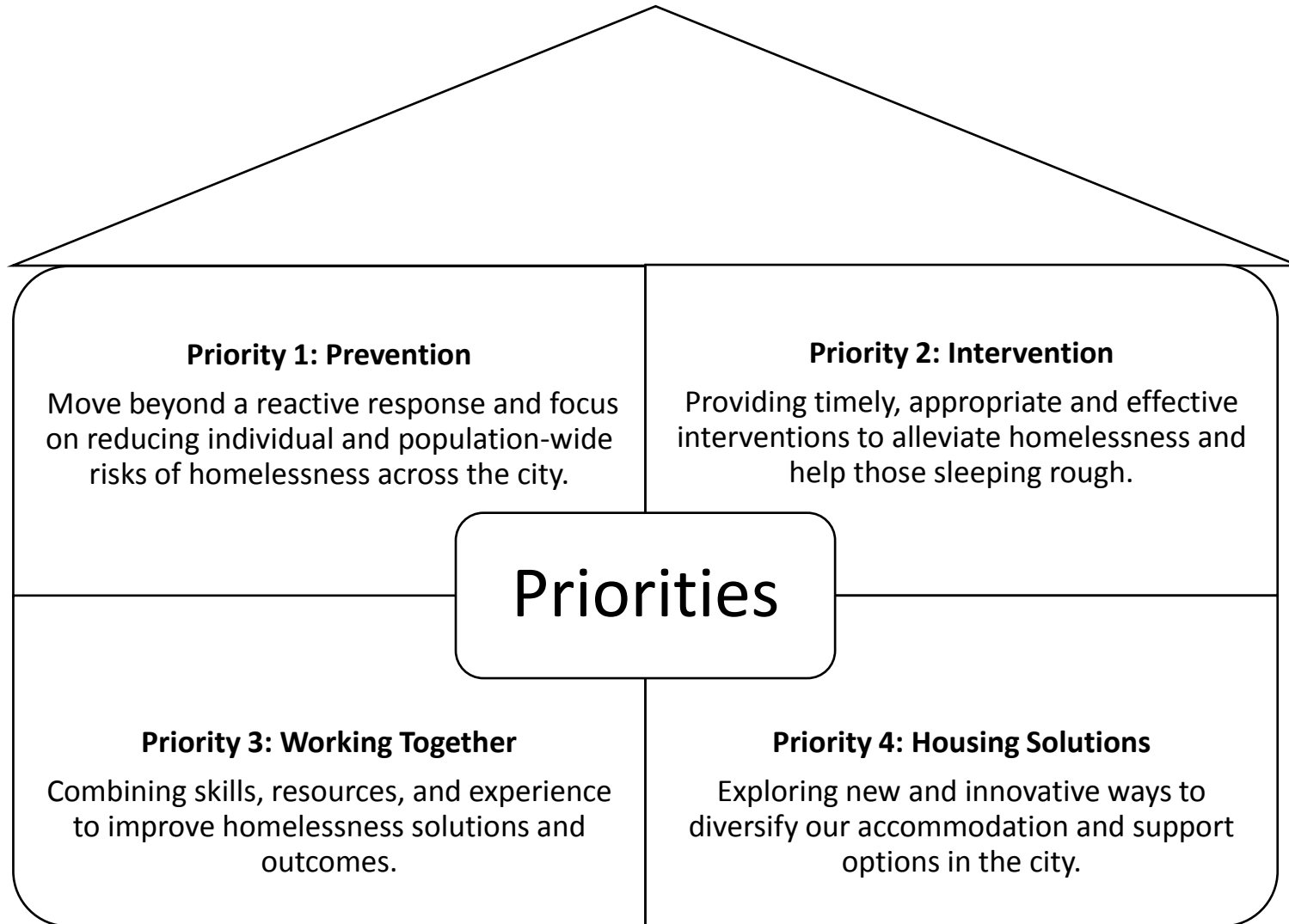
We realise how hard it is to ask for help, and how easy it can be to feel defined by the label of homeless or rough sleeping. This strategy is not about simply ticking boxes, assigning labels or making assumptions about why somebody needs our help. At its heart, it is about breaking stigmas to understand and support people out of homelessness. We will work hard to see the stories behind the situation people find themselves in.

Prevention and early intervention are an important part of this strategy. There are very real and co-occurring reasons why people are at risk of homelessness or end up homeless. The solution needs to be a cross-cutting, council-wide, collaborative approach. Some people also need more support than others to build skills and confidence to maintain a tenancy, so we want to make sure our housing pathways are simple, clear and effective. Whether you are a care leaver, somebody leaving an institution such as prison, a single person sleeping rough, or a family you should be able to find out, and have a voice in, your journey to a place you can call home.

Our strategy has been designed to align closely with the Government's current national rough sleeping strategy ['End Rough Sleeping For Good'](#). Published in September 2022, it outlines a 'four-pronged approach' to rough sleeping, revolving around Prevention, Intervention, Recovery, and A Joined-Up Transparent Approach.

Our 'Core Four' priorities

Our vision is for there to be a city where everyone has a safe place to call home. To achieve this, we have four priority areas, known as our 'Core Four':



Under each of the Core Four priorities, we have outlined a set of outcomes we want to achieve with a set of actions to achieve each one. These centre around some key overarching focuses and goals for the next five years, including to:

- ✓ Make better use of our resources to tackle homelessness across the city.
- ✓ Ensure people receive the right support at the right time to prevent and tackle homelessness.
- ✓ Offer a range of accommodation solutions both private and social rented sector, to deliver the right housing solutions for everyone.
- ✓ Work proactively to prevent intergenerational homelessness and to support people to maintain tenancies.
- ✓ Engage compassionately with rough sleepers to help them step into safe and suitable housing.
- ✓ Ensure support is in place for young people, care leavers, and those with additional needs and vulnerabilities to enable them to secure and maintain a tenancy.
- ✓ Reduce spend on, and time spent in, temporary accommodation and become more financially efficient.
- ✓ Create a new Homelessness Prevention Board, bringing key partners in the city together to tackle homelessness, to monitor and deliver this strategy over the next five years.

We have ensured that this strategy aligns closely with the council’s following strategies, assessments, and policies (non-exhaustive list):

- [Southampton Homelessness Strategic Assessment 2023.](#)
- [Southampton City Council’s Corporate Plan 2022-2030.](#)
- [Housing Strategy 2016-2025.](#)
- [Local Plan.](#)
- [Tenancy Strategy 2020-2025.](#)
- [Housing Asset Management Strategy 2022-2026.](#)
- Related housing policies, including the [Allocations Policy.](#)
- [Domestic Abuse Part IV Safe Accommodation Strategy 2021-2024.](#)
- [Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy.](#)
- [Safe City Strategy 2022-2027.](#)
- [Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2025.](#)
- [Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Strategy 2023-2028.](#)
- [Children and Young People’s Strategy 2022-2027.](#)
- Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy (in development).

Priority 1 – PREVENTION

Move beyond a reactive response and focus on reducing individual and population-wide risks of homelessness across the city.

Losing a tenancy and or being unable to find suitable and safe accommodation can be a very frustrating and traumatic experience. So, it is important that we focus on preventing people who are at risk of homelessness from losing their homes. We also want to move beyond a reactive response. We will focus on reducing population-wide risks of homelessness by developing stable, supportive, and inclusive environments.

To try to prevent homelessness from occurring altogether, we will implement the following actions to achieve the outcomes:

Outcome	What do we want to achieve?	How will we achieve this?
1. A more integrated system to tackle homelessness.	Seamless service delivery that adopts a proactive strength-based approach to homelessness prevention.	Explore and develop integration of service delivery/location.
2. Innovative solutions to identify and assist households at risk of homelessness at the earliest point possible.	A 'No wrong door' approach to those approaching the council where a housing support need is identified.	Review where people are approaching the council for help and support, and ensure the right training and resources are located there.
	Improved referrals systems and practices, which enable us to intervene before people are at crisis.	Improve how we record data internally to provide a more accurate picture of the needs in the city.

		Ensure data sharing agreements to between agencies/services.
3. Clear and transparent pathways to housing for vulnerable groups.	A support system for vulnerable people including, young people, care leavers, institutional leavers, and those with additional needs which enables them to secure and maintain a tenancy.	<p>Improve our website/self-service, and better signposting from and through other agencies, along with updated training on services and options (a 'Professionals' Hub').</p> <p>Undertake early preventative planning work for those potentially at higher risk of homelessness.</p> <p>Ensure the placements for vulnerable adults and young people are appropriate, such as endeavouring not to place those under 21 in adult accommodation.</p> <p>Review or create Service Level Agreements to harness housing solutions/ pathways for vulnerable people.</p>

4. Modern and developed approach to corporate parenting. Local authorities have a responsibility to the children they look after and their care leavers. In this context, they are referred to as the 'corporate parent' of these children and young people.	A care leaver corporate offer that is clear, accessible, and fit for purpose.	Revise how we educate and support care leavers on a pathway to independence and create a new 'Care Leavers Corporate Service Offer' outlining clear housing pathways.
		Ensure that there are clear pathways for care leavers to access housing and all options are explored to prevent evictions.
	Improved joint working protocols, ensuring we provide choice and control to care leavers within the constraints of our resources.	Train Personal Advisors for Care Leavers on correct housing procedures/advice so they can offer additional support.
5. An end to cycles of homelessness through proactive education and supporting people to maintain tenancies.	Prevention (and educate against) intergenerational homelessness.	Provide/support in psychoeducation for households where parent/parents are homeless.
	Available specialised education and support for maintaining a tenancy. In particular, support for people who have lost a tenancy.	Expand educational programmes such as No Limits tenancy skills for young people.

		<p>Explore the option of a tenancy academy/tenancy-ready course to upskill people who have not had a tenancy before or who have previously lost one. Include topics such as budgeting, paying bills, getting set up with suppliers when you move in, etc. This could include a certification on completion that can be used to evidence new skills and make renters more attractive to landlords.</p>
	<p>Improved education, employment opportunities and life-skills to help sustain life off the streets for good.</p>	<p>Work with internal council services and partners to improve life-skills, employment skills and opportunities.</p>

<p>6. Effective use of adaptability tools, including the Disabled Facilities Grant enabling people with particular physical needs to stay in their own homes for longer if this is an option.</p>	<p>Keep people living in their own homes if it is feasible to do so.</p>	<p>Ensure that Disability Adaptations Grants are processed quickly and used as fully as possible for necessary adaptations to private and council properties.</p>
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Priority 2 – INTERVENTION

Providing timely, appropriate, and effective interventions to alleviate homelessness and help those sleeping rough.

The longer someone is homeless, the greater the risk of worsening physical and mental health problems. It is crucial that we intervene as early as possible to provide support and work quickly to help people find a suitable home. It is also important that when we intervene, the support we provide ensures long-term solutions and reduces the risk of repeat homelessness.

To ensure we intervene early and with the right support, we will implement the actions below to achieve the following outcomes:

Outcome	What do we want to achieve?	How will we achieve this?
1. Timely and effective interventions to those threatened with homelessness, using temporary accommodation where necessary but avoiding it where there are other opportunities to relieve homelessness.	Positive interventions which prevent homelessness.	Provide incentives to Landlords to try to prevent evictions and keep people in tenancies.
	A reduction in the number of approaches at the relief stage and reduce the number of main duties owed (definitions can be found in Appendix 1).	Strengthen our prevention and early intervention work to try to avoid cases reaching the relief stage. This includes support where needed on managing budgets, financial advice, and benefits guidance.
	An increase in the number of relief duties ending with a positive outcome.	

	<p>A reduction in the number of interim/ temporary accommodation stays (and the average length of these stays).</p>	<p>Revise our current temporary accommodation (TA) offer to meet the current demand while supporting people to move on.</p>
	<p>A system where our temporary accommodation is offered strategically as a tool to alleviate homelessness and as a steppingstone to long-term sustainable accommodation.</p>	

<p>2. High-quality and up-to-date advice, information, and guidance to help resolve instances of homelessness, and ensuring residents have the information they need.</p>	<p>Provide more useful information to enable residents to self-serve.</p>	<p>Continue to provide in-person, telephone, and online advice services/options to those at risk of homelessness.</p>
		<p>Modernise our website so that people know early on what support is available and what their options are. This expansion of self-serve will help reduce inquiry numbers and ensure officers have sufficient time for more cases with people needing multiple support services and high-needs cases.</p>
	<p>An offer of high-quality, compassionate, and judgment-free housing advice service, that is easily accessible for those who need them.</p>	<p>Improve education internally and externally so that partners, service providers, and staff such as support workers and personal advisors, know what to advise.</p>

		Review the front door offer and make sure support services are easily accessible.
		Provide clear information for people who have Restricted Eligibility on the support that is available to them if they become homeless or are threatened by homelessness.
	A workforce which has effective and regular training and is able to work with current challenges, manage expectations, and	Explore locality models for housing options services to enable more localised provision within communities.

provide the best services with the resources available.

Ensure our staffing levels are making the best use of resources, and that vacancies are filled.

<p>3. Supported accommodation that meets changing needs in the city, with the flexibility to respond to local pressures.</p>	<p>Flexibility in our supported accommodation offer and pathways, with clear next steps and move-on opportunities identified.</p>	<p>Review our existing supported accommodation offer.</p> <p>Ensure we have a range of appropriate options in place for those needing supported accommodation, suitable for individual and complex needs.</p> <p>Ensure we have a balance of proactive and reactive homelessness work in the city.</p>

4. Solutions and choices for people to help resolve their homelessness.	Pathways for people to access the private rented sector (PRS).	Understand the barriers to accessing the private rented sector (PRS) and take steps to help those that can and should enter the PRS to do so.
		Continue using and expanding on innovative schemes to help more people access affordable properties, such as landlord incentives, the affordable housing framework, and rent guarantor options.
		Encourage staff to suggest new ideas and think creatively to solve housing challenges.
		Consider a council-run private-sector leasing scheme. This could be used as a tool to prevent and relieve homelessness.
5. A workforce which uses sensitive, compassionate and trauma-informed approaches when working with people who have experienced homelessness (including rough sleepers, and survivors/victims of domestic abuse).	The identification, intervention of and compassionate response to people who become homeless across Southampton.	Strengthen training, workforce development, policies, and procedures to make improvements to our service. This includes creating service user-led groups to develop the pathway with lived experience input.
		Train staff in Trauma Informed Practice approach using the Trauma Informed Practice Concordat Delivery Framework.

		Communicate regularly with service users to keep them update on their stage in the process and their options. This includes people in temporary accommodation.
	An offer of safe accommodation and support for people who are homeless, including domestic abuse survivors/victims.	Work closely with the Domestic Abuse coordinator and Whole Housing Approach coordinator to establish safe accommodation and support for survivors/victims of domestic abuse.
		Train relevant housing teams on how to identify and support people who have experienced domestic abuse.
	Effective engagement with complex people in our society who fall through the gaps, ensuring their healthcare needs are met, to break cycles of homelessness.	Consider piloting new schemes to find innovative and suitable accommodation options.
	A reduction in the numbers of people sleeping rough in the city using our Rough Sleepers Initiative (RSI) funding, in line with government targets.	Continue commissioning and operating rough sleeper healthcare services, such as the Homeless Health Service.

Priority 3 – WORKING TOGETHER (PARTNERSHIPS/SYSTEMS)

Combining skills, resources, and experience to improve homelessness solutions and outcomes.

The needs of people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness, often stretch across different services, including the housing services, mental health services and children’s services. We want to work with our partners to pull together our knowledge, skills, and resources, to improve prevention methods and provide effective support.

Below outlines how will work better together with our partners, across Southampton to improve homelessness solutions:

Outcome	What do we want to achieve?	How will we achieve this?
<p>1. Strong partnerships which work together to tackle homelessness.</p>	<p>A partnership that prevents people in crisis from losing their homes. This partnership will also aim to deliver new accommodation and support people experiencing homelessness.</p>	<p>Create a new Homelessness Prevention Board to regularly bring partners together to discuss the newest homelessness trends and find solutions. This Board will also have overall responsibility for overseeing the implementation of this strategy, tracking successes, and holding partners to account for delivery.</p>
		<p>Continue working with existing local forums, such as the Street Support Homelessness Conference, to raise the profile of homelessness and to work together on shared goals and initiatives.</p>

		<p>Work closely with Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder services to identify people at risk of homelessness and work to reduce the risks. Also, to help people experiencing homelessness and support them to acquire and sustain a home.</p> <p>Use the data that we are gathering from referrals from other public bodies to understand the trends and focus in the right places.</p>
2. A developed peer support network and effective engagement with service users in the city.	A strong and experience-led peer support network to further enhance support for rough sleepers.	<p>Ensure that there is a representative of people with lived experience contributing to the Board's discussions and activities. Consider having a representative of people with lived experience as a member of the new Homelessness Prevention Board when created.</p>
3. A multi-agency panel which considers ways to prevent evictions from social housing and support those who have been evicted.	More joined up working with us to reduce homelessness in the city.	<p>Instigate regular meetings (at least every 6 months) between Registered Providers and housing leads to discuss the most pressing housing issues in the city (and with their tenants), to explore ways to work together to find solutions.</p> <p>Invite Registered Providers to form part of our new Homelessness Prevention Board.</p>

<p>4. Cross council working which helps to reduce the number of service users that lose their accommodation due to complex needs.</p>	<p>Effective joint working and multi-agency responses to reduce evictions and sustain accommodation.</p>	<p>To review whether a multi-disciplinary team is required. This team would review long-term challenging cases, work collaboratively to wrap services around the most vulnerable clients and find person-centred solutions for some of the most complex situations. This would be across services and would enable teams working with an individual to spot difficulties in advance. It would ensure teams work proactively to prevent evictions and homelessness, using best practices, such as the 'Making Every Adult Matter' (MEAM) Approach.</p>
<p>5. An improved internal collaboration within the council, sharing knowledge and experience, and working together to find the best solutions for those experiencing (or threatened with) homelessness.</p>	<p>A joined up, 'one council' approach to homelessness.</p>	<p>Work with teams to establish new Service Level Agreements (SLA) where needed to establish better joint working practices.</p> <p>Scrutinise processes for referrals between service areas, to ensure that a 'no wrong door' approach can be upheld in practice.</p> <p>Improve the transparency of the council's housing offer so services and partners understand the council's housing processes, options and limitations.</p>
<p>6. Effective working between the Housing team and Adult Social Care teams to understand the housing needs and best multi-agency housing solutions for adults and elders.</p>	<p>Housing services which link in with our wider council aims. For example, on living and ageing well and our health in all policies approach. This includes keeping people at</p>	<p>Develop an independent living strategy/action plan with Adult Social Care, with a focus on how we can help people to maintain living independently for longer. This plan will enable better joined up working</p>

	home for longer if this is the best option for them.	with Adult Social Care teams, to ensure we are thinking strategically about using residential care when it is appropriate to free up homes, but also trying to maintain care at home as long as this is possible and beneficial.
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Priority 4 – HOUSING SOLUTIONS

Exploring new and innovative ways to diversify our accommodation and support options in the city.

The reasons why people become homeless or are threatened by homelessness, vary and can be complex. By diversifying and enhancing the current housing options, we can provide better, tailored, and long-term solutions for individuals.

Below outlines how we will diversity our accommodation and provide more housing options in the city:

Outcome	What do we want to achieve?	How will we achieve this?
1. Efficient use of our resources to tackle homelessness across the city.	A variety of accommodation options and tenures across the city, to ensure residents have access to appropriate housing options.	Review our resources and service user needs to identify gaps to ensure we direct future resource/service planning towards those areas.
		Continue our work to reduce voids in the city.
2. The most in need are prioritised for social housing.	A fair, easy-to-understand and flexible Allocations Policy that ensures access to social housing is available for those who need it the most.	Review and update our Allocations Policy.
3. Improved move-on options and a reduced spend on, and time spent in, temporary accommodation wherever possible.	Increased housing options for all to reduce the reliance on emergency and temporary accommodation.	Some of this will be achieved by key early intervention and prevention work as set out in Priorities 1 and 2. However, we will also explore our temporary and supported accommodation offers, and our move-on options to ensure we have a diverse range of pathways out of temporary accommodation.

<p>4. Improved relationships, and engagement, with Private Rented Sector (PRS) housing providers/ landlords.</p>	<p>A better understanding of the current challenges in the PRS and an increased availability for residents to access the PRS where possible.</p>	<p>Ensure that where we can, we offer support for residents to access private rented accommodation.</p> <p>Work both proactively and reactively with landlords to incentivise, and support, them to provide appropriate and high-quality housing for residents.</p> <p>Explore options for ensuring local housing availability and quality for tenants.</p>
<p>5. New temporary and permanent accommodation options across the city.</p>	<p>A mix of tenure that meets needs.</p>	<p>Work collaboratively to look at options to diversify housing options. For example, explore modular temporary accommodation units, repurposing empty homes and commercial units, and container units.</p>
<p>6. Appropriate housing options for people with complex needs.</p>	<p>An improvement to our specialised housing schemes, such as Supported Lettings and Housing First.</p>	<p>Ensure that we have a supply of Housing First homes that are appropriate and fit for purpose, to enable more people to benefit from the scheme.</p>

		Expand our Supported Lettings Scheme from 20 to 30 properties and aim to expand further in future where resources allow.
7. Better housing options for people who have pets and are experiencing homelessness or are threatened by it.	Improved housing options for people with pets who experience homelessness or are threatened by homelessness. We recognise that pets provide companionship and at times may restrict access to services, including accommodation.	We will work to explore housing solutions in temporary and supported accommodation for people who are threatened by homelessness or experiencing homelessness and have pets.

Engaging, Developing and Consulting on this strategy

Engagement

During the development of this strategy, we engaged with key services and partners in the city. They provided useful insight into the major successes and challenges around homelessness in Southampton. We engaged with (non-exhaustive list):

- Relevant services within the council, such as the adults' and children's social care service. This includes staff working with care leavers.
- Staff working with people in institutions, such as hospital, prison, and probation with a need for a safe housing option.
- Southampton's Housing Officers, and frontline staff working directly with people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.
- Staff and partners working with people with No Recourse to Public Funds and refugees.
- Social housing, registered providers and supported accommodation providers in the city. This includes services providing temporary accommodation.
- External partners such as Citizen Advice Southampton, Society of St James, and Scratch Charity.

During this engagement period, we gathered invaluable information about the current needs in our city. Combined with the needs assessment, this information has enabled us to develop the four key priorities and strategic actions to tackle homelessness in Southampton.

Listening to what you have to say

We conducted a consultation to enable members of the public, including residents and businesses, to share their views of and suggestions for our new strategy. This was a 12-week public consultation, which ran from 10 July 2023 until 1 October 2023. We received valuable feedback from 315 respondents. We heard from a range of people including, residents of Southampton, charities and volunteer organisations who work in the sector, and people who have experienced homelessness or have been threatened by it. We carefully considered this feedback and used it to inform and improve our final strategy.

Delivering our strategy

Homelessness Prevention Board

Tackling homelessness is complex and can require several organisations to pull their knowledge, skills, and resources together to find solution. We will create a new Homelessness Prevention Board to bring together all the key partners in Southampton to enable us to work together to find solution to help tackle homelessness in our city. We understand that listening to people with lived experience is invaluable in understanding how to compassionately identify and respond to homelessness. Therefore, representatives of people with lived experiences will be included in this Board. The Homelessness Prevention Board will oversee, implement, and monitor the progress of the actions.

Measuring successes (KPIs)

An action plan will be developed which will provide detailed actions on how to deliver outcomes, outline who is accountable for the delivery of each action and timelines for implementation. This action plan will be reviewed annually ensuring we remain on track to achieve our aims over the next 5 years. The Homelessness Prevention Board will oversee the implementation of the action plan and agree the Key Performance Indicators. Our high level KPIs are outlined below. These are updated quarterly:

Metrics

- Total No: of assessments made - Households initially assessed as threatened with homelessness (prevention) or homeless (relief) during the quarter.
- Total No: of households successfully prevented from being homeless.
- Total No: of households successfully relieved from being homeless.
- No: of Rough Sleepers (single night count).
- No: of Households on the Housing waiting list.
- No: of properties let.
- Total no: of households in temporary Accommodation (TA).
- No: of households with Children accommodated in TA.
- No: of children accommodated in TA.
- No: of care leavers accommodated in TA.
- No: of households with children accommodated in BnB.
- No: of households with children accommodated in BnB over 6 weeks.

Funding

- The actions to achieve the strategy outcomes will be funded from various sources, such as the council's own budget. It will also be funded by Government grants, such as the Homelessness Prevention Grant.

Final thanks

Thank you to everyone who took part in the development of this strategy.

The contributions and feedback have been invaluable in drafting and revising our strategy.

We will work hard to deliver this strategy and achieve our vision of creating a city where everyone has a safe place to call home.



Appendix 1: Legislation

Statutory Requirements for Local Authorities

When a Local Authority carries out any function including formulating policies and strategies it must have due regard to the Equality Act 2010 (EA 2010) and the Human Rights Act 1998. In particular it must have due regard to its Public Sector Equality Duty under S149 EA 2010.

Legislation setting out the rights of people who are experiencing homelessness and duties local authorities must follow, first came into force with the introduction of the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act 1997, then with further amendments made by the Housing Act 1985, the Housing Act 1996.

The Homelessness Act 2002 places a statutory duty on all local authorities to carry out a homelessness review for their area, in consultation with local partners and stakeholders, formulate and publish a homelessness strategy based on the results of that review, at least every five years.

All local authorities have a duty to ensure advice and information are available to any household, about preventing homelessness, finding a home, rights when homeless and help available locally.

During the lifetime of the council's previous Homelessness Prevention Strategy (2018 – 2023), new legislation was implemented.

1. **Homelessness Reduction Act 2017** – In April 2018 this Act was introduced and brought new duties (prevention duty and relief duty) on local authorities to focus on prevention of homelessness. These have informed the development of the new strategy.
2. **Homelessness duties:**
 - Prevention Duty: A local authority must take reasonable steps to help the applicant secure accommodation and ensure it does not cease to be available for their occupation.
 - Relief duty: A local authority must take reasonable steps to help the applicant secure accommodation which becomes available for at least six months.

- Main duty: A local authority must take reasonable steps to provide accommodation for a household that has not received secure accommodation under the relief duty and has a priority need. If a household is unintentionally homeless and categorised as *vulnerable*, they will have a priority need for emergency housing.

3. Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

This Act requires local authorities to provide safe accommodation options for victims/ survivors of domestic abuse. Domestic abuse is a leading cause of homelessness. Local authorities also have a duty to carry out a safe accommodation needs assessment and publish a strategy for safe accommodation provision and support. Local authorities must also give people who become homeless because of domestic abuse priority need for safe accommodation.

Our Domestic Abuse prevention strategies:

- [Strategy for the Provision of Support in Safe Accommodation 2021-2024 \(southampton.gov.uk\)](https://www.southampton.gov.uk/docs/default-source/strategy-for-the-provision-of-support-in-safe-accommodation-2021-2024.pdf).
- [Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls 2023-2028 Strategy \(southampton.gov.uk\)](https://www.southampton.gov.uk/docs/default-source/domestic-abuse-and-violence-against-women-and-girls-2023-2028-strategy.pdf).

4. Armed Forces Act 2021 (in force from November 2022).

This Act introduced a new requirement for some public bodies, including local authorities, to pay due regard to the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant when carrying out specific public functions in the areas of housing, healthcare, and education. This Act places a legal duty on local authorities to give priority for social housing to serving members of the Armed Forces, former Service personnel and their family members.

[END]



Equality and Safety Impact Assessment

The **Public Sector Equality Duty** (Section 149 of the Equality Act) requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people carrying out their activities.

The Equality Duty supports good decision making – it encourages public bodies to be more efficient and effective by understanding how different people will be affected by their activities, so that their policies and services are appropriate and accessible to all and meet different people’s needs. The council’s Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) includes an assessment of the community safety impact assessment to comply with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act and will enable the council to better understand the potential impact of proposals and consider mitigating action.

Name or Brief Description of Proposal	Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-2029
Brief Service Profile (including number of customers)	
<p>The Homelessness Act 2002 gave all local authorities a responsibility to produce a 5-year strategy on homelessness for their area and renew the strategy at the end of the period. Southampton City Council’s current Homelessness Prevention Strategy covers the period 1st January 2018 to 31st December 2023.</p> <p>The findings from the Homelessness Review have been used to update the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-2029 and agree on the priorities for the council in relation to homelessness and homelessness prevention for the next five years.</p> <p>Southampton City Council Corporate Plan 2022/30 outlines our vision for Southampton as a ‘City of Opportunity’ over the next 8 years. This ambition applies to housing and homelessness as much as to all other areas of our work in Southampton.</p> <p>The vision of our new strategy is “A city where everyone has a safe place to call home”.</p> <p>The priorities of the strategy are:</p> <p>Priority 1: Prevention</p> <p>Move beyond a reactive response and focus on reducing individual and population-wide risks of homelessness across the city.</p> <p>Priority 2: Intervention</p> <p>Providing timely, appropriate and effective interventions to alleviate homelessness and help those sleeping rough.</p>	

Priority 3: Working Together

Combining skills, resources and experience to improve homelessness solutions and outcomes.

Priority 4: Housing Solutions

Exploring new and innovative ways to diversify our accommodation and support options in the city.

Summary of Impact and Issues

The previous Homelessness Prevention Strategy was reviewed as part of the process of drafting this strategy. As part of the review, we have considered current and future levels of homelessness in Southampton based on an analysis of:

- any planned legislation or local policy changes that are likely to impact on levels of homelessness for particular groups in the district;
- statutory homelessness applications and acceptance;
- demographic profile of those who are statutory homeless;
- reasons for statutory homelessness;
- accommodation outcomes;
- rough sleepers;
- wider determinants of homelessness – those factors which make individuals more likely to experience or be at risk of homelessness.

We have collated and analysed recent data around homelessness and housing in Southampton, including trends over the lifetime of the previous strategy, to understand the current need in our city. The full data analysis is available in our Homelessness Prevention Review 2023.

In Southampton, the rate of households threatened with homelessness (5.3 per 1000 households) is similar to the national average (5.6 per 1000 households).

The number of people rough sleeping on a single night in Southampton was three times higher in 2022 (27 people) compared to 2021 (9 people). The average number of rough sleeping on a single night in Southampton between 2010 and 2022 was 20.

Factors identified in increasing the risk of homelessness in Southampton include:

- **Deprivation and Poverty** - a lack of income and resource can increase the likelihood of becoming homeless.
 - Southampton is ranked 55th most deprived of the 317 Local Authorities in England (IMD 2019).

- Southampton is ranked 3rd worst in the country for crime deprivation.
- Additionally, around 12% of Southampton's population live in neighbourhoods within the 10% most deprived nationally. This rises to 18% for the under 18 population, suggesting that deprivation disproportionately impacts upon young people in the city.
- **Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic** – more people are claiming benefits and on lower pay.
 - The number of adults in Southampton claiming out of work benefits more than doubled between March 2020 (6,550 claimants) and March 2021 (12,145). Whilst this claimant has been on a downward trend, it is yet to return to pre-pandemic levels.
- **Earnings in Southampton** – pay has declined so residents have tighter budgets and less income to spend on rent or mortgage rates.
 - Pay has declined in 'real' terms because of inflation.
 - Adjusted for inflation, weekly resident (-£21, -3.0%) and workplace (-£24, -3.1%) earnings for full time workers both declined between 2021 and 2022.
- **Affordability of housing** – there is a lack of affordable housing options for people.
 - This is measured by the Office of National Statistics through a ratio between yearly median house prices and median workplace earnings. Full-time employees in Southampton who wish to buy a home would have to spend around 7.4 times their annual earnings to buy a home (2022).
- **Social housing** – demand for social housing in the city far exceeds supply.
 - According to Census 2021 data, 21.9% (22,397) of households in Southampton live in socially rented accommodation. Demand for social housing in the city far exceeds supply, with 7,379 households on the social housing waiting list in Southampton at the end of March 2022.
- **A shortage of housing and limited land to build on** – lack of space to build affordable housing.

- This requires innovative solutions to be explored. For example, repurposing vacant commercial buildings or redeveloping existing buildings to ‘build up’ where we do not have the space to ‘build out.’
- **Domestic Abuse** – domestic abuse can result in people fleeing their homes and becoming homeless. This is a leading cause of homelessness and largely for women.
 - 32.6% of all violent crimes in Southampton were flagged as domestic in 2021/22. 68.8% of domestic flagged crime victims in 2021/22 were female.
- **Substance Use** – substance use, with a lack of mental health support, can make it challenging to maintain a tenancy.
 - In addition, an estimated 5,355 people who live in Southampton are estimated to be alcohol dependent, and 1,200 local people use illicit opiates (heroin) or crack cocaine.
- **Complex cases** – this refers to people who have more needs than just housing support, such as mental health and substance use needs. These cases require more time-intensive, person-centred, and multi-agency solutions.
 - Southampton Homelessness Strategic Review 2023 data highlights the large number of cases needing multiple support services presenting to homelessness teams. The top 5 support needs of households owed a duty (prevention or relief) in Southampton (66.3% of needs) are: history of health problems (21.4% of needs); history of repeat homelessness (12.5% of needs); drug dependency needs (11.8%); having a history of offending (11.1%) and having physically ill health or a disability (9.5%).

During the preparation and review of the strategy, we have undertaken internal and external focus groups with a wide range of partner organisations.

A public consultation was launched on the 10th July 2023 and closed on the 1st October 2023. The feedback has been carefully considered and some amendments have been made to the strategy.

Potential Positive Impacts

The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy underpins the services and activities being delivered to tackle homelessness based on existing legislative requirements. Many of the activities are already being delivered. New actions are proposed that aim to reduce homelessness as soon as possible by enhancing existing services and housing provision.

Prevention and early intervention are an important part of the strategy. There are co-occurring reasons why people are at risk of homelessness or end up in homelessness.

The strategy has been designed to help shape the homelessness pathways in Southampton and prevent homelessness at the earliest opportunity in a time of challenging circumstances.

By collaborating with partners across the city, we hope to achieve the actions outlined in the strategy by making better use of our resources and by providing a variety of housing options, both in the private and social rented sectors, so that everyone has safe accommodation.

We will take proactive measures to prevent intergenerational homelessness and assist individuals in maintaining their tenancies. This includes ensuring that young people, care leavers, and those with additional needs and vulnerabilities have the support they need to secure and maintain tenancy.

Responsible Service Manager	Maria Byrne, Service Lead Housing Needs and Welfare
Date	November 2023
Approved by Senior Manager	Jamie Brenchley, Director of Housing
Date	November 2023

Potential Impact

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
Age (Young people)	<p>Children: depending on legislation, households with children facing homelessness have a priority and the strategy sets out a range of activities to help households prevent their homelessness, options to secure alternative accommodation and a range of support services for families with additional needs.</p> <p>Young people: The strategy identifies young people as a specific group with support needs, recognises the vulnerability of care leavers, and identifies joint working with partners to help young people who face financial and</p>	<p>The strategy does not discriminate or disadvantage anyone due to their age.</p> <p>A household/person is able to approach homelessness services for help and guidance.</p> <p>The new strategy focuses on practicing 'a no wrong door' approach to those approaching the council where a housing support need is identified.</p> <p>This will be done by strengthening referral systems and practices to enable us to intervene</p>

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
	other barriers to secure settled housing and access support.	before people are in crisis. We will also review when people are approaching for help so we can identify further preventive measures and to ensure our service is accessible for all.
Disability	It is not restrictive but recognises those households with physical, emotional and mental health disabilities as groups who require tailored responses to tackle homelessness more effectively.	Trauma informed training to improve staff's understanding of aspects such as Post Traumatic Stress. Ensure we utilise all funding options available to keep people living in their homes if it is feasible to do so.
Gender Reassignment	No negative impact identified.	All households approaching the council with a housing issue are given advice and information and according to their situation and the legislative framework may be assisted into accommodation.
Marriage and Civil Partnership	No negative impact identified.	All households approaching the council with a housing issue are given advice and information and according to their situation and the legislative framework may be assisted into accommodation.
Pregnancy and Maternity	Pregnancy and maternity may have a negative impact on household income.	Homelessness legislation, which underpins the strategy, identifies this group as a priority. This means if a homelessness duty is accepted because homelessness could not be prevented, accommodation will be

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
		<p>provided.</p> <p>The strategy is clear that all homelessness is serious and seeks to support any household to prevent homelessness. The public law duty in relation to the use of bed and breakfast for households with pregnant women or children is limited to 6 weeks.</p>
Race	No negative impact identified.	<p>All households approaching the council with a housing issue are given advice and information and according to their situation and the legislative framework may be assisted into accommodation.</p> <p>Ensure organisations working with residents from ethnic minorities are aware of homelessness services and can support with making referrals as needed.</p>
Religion or Belief	Some people might find it difficult to cope in supported housing environments due to their religion or beliefs.	All households approaching the council with a housing issue are given advice and information and according to their situation and the legislative framework may be assisted into accommodation.
Sex	Men and women might have similar needs and issues which they need support with, however, homeless men and women can choose different ways to cope. In general, men are more likely to	<p>The strategy is clear that all homelessness is serious and seeks to support any household to prevent homelessness.</p> <p>The public law duty in</p>

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
	become homeless, but women are more vulnerable while living on the streets than men.	relation to the use of bed and breakfast for households with pregnant women or children is limited to 6 weeks. Actions include a review of challenges and support available to households with protected characteristics.
Sexual Orientation	Some people might find it difficult to cope with certain housing environments due to their sexual orientation.	All households approaching the council with a housing issue are given advice and information and according to their situation and the legislative framework may be assisted into accommodation.
Community Safety	Lack of appropriate housing options and no access to benefits may increase the risk of rough sleeping.	Improving access to housing options for all to reduce the risk of some households rough sleeping or sofa surfing.
Poverty	The impact of social and economic deprivation is recognised as a factor in causing homelessness.	All households approaching the council with a housing issue are given advice and information and according to their situation and the legislative framework may be assisted into accommodation.
Health & Wellbeing	The 'cost of living' crisis may squeeze household budgets, and therefore, affect the health and wellbeing of families and individuals.	Reaching and working with the most complex people in our society who fall through the gaps, ensuring healthcare needs are met, to break cycles of homelessness. Continue commissioning and operating rough

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
		sleeper healthcare services, such as the Homeless Health Service.
Other Significant Impacts	None identified.	

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Draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy Consultation

Full results summary

Data, Intelligence & Insight Team – October 2023



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[Overall draft strategy](#)



Introduction and Methodology



Southampton City Council undertook public consultation on the Draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.

- The consultation took place between **10/07/2023 – 01/10/2023**.
- The aim of this consultation was to:
 - Communicate clearly to residents and stakeholders the proposals for Draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.
 - Ensure any resident, business or stakeholder who wished to comment on the proposals had the opportunity to do so, enabling them to raise any impacts the proposals may have.
 - Allow participants to propose alternative suggestions for consideration which they feel could achieve the objective in a different way.
- This report summarises the aims, principles, methodology and results of the public consultation. It provides a summary of the consultation responses both for the consideration of decision makers and any interested individuals and stakeholders.
- It is important to be mindful that a consultation is not a vote, it is an opportunity for stakeholders to express their views, concerns and alternatives to a proposal. This report outlines in detail the representations made during the consultation period so that decision makers can consider what has been said alongside other information.



Southampton City Council is committed to consultations of the highest standard, which are meaningful and comply with *The Gunning Principles (considered to be the legal standard for consultations)*:

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1. Proposals are still at a formative stage (a final decision has not yet been made)
2. There is sufficient information put forward in the proposals to allow 'intelligent consideration'
3. There is adequate time for consideration and response
4. Conscientious consideration must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is made



New Conversations 2.0
LGA guide to engagement



Rules: The Gunning Principles

They were coined by Stephen Sedley QC in a court case in 1985 relating to a school closure consultation (R v London Borough of Brent ex parte Gunning). Prior to this, very little consideration had been given to the laws of consultation. Sedley defined that a consultation is only legitimate when these four principles are met:

- 1. proposals are still at a formative stage**
A final decision has not yet been made, or predetermined, by the decision makers
- 2. there is sufficient information to give 'intelligent consideration'**
The information provided must relate to the consultation and must be available, accessible, and easily interpretable for consultees to provide an informed response
- 3. there is adequate time for consideration and response**
There must be sufficient opportunity for consultees to participate in the consultation. There is no set timeframe for consultation,¹ despite the widely accepted twelve-week consultation period, as the length of time given for consultee to respond can vary depending on the subject and extent of impact of the consultation
- 4. 'conscientious consideration' must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is made**
Decision-makers should be able to provide evidence that they took consultation responses into account

These principles were reinforced in 2001 in the 'Coughlan Case (R v North and East Devon Health Authority ex parte Coughlan²)', which involved a health authority closure and confirmed that they applied to all consultations, and then in a Supreme Court case in 2014 (R ex parte Moseley v LB Haringey³), which endorsed the legal standing of the four principles. Since then, the Gunning Principles have formed a strong legal foundation from which the legitimacy of public consultations is assessed, and are frequently referred to as a legal basis for judicial review decisions.⁴

¹ In some local authorities, their local voluntary Compact agreement with the third sector may specify the length of time they are required to consult for. However, in many cases, the Compact is either inactive or has been cancelled so the consultation timeframe is open to debate

² BAILII, [England and Wales Court of Appeal \(Civil Decision\) Decisions](#), Accessed: 13 December 2016.

³ BAILII, [United Kingdom Supreme Court](#), Accessed: 13 December 2016

⁴ The information used to produce this document has been taken from the Law of Consultation training course provided by The Consultation Institute



- The agreed approach for this consultation was to use an online questionnaire as the main route for feedback. Questionnaires enable an appropriate amount of explanatory and supporting information to be included in a structured questionnaire, helping to ensure respondents are aware of the background and detail of the proposals.
- Respondents could also write letters or emails to provide feedback on the proposals. Emails or letters from stakeholders that contained consultation feedback were collated and analysed as a part of the overall consultation.
- The consultation was promoted in the following ways by:
 - Engaged with various stakeholders and service groups (including the Domestic Abuse and Violence against Women and Girls Partnership Board, the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Operational Group, providers of Social Housing, commissions services, frontline staff, Housing Officers and the Welfare Rights Team)
 - Social media posts
 - Southampton City Council e-bulletins (including City News, Your City Your Say, Staff Bulletin, Communities Bulletin, Business Bulletin)
 - Tenants' Link
 - Southampton City Council website
 - Press release
- All questionnaire results have been analysed and presented in graphs within this report. Respondents were given opportunities throughout the questionnaire to provide written feedback on the proposals. In addition anyone could provide feedback in letters and emails. All written responses and questionnaire comments have been read and then assigned to categories based upon similar sentiment or theme.

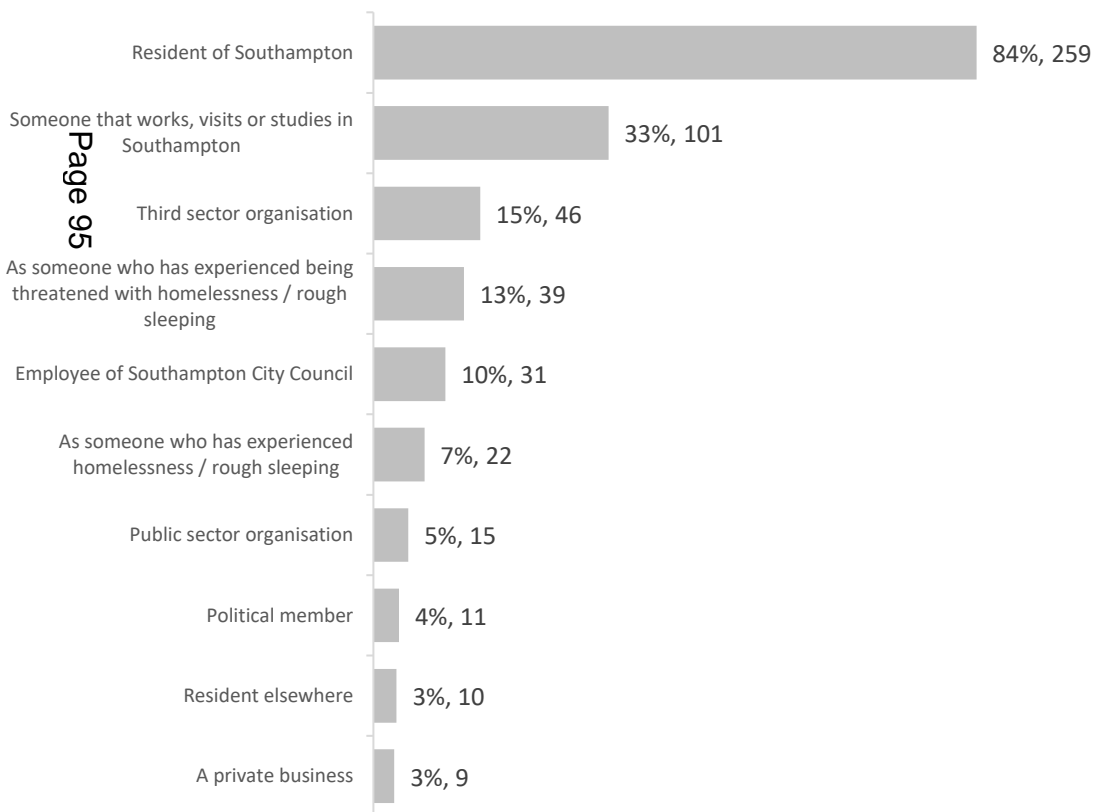


Who were the respondents?

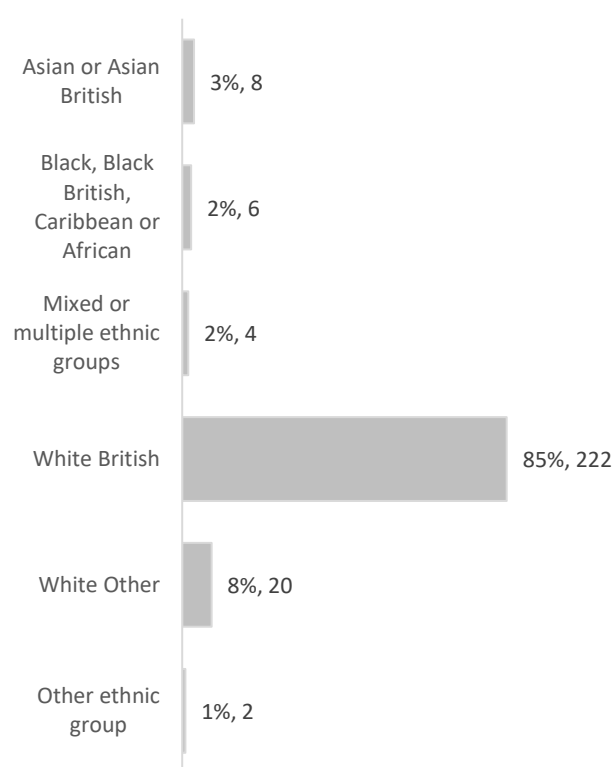
Total respondents:

	Total number of responses
Questionnaire	311
Emails / letters	4
Total	315

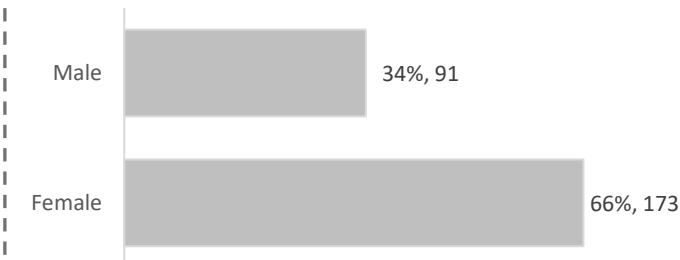
Interest in the consultation:



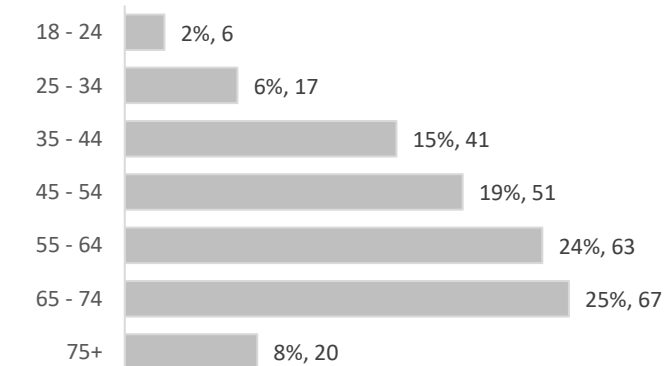
Ethnicity:



Sex:



Age:





Proposed changes



The questionnaire outlined the following background information:

Background:

“Not having a home as a stable and secure base can make it harder for people to find a job, stay healthy and maintain relationships. People often experience feelings of isolation, increasing their chances of taking drugs or experiencing mental health problems...” (Homeless Link, 2022)

We believe that everybody has the right to a safe, suitable, and stable home. Home gives stability, a sense of belonging, and keeps people safe, together, and protected from the outside elements. It is where we make memories with friends and families, and it helps us to build a strong foundation for our lives.

Yet sadly, figures from Shelter indicate that at least 271,000 people were recorded as homeless in England in January 2023 (123,000 being children). In Southampton, the rate of homelessness is significantly higher than the national average.

We have analysed key information and data to understand the current needs in Southampton around homelessness. This strategy is our plan to address these needs and tackle homelessness and rough sleeping in Southampton over the next 5 years. The strategy will be accompanied by an action plan explaining in detail how we will achieve our aims.



The questionnaire outlined the following proposals:

Priorities:

Priority 1 - Prevention: Move beyond a reactive response and focus on reducing individual and population-wide risks of homelessness across the city.

Priority 2 - Intervention: Providing timely, appropriate and effective interventions to alleviate homelessness and help those sleeping rough.

Priority 3 - Working Together: Combining skills, resources, and experience to improve homelessness solutions and outcomes.

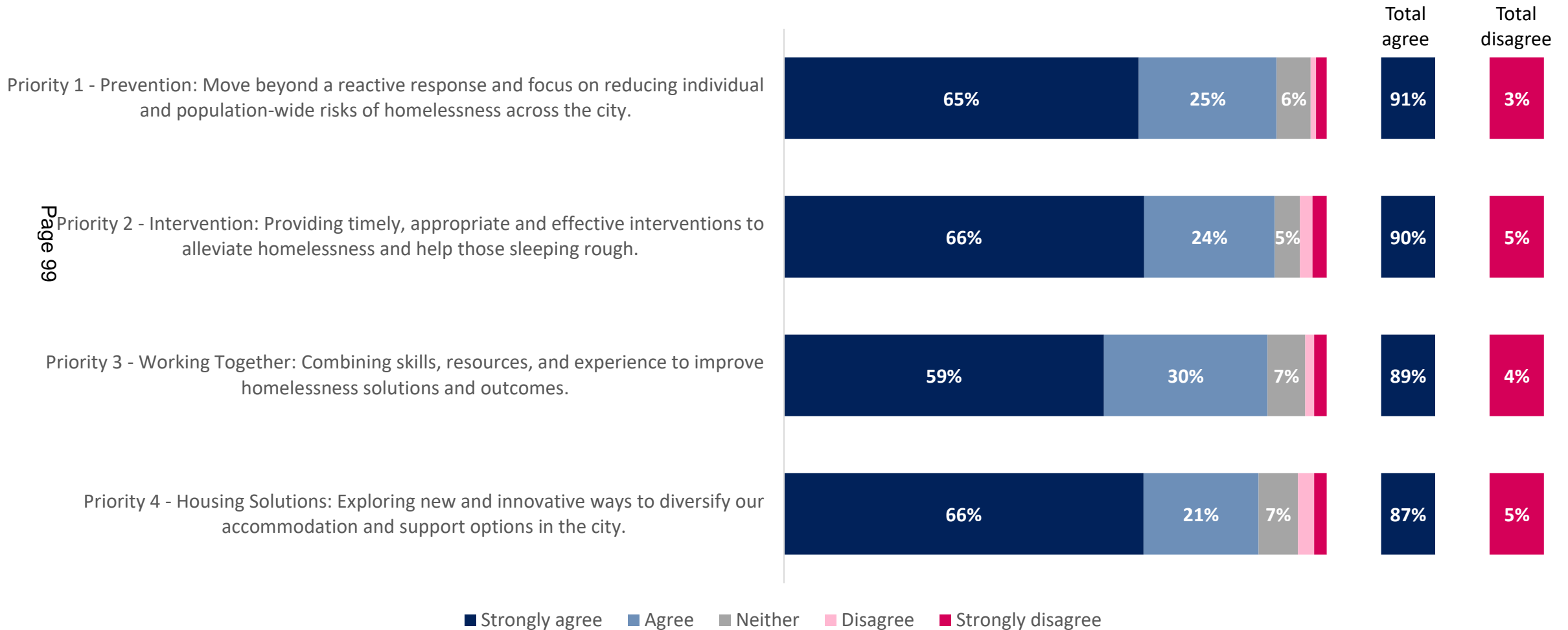
Priority 4 - Housing Solutions: Exploring new and innovative ways to diversify our accommodation and support options in the city.



Focus on four suggested priorities

Question: What extent do you agree or disagree with our focus on the four suggested priorities?

Overall:





The questionnaire outlined the following proposals:

Priority 1:

We want to move beyond a reactive response and focus on reducing individual and population-wide risks of homelessness across the city.

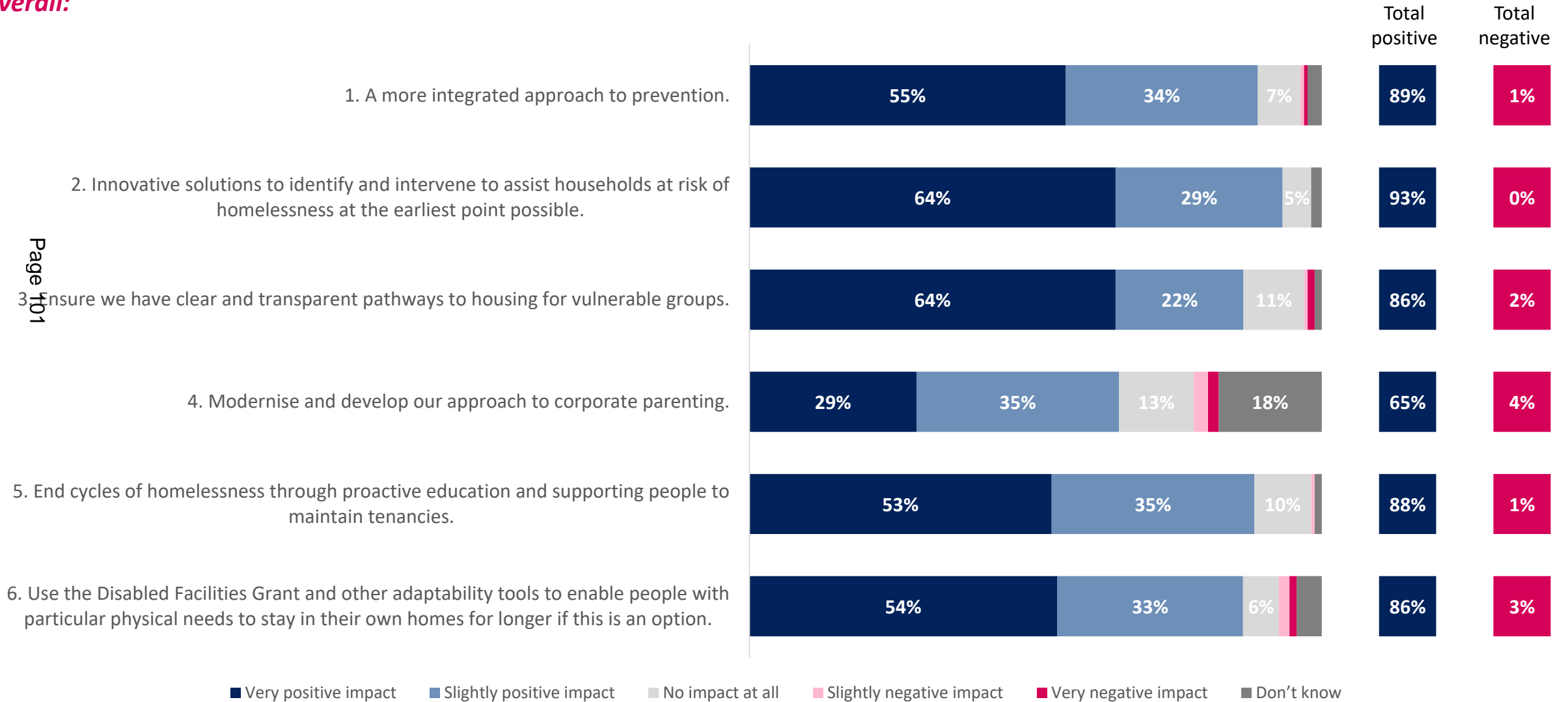
Losing a tenancy and or being unable to find suitable and safe accommodation can be a very frustrating and traumatic experience. So, it is important that we focus on preventing people who are at risk of homelessness from losing their homes. We also want to move beyond a reactive response. We will focus on reducing population-wide risks of homelessness by developing stable, supportive and inclusive environments. This includes ensuring people have access to education about finding and remaining in affordable housing.



Priority 1 impacts

Question: What impact do you think each of the following proposals will have on preventing homelessness and rough sleeping?

Overall:





Priority 1 – Free text responses.

Within the questionnaire, respondents were given the opportunity to provide their own free text comments. Any email or letter responses were also analysed alongside free-text responses in the questionnaire.

The following graph shows the total number of respondents by each theme of comment.

These graphs are in respondent count, rather than percentage.

Please use the following space to tell us your comments, concerns, suggestions or alternatives you feel we should consider:

Suggestions / concerns around preventing evictions / maintaining tenancies

11

General positive comments around priority

8

Recognise / understanding reasons for homelessness

7

Suggestions around accessing support / making it easier

6

More information / definitions needed within priority

5

Other suggestions / concerns

6



The questionnaire outlined the following proposals:

Priority 2:

Providing timely, appropriate, and effective interventions to alleviate homelessness and help those sleeping rough.

The longer someone is homeless, the greater the risk of worsening physical and mental health problems. It is crucial that we intervene as early as possible to provide support and work quickly to help people find a suitable home. It is also important that when we intervene, the support we provide ensures long-term solutions and reduces the risk of repeat homelessness.



Priority 2 impacts

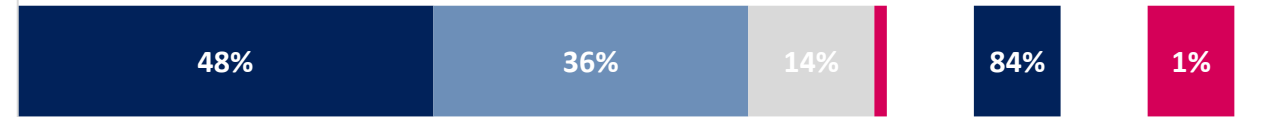
Question: What impact do you think each of the following proposals will have on providing timely, appropriate and effective interventions to alleviate homelessness and help those sleeping rough?

Overall:

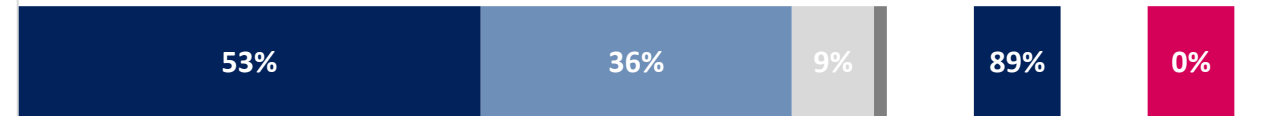
1. Provide timely and effective interventions to those threatened with homelessness, using temporary accommodation where necessary but avoiding it where there are other opportunities to relieve homelessness.



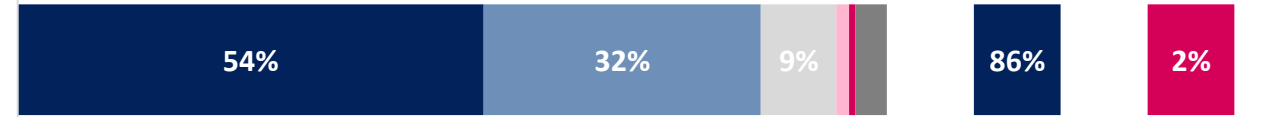
2. Provide high-quality and up-to-date advice, information, and guidance to help resolve instances of homelessness, and ensure residents have the information they need.



3. Ensure supported accommodation meets changing needs in the city, with the flexibility to respond to local pressures.



4. Enhance the solutions and choices people have to resolve their homelessness.



5. Use compassionate and trauma-informed approaches to ensure we work sensitively with people who have experienced homelessness (including rough sleepers, and survivors/victims of domestic abuse).



Very positive impact | Slightly positive impact | No impact at all | Slightly negative impact | Very negative impact | Don't know



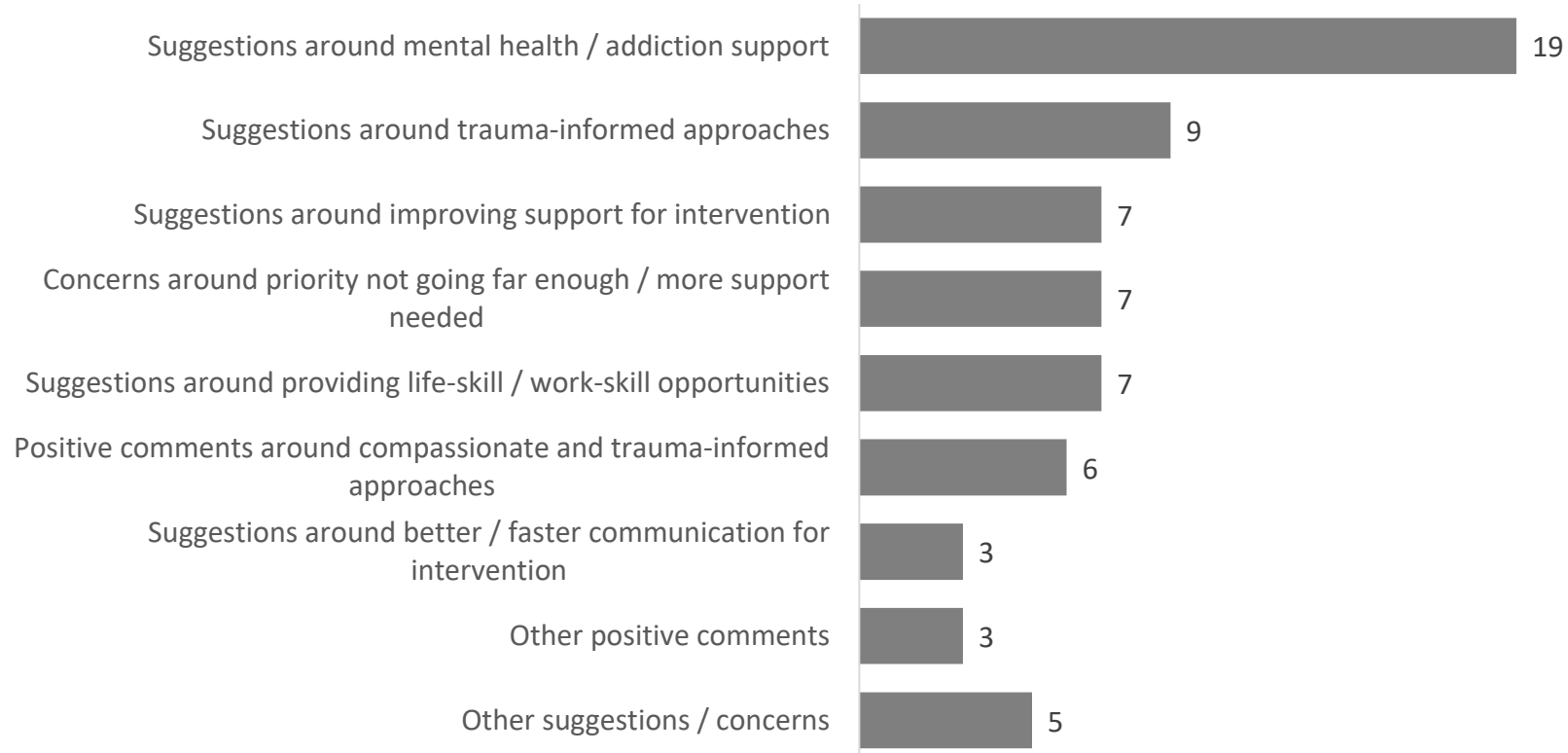
Priority 2 – Free text responses.

Within the questionnaire, respondents were given the opportunity to provide their own free text comments. Any email or letter responses were also analysed alongside free-text responses in the questionnaire.

The following graphs show the total number of respondents by each theme of comment.

These graphs are in respondent count, rather than percentage.

Please use the following space to tell us your comments, concerns, suggestions or alternatives you feel we should consider:





The questionnaire outlined the following proposals:

Priority 3:

Combining skills, resources, and experience to improve homelessness solutions and outcomes.

The needs of people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness, often stretch across different services, including the housing services, mental health services and children's services. We want to work with our partners to pull together our knowledge, skills, and resources, to improve prevention methods and provide effective support. Our partners include public health, NHS trusts, police, and charities such as, the Society of St James and Two Saints.

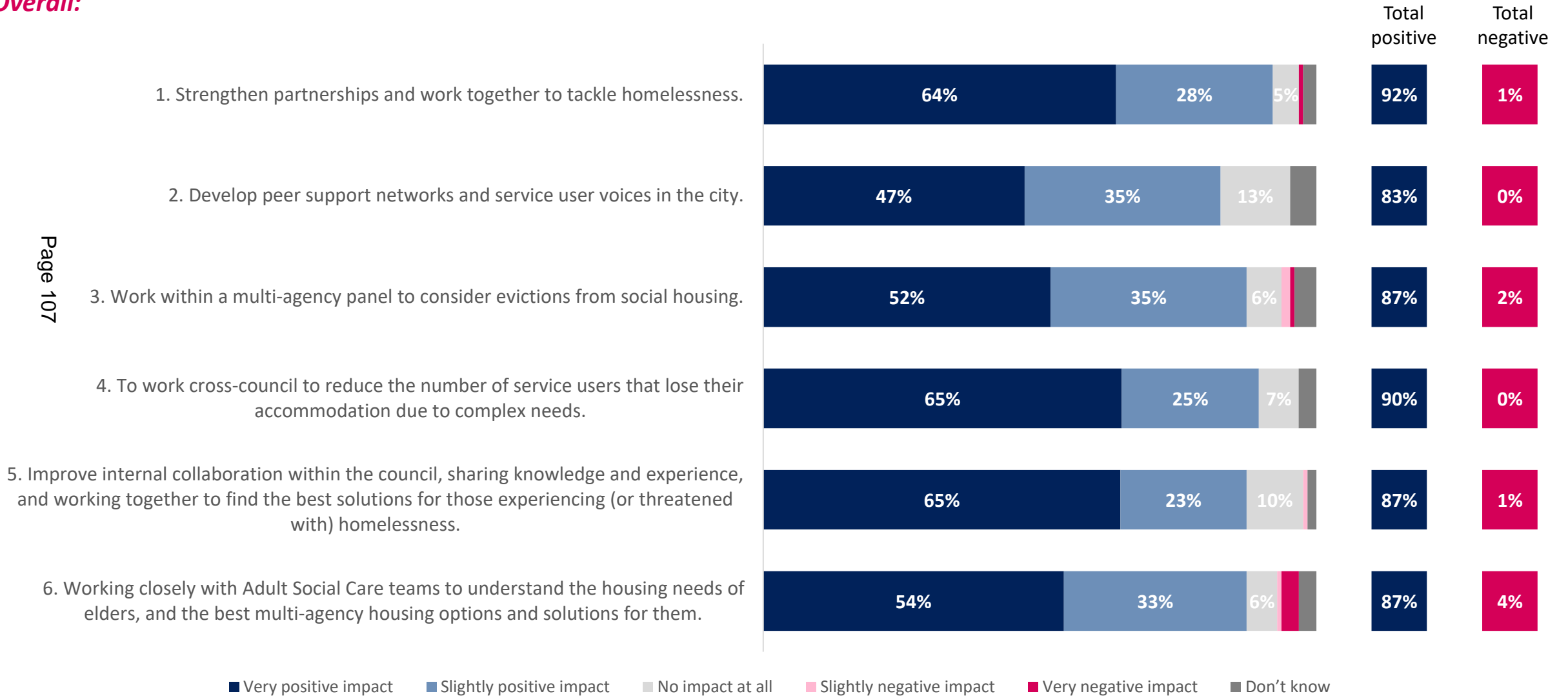


Priority 3 impacts

Question: What impact do you think each of the following proposals will have on combining skills, resources and experience to improve homelessness solutions and outcomes?

Overall:

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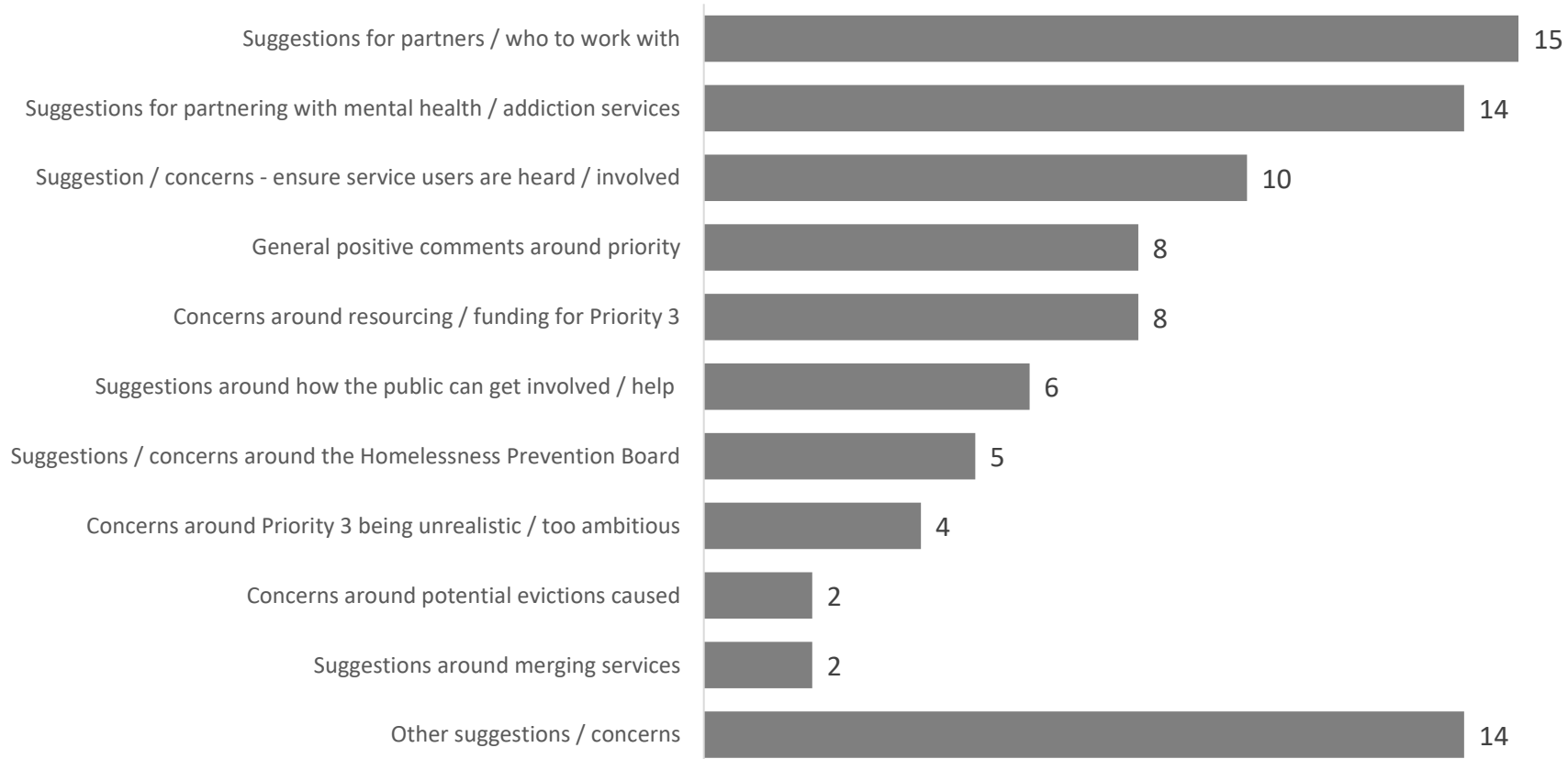
Priority 3 – Free text responses.

Within the questionnaire, respondents were given the opportunity to provide their own free text comments. Any email or letter responses were also analysed alongside free-text responses in the questionnaire.

The following graph shows the total number of respondents by each theme of comment.

These graphs are in respondent count, rather than percentage.

Please use the following space to tell us your comments, concerns, suggestions or alternatives you feel we should consider:





The questionnaire outlined the following proposals:

Priority 4:

Exploring new and innovative ways to diversify our accommodation and support options in the city.

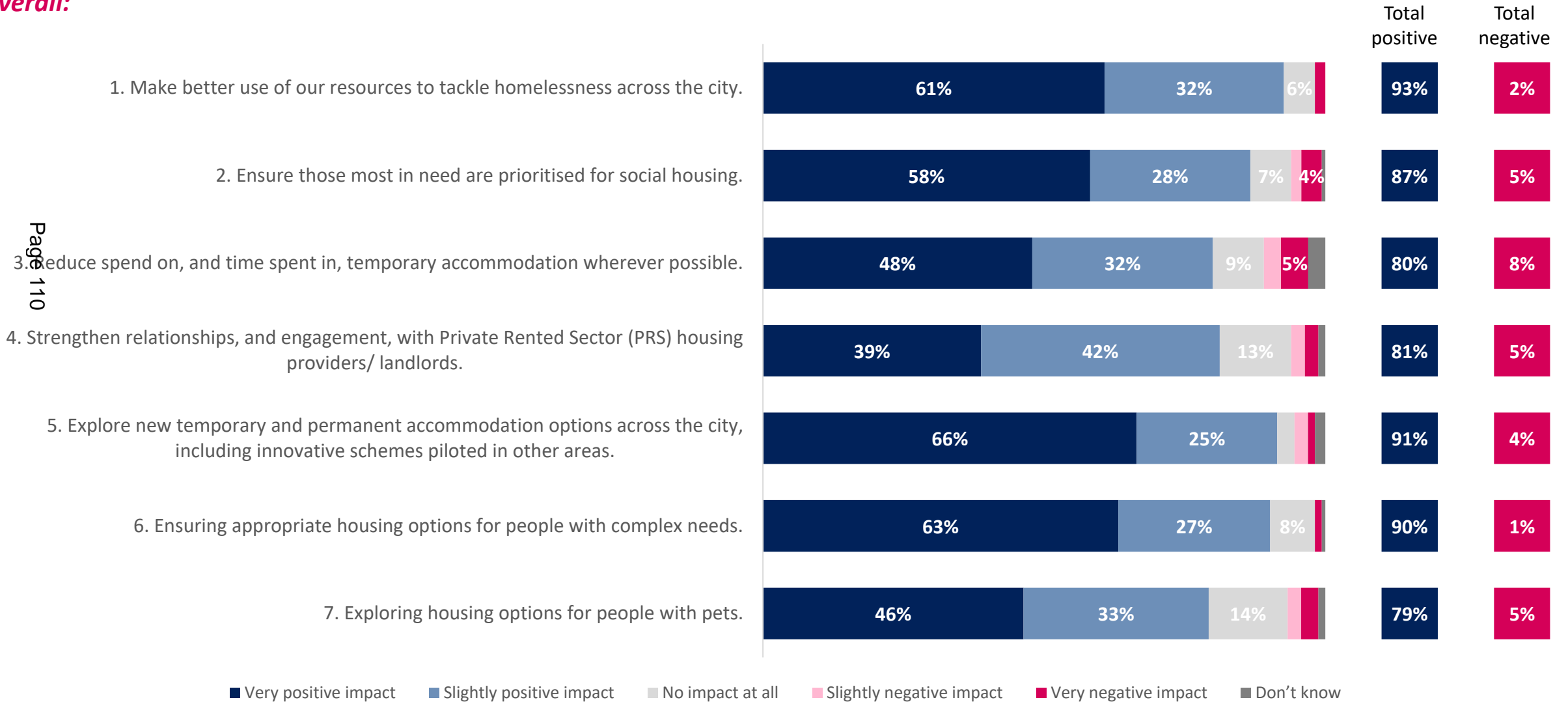
The reasons why people become homeless or are threatened by homelessness, vary and can be complex. By diversifying and enhancing the current housing options, we can provide better, tailored, and long-term solutions for individuals.



Priority 4 impacts

Question: What impact do you think each of the following proposals will have on providing timely, appropriate and effective interventions to alleviate homelessness and help those sleeping rough?

Overall:





Priority 4 – Free text responses.

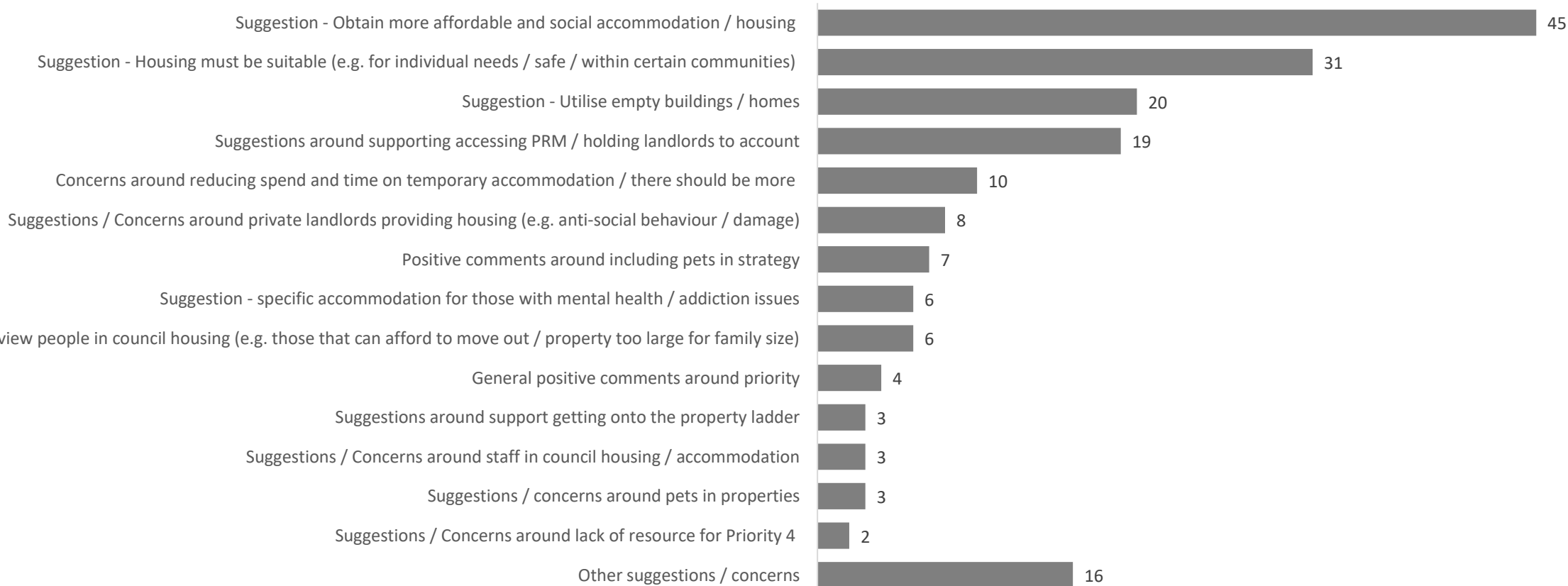
Within the questionnaire, respondents were given the opportunity to provide their own free text comments. Any email or letter responses were also analysed alongside free-text responses in the questionnaire.

The following graph shows the total number of respondents by each theme of comment.

These graphs are in respondent count, rather than percentage.

Please use the following space to tell us your comments, concerns, suggestions or alternatives you feel we should consider:

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Have you read the proposed draft strategy?

35% Yes, all of it

41% Yes, some of it

24% No

If you have read the proposed strategy, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Page 112

The draft strategy provides sufficient information



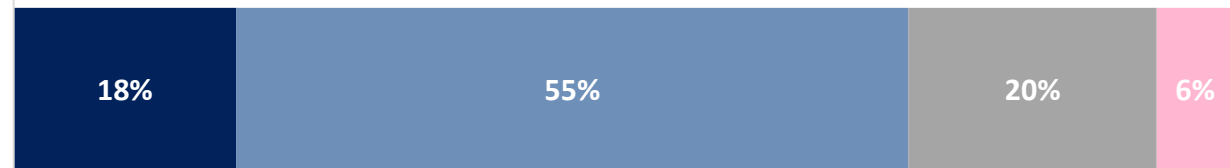
Total agree



Total disagree



The draft strategy is easy to understand



■ Strongly agree ■ Agree ■ Neither ■ Disagree ■ Strongly disagree

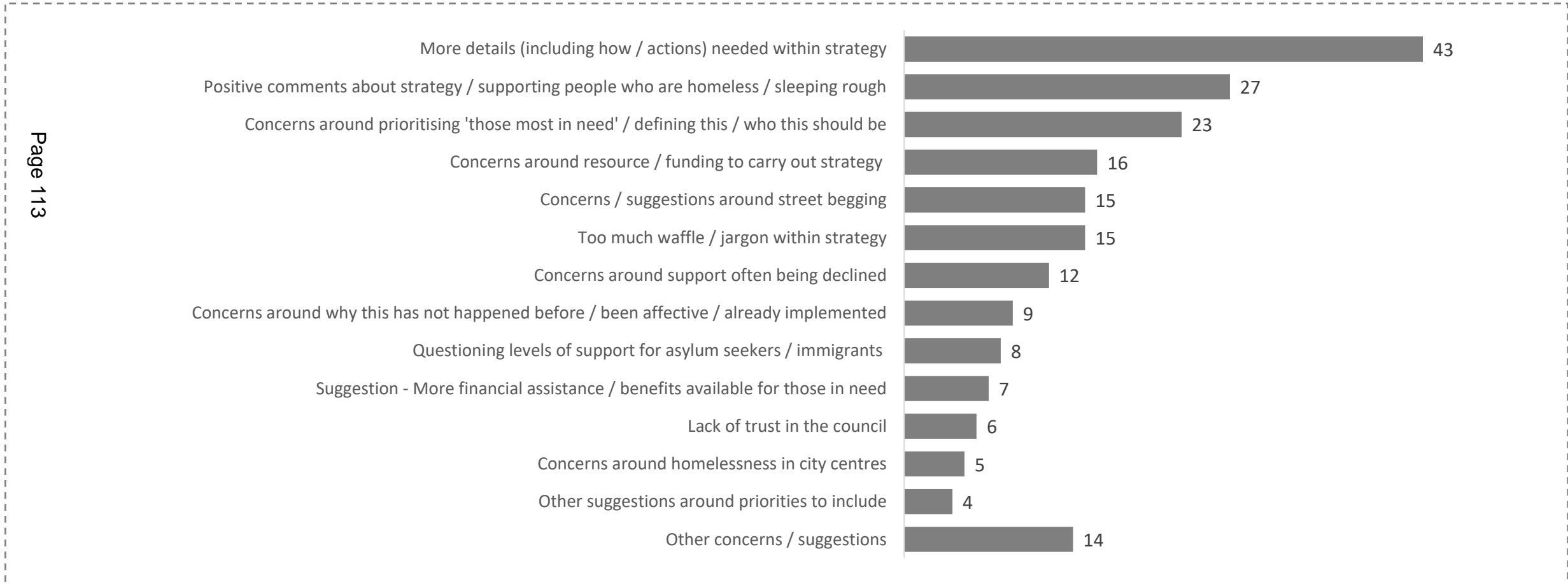


Overall comments about the strategy / priorities – Free text responses.

Within the questionnaire, respondents were given the opportunity to provide their own free text comments around anything else we should consider, any other comments or suggestions, and if there was anything that needed more information. Any email or letter responses were also analysed alongside free-text responses in the questionnaire.

The following graph shows the total number of respondents by each theme of comment.

These graphs are in respondent count, rather than percentage.



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Considerations of the consultation feedback – Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-2029

Priority 1: Prevention

Consultation feedback		Officer response	Actions proposed
Broad themes	Further detail		
Quantitative feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Total agree: 91% ○ Total disagree: 3% 		
Positive comments	General positive comments around priority (8 comments)	No officer response is required (positive consultation feedback).	None.
Concerns and suggestions	Suggestions / concerns around preventing evictions / maintaining tenancies (11 comments)	In response to consultation feedback, we will make amendments to ensure there are more actions to prevent evictions and maintain tenancies.	The strategy has been amended to add actions to improve employment skills and opportunities to ensure people have the necessary income to afford housing costs. We have included an action to ensure that there is a clear pathway for care leavers to access housing.
	More information / definitions needed within priority (5 comments)	In response to the consultation feedback, we will define corporate parenting to make sure the strategy can be widely understood.	The strategy has been amended to include a definition of corporate parenting.
	Suggestions around accessing support / making it easier (6 comments)	In response to the consultation feedback, we will include actions to improve the knowledge of and access to support services.	The strategy has been amended to include new actions to review the front door offer to make sure people can easily access support services. The strategy has also been updated to include an action to ensure people with Restricted Eligibility know what to do if they become homeless or are threatened by it.
	Recognise / understanding reasons for homelessness (7 comments)	In response to the consultation feedback, we will include actions to ensure that staff and partners understand the reasons for homelessness and continue to work compassionately with people who are experiencing it.	The strategy has been amended to include an action to train staff on trauma-informed care and on how to best support people who have experienced domestic abuse.
	Other suggestions / concerns (6 comments)	In response to this consultation feedback, we will consider these suggestions and these concerns.	None.

Priority 2 - Intervention

Consultation feedback		Officer response	Actions proposed
Broad themes	Further detail		
Quantitative feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Total agree: 90% ○ Total disagree: 5% 		
Positive comments	Other positive comments (3 comments)	No officer response required (positive consultation feedback).	None.
	Positive comments around compassionate and trauma-informed approaches (6 comments)	No officer response required (positive consultation feedback).	None.
Concerns and suggestions	Suggestions around improving support for intervention (7 comments)	In response to the consultation feedback, we will ensure support services are more easily accessible. We will also include positive interventions which prevent people from becoming homeless and support people who become homeless at an early stage.	The strategy has been amended to include actions on improving the knowledge of, and access to, homelessness support services. We have also amended the strategy to include an action to intervene early to support young people leaving the care system into housing.
	Suggestions around better / faster communication for intervention (3 comments)	In response to the consultation feedback, we will make sure to communicate effectively with service users to update them on their situation and the options they have.	The strategy has been amended to include an action on communicating clearly with service users about their circumstances and options. This includes people in temporary accommodation.
	Concerns around priority not going far enough / more support needed (7 comments)	We currently have support teams working hard with individuals and households to find practical solutions to their circumstances. We will continue to provide this support, work to enhance the housing options and improve the help available.	None.
	Suggestions around mental health/addiction support (19 comments)	In response to the consultation, we have specified that we will work more closely with mental health and substance use disorder services to support and reduce the risk of homelessness and help increase the chances of people acquiring and sustaining a home.	The strategy has been amended to state that we will work closely with mental health and substance use disorder services to help tackle homelessness.
	Suggestions around trauma-informed approaches (9 comments)	We understand the importance of having a workforce which uses sensitive, compassionate, and trauma-informed approaches when working with people who have experienced homelessness. We will make sure that our workforce is trained regularly in trauma-informed approaches.	The strategy has been updated to include actions on training staff in trauma-informed care and on how to identify and support people who have experienced domestic abuse.
	Suggestions around providing life-skill / work-skill opportunities (7 comments)	In response to the consultation feedback, we have added actions to improve education and employment opportunities to prevent the risks of homelessness and help sustain life off the streets for good. We understand the importance of ensuring people have the skills and opportunities to maintain their tenancies and to live independently.	The strategy has been amended to include actions on improving education, life skills, and employment skills and opportunities.
	Other suggestions/ concerns (5 comments)	In response to this consultation feedback, we will consider these suggestions and consider these concerns.	None.

Priority 3 – Working together

Consultation feedback		Officer response	Actions proposed
Broad themes	Further detail		
Quantitative feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Total agree: 89% ○ Total disagree: 4% 		
Positive comments	General positive comments around priority (8 comments)	No officer response is required (positive consultation feedback).	None.
Concerns and suggestions	Suggestions / concerns around the Homelessness Prevention Board (5 comments)	We understand the importance of having an effective partnership board in Southampton to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping. We consider the suggestions for the membership of the Board, ensuring key stakeholders have the opportunity to join.	We will review the Terms of References for the Homelessness Prevention Board to consider the suggestions for who should be included in the membership of the Board.
	Concerns around potential evictions caused (2 comments)	We have reworded this point to make it clear that we aim to work with partners to prevent evictions from social housing and support those who have been evicted.	An outcome in the strategy has been reworded to make it clear that we aim to prevent evictions from social housing and support those who have been evicted.
	Suggestions around merging services (2 comments)	The Homelessness Prevention Board will help to improve the collaboration between internal services and partners.	None.
	Concerns around resourcing / funding for Priority 3 (8 comments)	We are developing a detailed action plan which will outline how each action will be resourced, funded and delivered.	None.
	Concerns around Priority 3 being unrealistic / too ambitious (4 comments)	We are developing an action plan which will detail who will be accountable for delivering the actions, as well as how they will be funded and resourced.	None.
	Suggestions for partnering with mental health / addiction services (15 comments)	In response to the consultation, we have specified that we will work more closely with mental health and substance use disorder services to support and reduce the risk of homelessness and help increase the chances of people acquiring and sustaining a home.	The strategy has been amended to state that we will work closely with mental health and substance use disorder services to help tackle homelessness.
	Suggestion / concerns - ensure service users are heard / involved (10 comments)	We understand the importance of involving people who have experienced homelessness and rough sleeping in the decision-making processes. The strategy has a key focus on effectively engaging with service users in the city and an action to ensure they can contribute to the Homelessness Prevention Board's discussions.	None.
	Suggestions around how the public can get involved / help (6 comments)	In response to the consultation feedback, we will make sure to improve the awareness of what homelessness support services in the city.	The strategy has been amended to include an action to improve the front door offer to make sure the support services are easily accessible.
	Other suggestions / concerns (14 comments)	In response to this consultation feedback, we will consider these suggestions.	None.

Priority 4 – Housing Solutions

Consultation feedback		Officer response	Actions proposed
Broad themes	Further detail		
Quantitative feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Total agree: 87% ○ Total disagree: 5% 		
Positive comments	General positive comments around priority (4 comments)	No officer response is required (positive consultation feedback).	
	Positive comments around including pets in strategy (7 comments)	No officer response is required (positive consultation feedback).	
Concerns and suggestions	Suggestion - specific accommodation for those with mental health / addiction issues (6 comments)	In response to the consultation, we have specified that we will work more closely with mental health and substance use disorder services. We will work with these services to help provide supported accommodation which will address people's needs and help them to acquire and sustain a home. We also have actions to expand our Supported Lettings Scheme from 20 to 30 properties to help support more people.	The strategy has been amended to state that we will work closely with mental health and substance use disorder services to help tackle homelessness.
	Suggestions around supporting accessing the private rented market/ holding landlords to account (19 comments)	We understand that there are challenges for people to access the private rented sector. We also understand the importance of having good-quality homes across the city. Our strategy focuses on improving our relationships with private landlords to ensure our residents can access the private rented sector and find good quality homes. We will develop detailed actions on how to achieve this in our action plan.	None.
	Suggestions around support getting onto the property ladder (3 comments)	We will consider all options to support people to find a suitable and long-term home.	None.
	Suggestion - Obtain more affordable and social accommodation/housing (45 comments)	We are considering all housing options to ensure residents have access to appropriate and affordable housing for long-term periods.	None.
	Concerns around reducing spend and time on temporary accommodation / there should be more (10 comments)	We have updated the wording in the strategy to make it clear that our aim is to support people into more permanent and long-term accommodation quickly. Therefore, our aim is to reduce the time people are spending in temporary accommodation.	The strategy has been amended to update the wording to make it clear that our outcome is to improve move-on options and reduce spend on and time spent in temporary accommodation, wherever possible.
	Suggestions / Concerns around staff in council housing/accommodation (3 comments)	We aim to strengthen the training for our workforce to improve our service to customers and ensure people who have experienced homelessness are treated with compassion and care.	The strategy has been amended to include an action to train staff on trauma-informed care and how to best support people who have experienced domestic abuse.
	Suggestions / Concerns around private landlords providing housing (e.g. anti-social behaviour/damage) (8 comments)	We will work with the private rented sector to help ensure suitable tenants can acquire and remain in the private rented sector long-term.	None.
	Suggestion - Housing must be suitable (e.g. for individual needs / safe / within certain communities) (31 comments)	The council is determined to ensure that housing is suitable and safe for all residents in the city. We are updating our Allocations Policy and will make it clear that individual and community safety is incredibly important when we allocate social housing.	None.
	Suggestion - Utilise empty buildings/homes (20 comments)	In response to the consultation feedback, we have added an action to continue to explore how we reduce voids in our city. We have an action on working collaboratively to repurpose empty homes.	The strategy has been amended to include an action to continue to explore how we can reduce voids in the city.
	Suggestion - Review people in council housing (e.g. those that can afford to move out / property too large for family size) (6 comments)	We are updating our Allocations Policy and will ensure that social housing stock is effectively allocated to ensure as many people as possible can access suitable homes.	None.
	Suggestions / Concerns around lack of resources for Priority 4 (2 comments)	We will use the council's budget, and other Government grants, such as the Homelessness Prevention Grant, to resource our actions. The details of how each action will be funded will be provided in the action plan.	None.

Consultation feedback		Officer response	Actions proposed
Broad themes	Further detail		
	Suggestions/concerns around pets in properties (3 comments)	We will explore suitable housing options for people who are homeless and threatened with homelessness and have pets.	None.
	Other suggestions / concerns (16 comments)	In response to this consultation feedback, we will consider these suggestions.	None.

Overall Feedback

Consultation feedback		Officer response	Actions proposed
Broad themes	Further detail		
Positive comments	Positive comments about strategy / supporting people who are homeless / sleeping rough (27 comments)	No officer response is required (positive consultation feedback).	None.
Concerns and suggestions	Other concerns / suggestions (14 comments)	We understand the complexity of this issue, but we are determined to deliver on this strategy. The action plan will detail who will be accountable and the resources which will fund the actions.	None.
	Concerns around resource / funding to carry out strategy (16 comments)	The action plan will provide details on how each action will be funded and delivered. We will use the council's budget and other Government grants, such as the Homelessness Prevention Grant, to resource this strategy.	None.
	Concerns around why this has not happened before / been affective / already implemented (9 comments)	In 2023, the council's data team undertook a review of homelessness in the city to determine the needs and wider determinants of homelessness. This needs assessment has informed the development of this strategy. Therefore, the strategy aims to address current and prospective needs over the next five years.	None.
	Lack of trust in the council (6 comments)	The Homelessness Strategic Assessment has provided an insight into the specific needs which must be addressed around homelessness in Southampton. We have used this information to develop a strategy for how to tackle homelessness in the next five years. We are developing an action plan which will detail how each action will be funded and delivered and who will be held accountable. We are determined to deliver on this strategy and achieve our vision to ensure everyone in Southampton has a safe place to call home.	None.
	Concerns around prioritising 'those most in need' / defining this / who this should be (23 comments)	The council has a responsibility to ensure people included in the reasonable preference categories are prioritised when allocating housing. This is to make sure that the most vulnerable people are protected and provided with safety. We are updating our Allocations Policy which will detail how housing allocations are prioritised.	None.
	Concerns around homelessness in city centres (5 comments)	The strategy aims to reduce homelessness and rough sleeping across the city, and as a result, reduce visible signs of homelessness in the city centre.	None.
	Suggestion - More financial assistance/benefits available for those in need (7 comments)	Our priority is to prevent people from becoming homeless and sleeping rough. We have included an action to guide people on the benefits and financial assistance they may be eligible for. We will also update our website to provide easily accessible high-quality advice and information.	None.
	Concerns around support often being declined (12 comments)	This strategy aims to improve the support we offer and ensure it meets the needs in the city. We will provide information and guidance to help prevent people from becoming homeless, we will review our front door offer to make sure people are aware of the support available. We will also work with partners to ensure our support is aligned and effective.	None.
	Questioning levels of support for asylum seekers / immigrants (8 comments)	The council will provide compassionate care and support for all people who are homeless and rough sleeping. For people who have Restricted Eligibility, we will make sure that they have clear information on the support available to them.	None.
	Concerns / suggestions around street begging (15 comments)	The strategy aims to support people who are homeless into accommodation and sustain life off the streets for good. This strategy aligns with our Safe City Strategy, which focuses on improving the safety in our city, including	None.

Consultation feedback		Officer response	Actions proposed
Broad themes	Further detail		
		reducing incidents of anti-social behaviour. You can find more information here: Safe City Strategy (southampton.gov.uk) .	
	Other suggestions around priorities to include (4 comments)	The strategy has ensured that these priorities have been informed by the Homelessness Strategic Assessment published in 2023 and therefore, aims to address the needs in the city.	None.
	Too much waffle / jargon within strategy (15 comments)	We have written a short version of the strategy, outlining the priorities and outcomes we aim to achieve. This will be published with the strategy.	A shorter version of the strategy has been written to accompany the full strategy.
	More details (including how / actions) needed within strategy (45 comments)	The action plan will be developed which will include detailed actions on how we will achieve the outcomes, how each action will be funded and who will be accountable for delivering the strategy.	None.

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Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-2029

Our vision

A city where everyone has a safe place to call home.

Local context

In Southampton, there are many households threatened with homelessness or experiencing homelessness.

- **Threatened with homelessness:** 5.3 per 1000 households. This is similar to the national average (5.6 per 1000 households).
- **Homeless:** 10.4 per 1000 households. This is significantly higher than the national average (6.1 per 1000 households).
- **Rough sleeping:** In 2022, 27 people were sleeping rough on a single night in Southampton. This was 3 times higher than in 2021 (9 people). The average number of rough sleeping on a single night in Southampton between 2010 and 2022 was 20.



Our solution



Delivering our plan

Our new Homelessness Prevention Board brings together the key partners in the city. Together, we will deliver our plan to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping in Southampton.

To achieve our goals listed below, we will develop a detailed action plan. We will update this every year to make sure we are on track.

Priority 1: Prevention

Help to reduce the risk of people becoming homeless.

What we want to achieve
1. A more integrated system to tackle homelessness.
2. Help households who are at risk of homelessness at the earliest point possible.
3. Clear ways for vulnerable groups to find a home.
4. Become a better “corporate parent,” helping care leavers find and remain in a home. Local authorities are “corporate parents” which means they have a responsibility to the children and young people they look after.
5. An end to cycles of homelessness through education and supporting people to stay in their homes.
6. Use adaptability tools well to make sure people with physical needs can stay in their homes for longer if this is an option for them.

Priority 2 – Intervention

Intervene quickly to help people who are homeless and sleeping rough.

What we want to achieve
1. Quick interventions to help people who are threatened with homelessness. Use temporary accommodation when it is needed but try to find other housing options.
2. An easy way for people to receive advice and information they need to help resolve homelessness.
3. Supported accommodation that meets changing needs in the city.
4. Solutions and choices for people to help resolve their homelessness.
5. A workforce which uses sensitive, compassionate, and trauma-informed approaches when working with people who have experienced homelessness.

Priority 3 – Working Together

Combine skills, resources, and experience to tackle homelessness.

What we want to achieve
1. Strong partnerships which work together to tackle homelessness.
2. Better peer support network and engagement with service users.
3. A team which considers ways to stop people being evicted from their social homes and supports those who have been evicted.
4. Better working across the council to reduce the number of service users who lose their homes because of complex needs.
5. Better working within the council, sharing knowledge and experience, to find the best solutions for those experiencing (or threatened with) homelessness.
6. Effective working between the Housing teams and Adult Social Care teams.

Priority 4 – Housing Solutions

Exploring new ways to diversify accommodation and support options.

What we want to achieve
1. Efficient use of our resources to tackle homelessness across the city.
2. The most in need are prioritised for social housing.
3. Improved housing options for people to move into after temporary accommodation. As a result, reduced spending on, and time spent in temporary accommodation.
4. Improved relationships with Private Rented Sector (PRS) housing providers and landlords.
5. New temporary and permanent accommodation options across the city.
6. Appropriate housing options for people with complex needs.
7. Better housing options for people who have pets and are experiencing homelessness or are threatened by it.

Southampton

Strategic Assessment

Homelessness Prevention Review

Last Updated September 2023



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1 Introduction

Local authorities have a responsibility to help households threatened by homelessness or experiencing homelessness. Under the Homelessness Act 2002, local authorities are required to develop a strategic review to better understand homelessness in the local area. With this information, the local authority can develop a new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy to address the needs and tackle homelessness in the area. This Strategic Assessment will inform Southampton’s statutory Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-2029.

The Assessment defines “homelessness” and “threatened with homelessness” as outlined in [Section 175 of the 1996 Housing Act](#). This is detailed in [Appendix 1](#).

1.1 Scope of Review

The purpose of this review is to better understand homelessness in Southampton and determine the extent to which the population is homeless or at risk of becoming homelessness.

The review will consider current and future levels of homelessness in Southampton based on analysis of:

- any legislation or local policy changes that are likely to impact on levels of homelessness for particular groups in the district;
- statutory homelessness applications and acceptance;
- demographic profile of those who are statutory homeless;
- reasons for statutory homelessness;
- accommodation outcomes;
- rough sleepers;
- wider determinants of homelessness - factors which make individuals more likely to experience or be at risk of homelessness.

1.2 Context

Since the previous [Homelessness review 2017/2018](#), external events to Southampton have impacted homelessness in the city. This includes the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, political events, the rising cost of living and new legislation. In general, there is a rising demand for homelessness and housing services, with increasingly limited options to provide support and relief.

1.2.1 Covid-19 pandemic

In 2020, during the Covid-19 pandemic, the Government implemented an 'Everyone In' policy. This policy equipped local authorities with the mandate and resources to provide temporary accommodation for all rough sleepers to keep them safe during the pandemic. Around 37,000 rough sleepers in England were housed in temporary accommodation. The data reflects that there were virtually no rough sleepers during this period. However, [Shelter's](#) report estimated that of those 37,000 rough sleepers, more than 77% had not moved on into settled accommodation. This policy was a short-term solution, but it did not tackle the issue of limited affordable accommodation for people to move into.

1.2.2 Lack of affordable accommodation and the cost-of-living crisis

There is a UK-wide shortage of accommodation. There has been a [decline in national housebuilding](#), including social housing, halving in 50 years. In Southampton, there is a limited amount of space where new accommodation can be built. There is also a decline in the number of available social houses for rent due to many being purchased under the Right to Buy scheme. As a result, the demand for social housing in the city far exceeds the supply. The pool of private rented accommodation is also reducing as many landlords are selling up and exiting the sector due to various reasons, such as rising inflation.

The cost-of-living crisis with rising inflation and energy bills has made it much more challenging for residents to pay essential housing bills. Inflation has eroded the value of earnings. Unadjusted weekly earnings would need to increase by a further £56 for residents to negate the impact of inflation as of April 2023. The rise in interest rates has further impacted the affordability of mortgages for homeowners and prospective buyers. As well as this, welfare support, such as Universal Credit and the Local Housing Allowance, have not increased in line with rising costs.

As a result of tighter budgets, and limited affordable housing, many households in Southampton are increasingly at risk of becoming threatened with homelessness or experiencing homelessness.

1.2.3 New legislation

In April 2018, the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 introduced new homelessness duties (prevention duty and relief duty). This review has collected and analysed this new data.

The duties discussed in the strategic review are:

- **Prevention duty:** where a local authority must take reasonable steps to help someone threatened with homelessness within 56 days to secure accommodation.
- **Relief duty:** where a local authority must help an applicant who is already homeless secure accommodation for at least 6 months. The duty lasts 56 days and can only be extended if the household is not owed a main duty.
- **Main duty:** is provided where the relief duty has ended and the applicant has not been provided with accommodation for at least 6 months. A local authorities must provide an applicant with temporary or permanent accommodation. The applicant must be unintentionally homeless, eligible for assistance and have a priority need.

2 Assessment of Need

This section provides an overview of homelessness in Southampton, using nationally recorded data to benchmark against the national average and Office for National Statistics (ONS) Comparator Local Authorities. This section will also examine trends over time; however, these should be interpreted in light of legislation/policy changes and the Covid-19 pandemic.

2.1 Overview

Sections 2.1.1-2.1.4 outline data on statutory homelessness reported by local housing authorities to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) through quarterly Homelessness Case Level Information Collection (H-CLIC) returns. H-CLIC returns were introduced in April 2018 and replaced previously collected P1E forms, to respond to changes caused by the implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) of 2017¹. It records data on people who are threatened by homelessness in the next 56 days and (thus might be owed a duty of prevention), data on people who are actually homeless (including following the end of prevention duty) and might be owed a duty of relief, and data on people who following the end of relief duty are unintentionally homeless and in priority need (and thus might be owed a main duty). Demographic information, accommodation outcomes at the end of each type of duty, and temporary accommodation data are also included.

Section 2.1.5 analyses data collected by DLUHC from local authorities on rough sleeping, through the annual autumn counts and the monthly rough sleeping survey. Autumn counts offer a yearly snapshot of rough sleeping on a single night in autumn across England. The autumn counts are based on evidence-based estimations or actual count-based estimations of visible rough-sleeping carried out by each local authority on a date between the beginning of October and end of November.

DLUHC also collect and publish management information regarding the support offered to people who rough sleep or are at risk of rough sleeping, through the monthly rough sleeping survey. Using a similar methodology to the autumn count, the management information

¹ DLUHC 2023. Statutory Homelessness July to September (Q3) 2022: England Technical Notes , available at [Statutory homelessness: technical note \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk) accessed March 29th 2023.

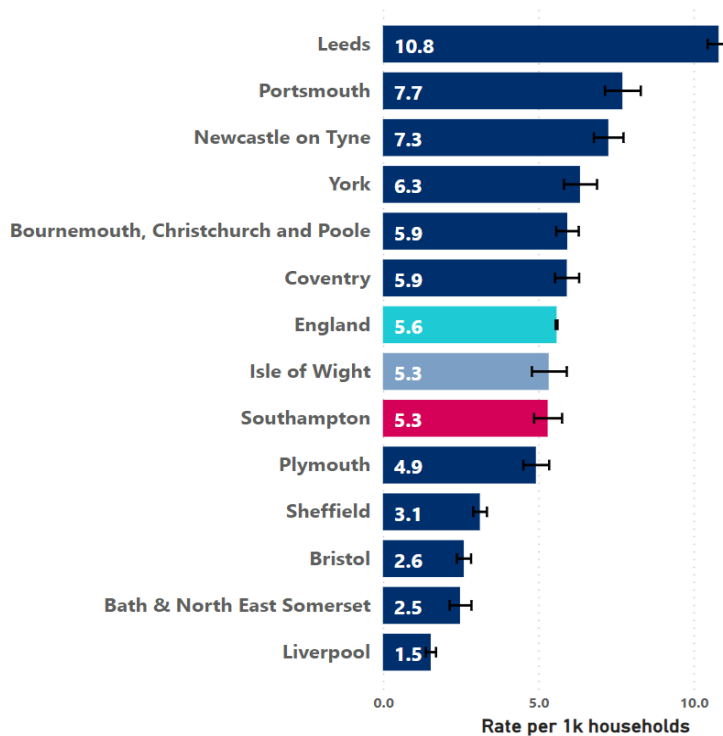
offers more timely data.² Data is published quarterly, with the most recent data available covering the period between June 2020 and December 2022.

2.1.1 Statutory Homeless Applications and Acceptance

Households threatened by homelessness

Southampton had an overall rate of 5.3 households threatened by homelessness per 1k households in 2021/22, which was similar to the national average (5.6 per 1k households) and 6th lowest among comparators. Notably, Southampton had a significantly lower rate of households threatened by homelessness compared to Portsmouth (7.7 per 1k households) (Figure 2.1).

Figure 2.1: Households assessed as threatened by homelessness (within the next 56 days) - Southampton and ONS Comparators (rate per 1k households): 2021/22



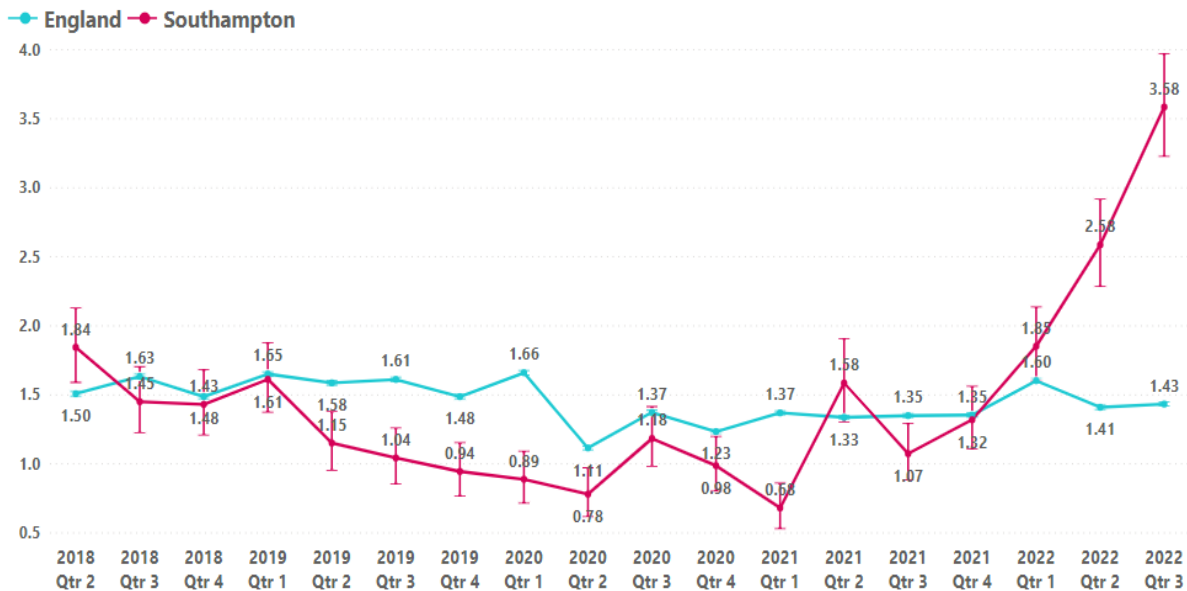
Source: DLUHC 2022 - Statutory homelessness in England: Financial year 2021/22

² DLUHC.2023. Rough sleeping snapshot in England: autumn 2022 -technical report, available at [Rough sleeping snapshot in England: autumn 2022 - technical report - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1141412/rough-sleeping-snapshot-in-england-autumn-2022-technical-report.pdf), accessed March 17th 2023.

Figure 2.2 shows the quarterly trend in households assessed as threatened by homelessness (rate per 1k households) between April-June 2018 and July-September 2022. It is important to note that numbers over a quarter are small, which explains the variability in the Southampton trend.

The Southampton rate experienced an overall decrease from April-June 2018 (1.84 per 1k households) to January-March 2021 (0.68 per 1k households). However, in the last four quarters (October-December 2021 to July-September 2022), Southampton has experienced a sustained increase in the rate of households threatened by homelessness, with the Southampton rate significantly higher than the national average for the most recent three quarters (Q1 to Q3 2022). During Covid-19, many people stayed with family and friends and tenants were protected from evictions due to the evictions ban. With an end to the pandemic and a lift of the evictions ban in 2021, family and friends have encouraged their guests to find other accommodation and more tenants have been issued with eviction notices by their landlords. This may be a reason for the increase in the rate of household threatened by homelessness since the end of 2021. Another reason may be due to the budget pressures of the cost-of-living crisis.

Figure 2.2: Households assessed as threatened by homelessness (within the next 56 days) - Southampton and England quarterly trend (rate per 1k households): 2018-2022



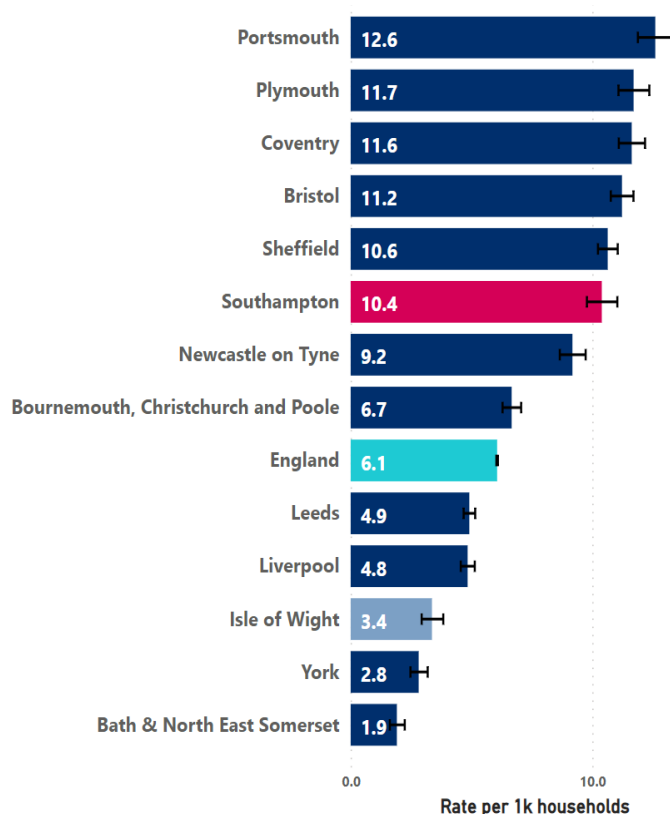
Source: DLUHC 2022 - Statutory homelessness in England: Quarterly data 2018-2022

*Quarterly trend since 2018 was examined to allow for more data points. Therefore, rates will appear smaller as annual data (above figure) is an aggregate of households assessed as threatened by homelessness over the financial year.

Households assessed as homeless

The rate of households in Southampton assessed as homeless (10.4 per 1k households) is significantly higher than the national average (6.1 per 1k households, 2021/22) and several comparators (Figure 2.3).

Figure 2.3: Households assessed as homeless (rate per 1k households) - Southampton and ONS Comparators: 2021/22

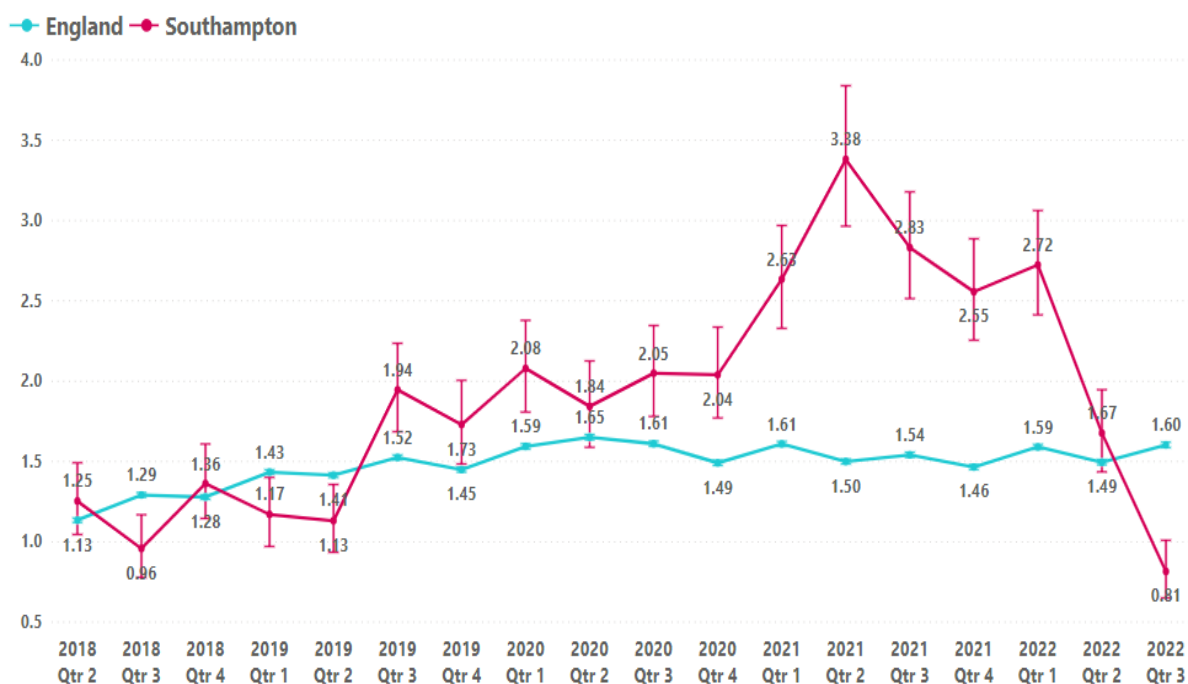


Source: DLUHC 2022 - Statutory homelessness in England: Financial year 2021/22

The rate of households assessed as homeless in Southampton experienced an overall increase between April-June 2018 (rate of 1.25 per 1k households) and April-June 2021 (3.38 per 1k households) (Figure 2.4). However, since April-June 2021, the Southampton trend has experienced an overall decline, falling to a low of 0.81 households assessed as homeless per 1k households in July-September 2022, which is significantly lower than the national average (1.6 per 1k households).

Whilst Southampton has seen an increase in the rate of households being threatened by homelessness in 2022, it has also seen a corresponding decrease in actual homelessness rates.

Figure 2.4: Households assessed as being homeless in Southampton and England (rate per 1k households): Quarterly data 2018-2022



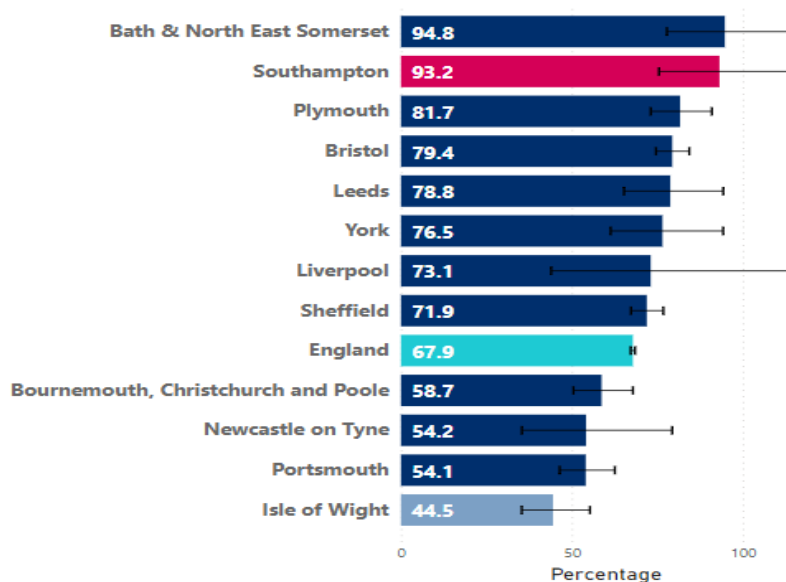
Source: DLUHC 2022 - Statutory homelessness in England: Quarterly data 2018-2022

*Quarterly trend since 2018 was examined to allow for more data points. Therefore, rates will appear smaller as annual data (above figure) is an aggregate of households assessed as homeless over the financial year.

Households assessed as homeless, in priority need for which a main duty was accepted

Following the relief duty period, if households are still unintentionally homeless and in priority need, they might be owed a main duty. Most of the households (96, 93.2%) in 2021/22 (**Error! Not a valid bookmark self-reference.**) assessed for a main duty after relief duty ended were accepted. The rate of acceptance of main duty following the relief stage in Southampton is one of the highest among ONS comparators, being significantly higher than England (67.9%). This may be due to vulnerability, a lack of other accommodation, and a decrease in private rental market. The Southampton acceptance rate of main duties owed after relief duty has remained relatively stable over time and has remained consistently higher than the national average since 2018.

Figure 2.5: Percentage of households at the end of relief stage, assessed as unintentionally homeless and in priority need for which a main duty was accepted – Southampton and ONS comparators: 2021/22

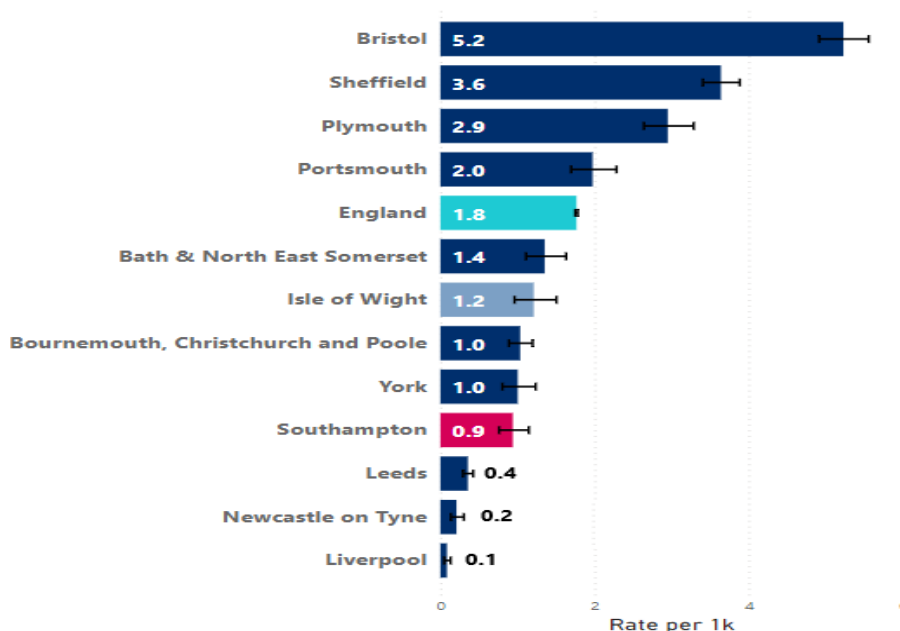


Source: DLUHC 2022 – Statutory homelessness in England: Financial year 2021/22

* Expressed as a percentage of total number of eligible households for which a main duty decision has been made at the end of relief duty.

The overall rate of households within Southampton owed a main duty was relatively low (0.9 per 1k households) in comparison to a number of ONS comparators in 2021/2022 (Figure 2.6). Rates were notably lower in Southampton compared to Bristol (5.2 per 1k households), Sheffield (3.6), Plymouth (2.9) and Portsmouth (2.0), with the national rate (1.8) double the Southampton rate (0.9). Smaller main duty rates in comparison to Southampton could be found only in Leeds (0.4 per 1k households), Newcastle on Tyne (0.2) and Liverpool (0.1).

Figure 2.6: Households assessed as homeless, in priority need and unintentionally homeless for which a main duty had been accepted per 1k households in Southampton and ONS comparators: 2021/22

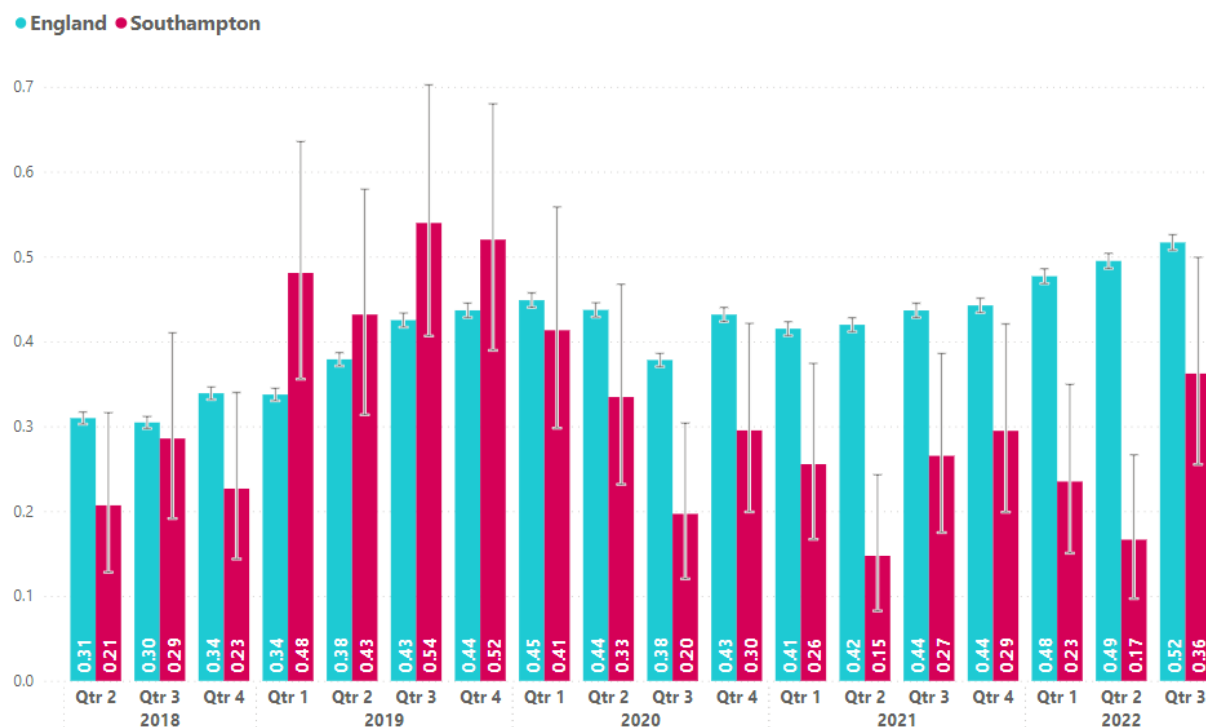


Source: DLUHC 2022 – Statutory homelessness in England: Financial year 2021/22

Overall, the rate of households assessed as being unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and as such accepted as being owed a main duty, has remained relatively low both in Southampton and nationally (

Figure 2.7) between 2018 and 2022. Despite some variation, Southampton's rate has remained consistently lower than the national level since mid-2020.

Figure 2.7: Households assessed as homeless, in priority need and unintentionally homeless for which a main duty had been accepted per 1k households in Southampton and England: Quarterly data 2018-2022



Source: DLUHC 2022 – Statutory homelessness in England: Quarterly data 2018-2022

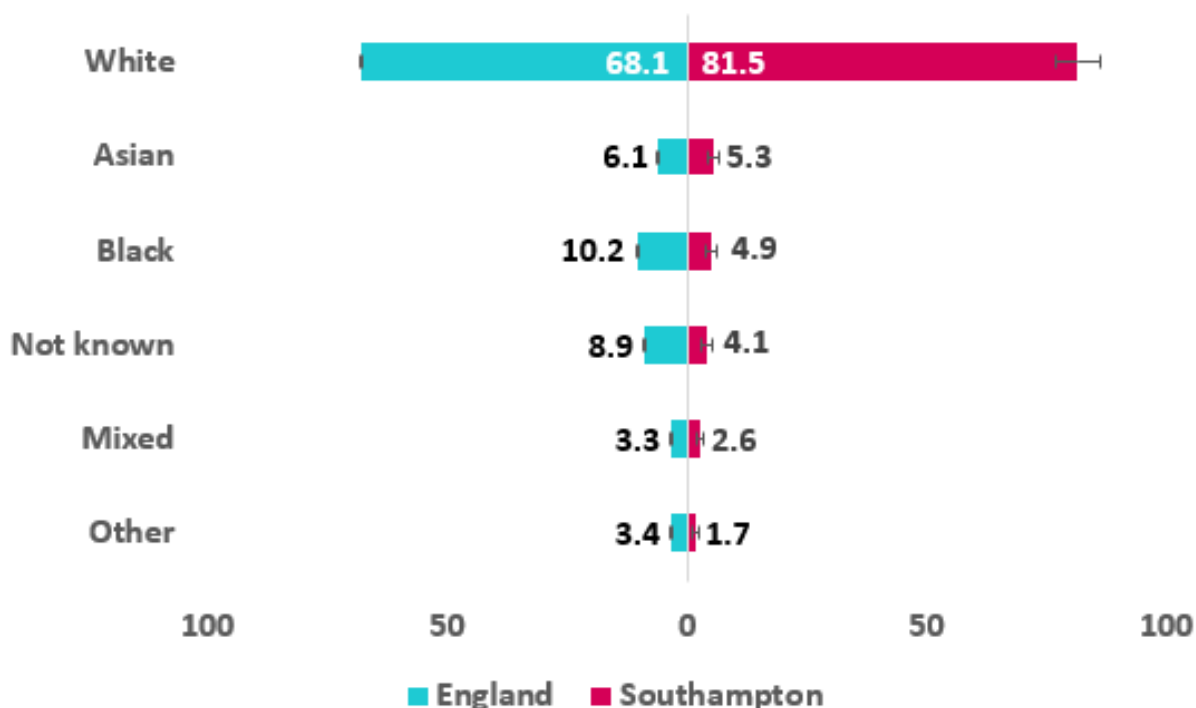
*Quarterly trend since 2018 was examined to allow for more data points. Therefore, rates will appear smaller as annual data (above figure) is an aggregate of households for which a main duty had been accepted over the financial year.

The main duty is only owed if the household is not provided with accommodation during the relief stage, remains unintentionally homeless and has a priority need. Therefore, the fact that the overall rate of households owed a main duty is relatively low shows that Southampton has been relatively successful in providing accommodation for people within 56 days during the relief stage.

2.1.2 Demographic Profile for those who are Statutory Homeless

Most of the people who have either been assessed as being threatened by homelessness in the next 56 days or as homeless in Southampton during the financial year 2021/22 (Figure 2.8) were white (1,307, 81.5%). The profile of Southampton applicants is in line with the local demographic profile, with 80.7% of the Southampton population classed as white in the 2021 Census.

Figure 2.8: Ethnicity profile of the main applicant of households assessed as homeless or threatened by homelessness (%) in Southampton and England: 2021/22

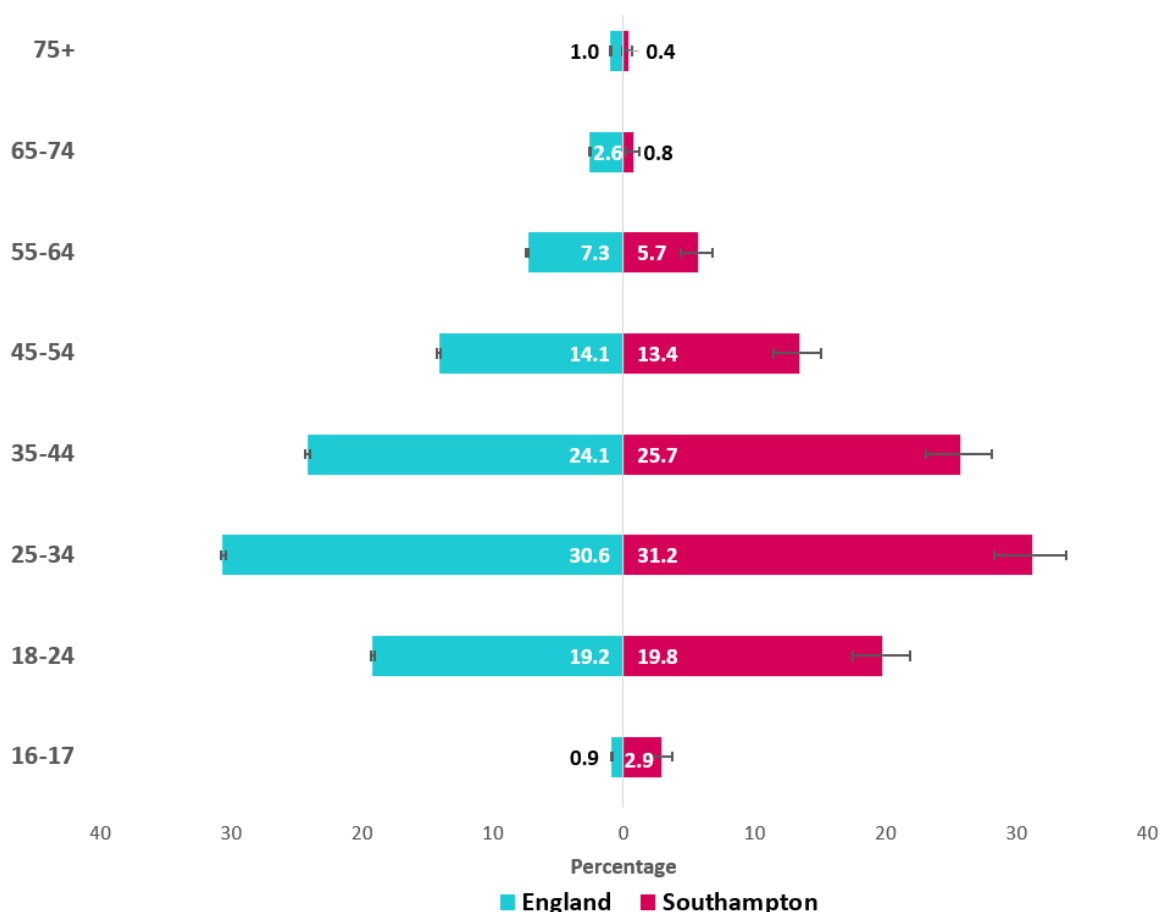


Source: DLUHC 2022 – Statutory homelessness in England: Financial year 2021/22

Most people threatened by homelessness or homeless in Southampton during 2021/22 were relatively young, belonging to the 18-24 (318, 19.8%) 25-34 (501, 31.2%), 35-44 (412, 25.7%) and 45-54 (215, 13.4%) age groups (

Figure 2.9). The age profile of people threatened by homelessness or who were homeless in Southampton during 2021/22 was similar to the national profile, except for those aged 16-17 years and above 55 years where there are slight differences. 16-17 years olds made up a higher percentage of the homeless and threatened by homeless population in Southampton (46, 2.9%) compared to England (0.9%). However, it is important to highlight that numbers are small and therefore differences should be interpreted with caution. Southampton had a smaller proportion of those aged 55-64, 65-74 and 75 and over (92, 5.7% | 13, 0.8% and 7, 0.4% respectively), in comparison to England (7.3%, 2.6%, and 1% respectively).

Figure 2.9: Age profile of main applicant of households assessed as homeless or threatened by homelessness (%) in Southampton and England: 2021/22

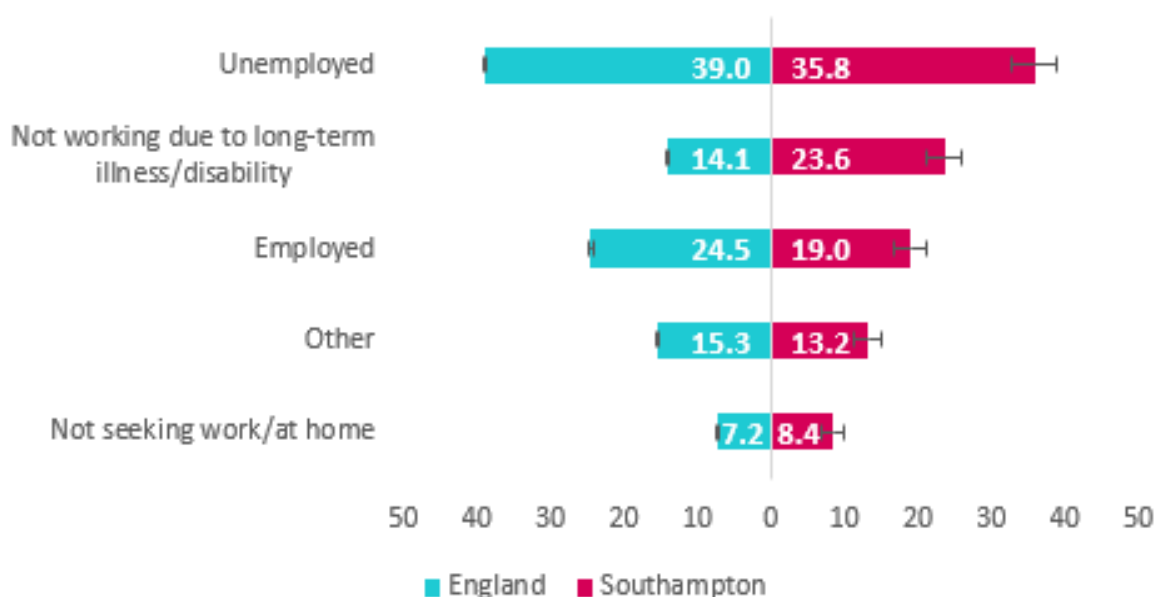


Source: DLUHC 2022 – Statutory homelessness in England: Financial year 2021/22

35.8% (575) of the people assessed as homeless or threatened by homelessness in Southampton for the 2021/22 financial year were unemployed, 23.6% (378) were not working due to long-term illness or disability, 19% (304) were employed, 13.2% (212) fell in the “Other” category and 8.4% (135) were not seeking work or at home (Figure 2.10). Southampton’s profile is similar to national, except for the “not working due to long-term illness or disability” category where the percentage in Southampton (23.6%) is significantly higher than the national average (14.1%) and for the “Employed” category, where the percentage for Southampton is 19%, significantly lower than the national level of 24.5%.

In Southampton, 56.6% (172) of the “Employed” category were full-time workers, while 43.4% (132) were part-time workers. Most of the people in the “Unemployed” category were registered unemployed (550, 95.7%), while a small number were unregistered unemployed that were looking for work (25, 4.3%). The “Other” category includes “Student/training” (28, 13.2%), “Retired” (17, 8%), “Other” (145, 68.4%) and “Unknown” (22, 10.4%).

Figure 2.10: Employment status of main applicant of households assessed as homeless or threatened by homelessness (%) in Southampton and England: 2021/22



Source: DLUHC 2022 – Statutory homelessness in England: Financial year 2021/22

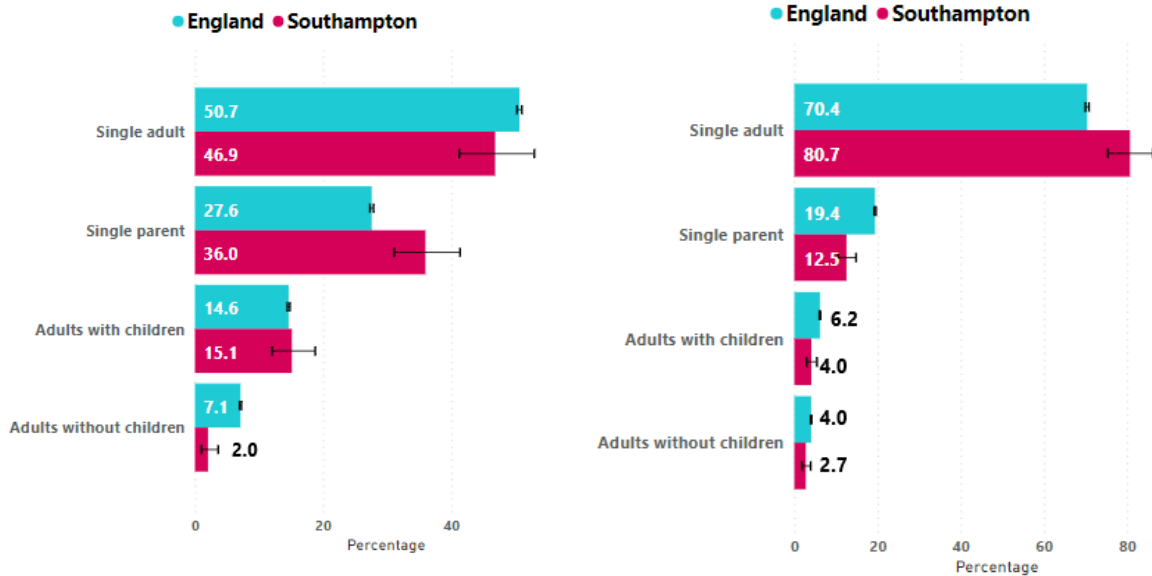
Most people who were assessed as homeless or threatened by homelessness in 2021/22, were single people (Figure 2.11), with single applicants accounting for 46.9% (254) of people threatened by homelessness and 80.7% (857) of those assessed as homeless in Southampton. While men made up 54.7% (139) of single people threatened by homelessness, they made up 75.1% (644) of those assessed as homeless. Single parents were the second most frequent category among both homeless (12.5%, 133) and threatened by homelessness (36%, 195). In both cases, women made up most single parents (88% (117) of homeless single parents and 92.3% (180) of those threatened by homelessness). The third most frequent category were couples or two or more adults with dependent children; representing 15.1% (82) of those threatened by homelessness and 4% (43) of those assessed as homeless. In both cases, the rest was made up of adults without dependent children (2% (11) of those threatened by homelessness and 2.7% (29) of those assessed as homeless).

Compared to the national average, the percentage of single parents threatened by homelessness in Southampton (36%) was higher (27.6% in England) and so was the percentage of single homeless adults in Southampton (80.7% compared to only 70.4% in England). However, there was a slightly lower percentage of homeless single parents in Southampton (12.5%) in comparison to England (19.4%).

Figure 2.11: Composition of households assessed as homeless or threatened by homelessness (%) in Southampton and England: 2021/22

a. Threatened by homelessness

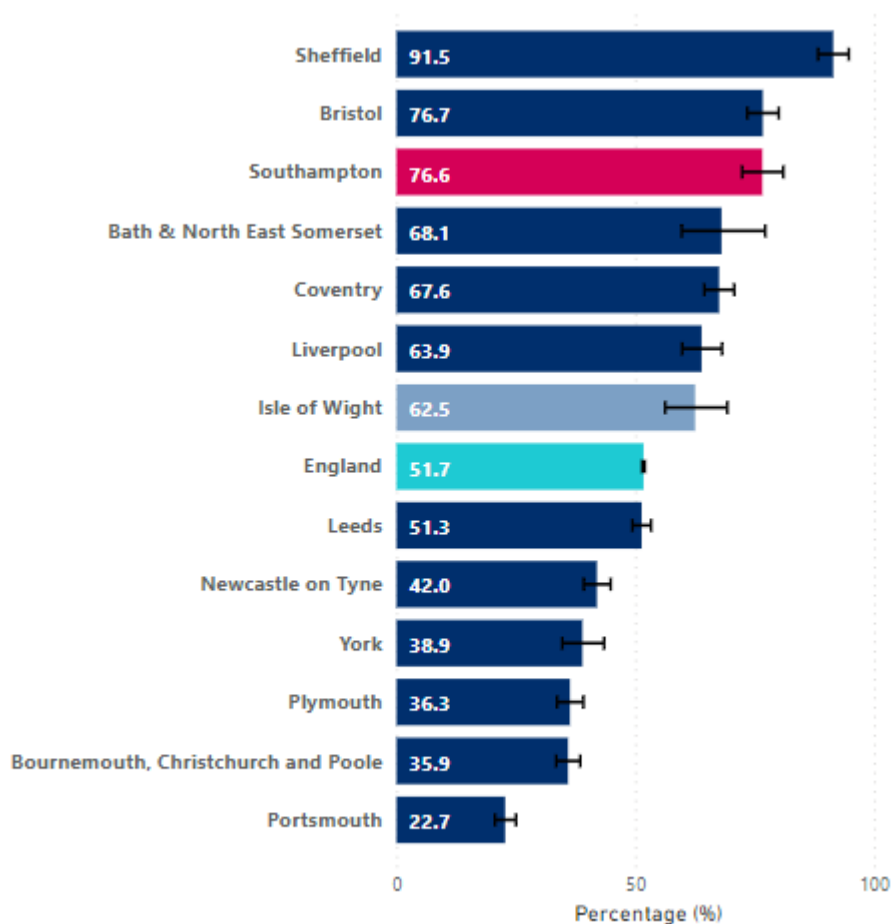
b. Homeless



Source: DLUHC 2022 – Statutory homelessness in England: Financial year 2021/22

Southampton had one of the highest percentages of households with additional support needs (1,229, 76.6%) (out of those households for which a duty of prevention or relief of homelessness was accepted) in 2021/22 (Figure 2.12), highlighting the complexity of Southampton’s homeless cohort. The rate of households with additional support needs in Southampton was similar to Bristol (76.7%) and to Bath & Northeast Somerset (68.1%), but significantly higher than in England (51.7%).

Figure 2.12: Percentage of households with support needs out of the total households for which a duty of prevention or relief has been accepted (%) in Southampton and ONS comparators: 2021/22

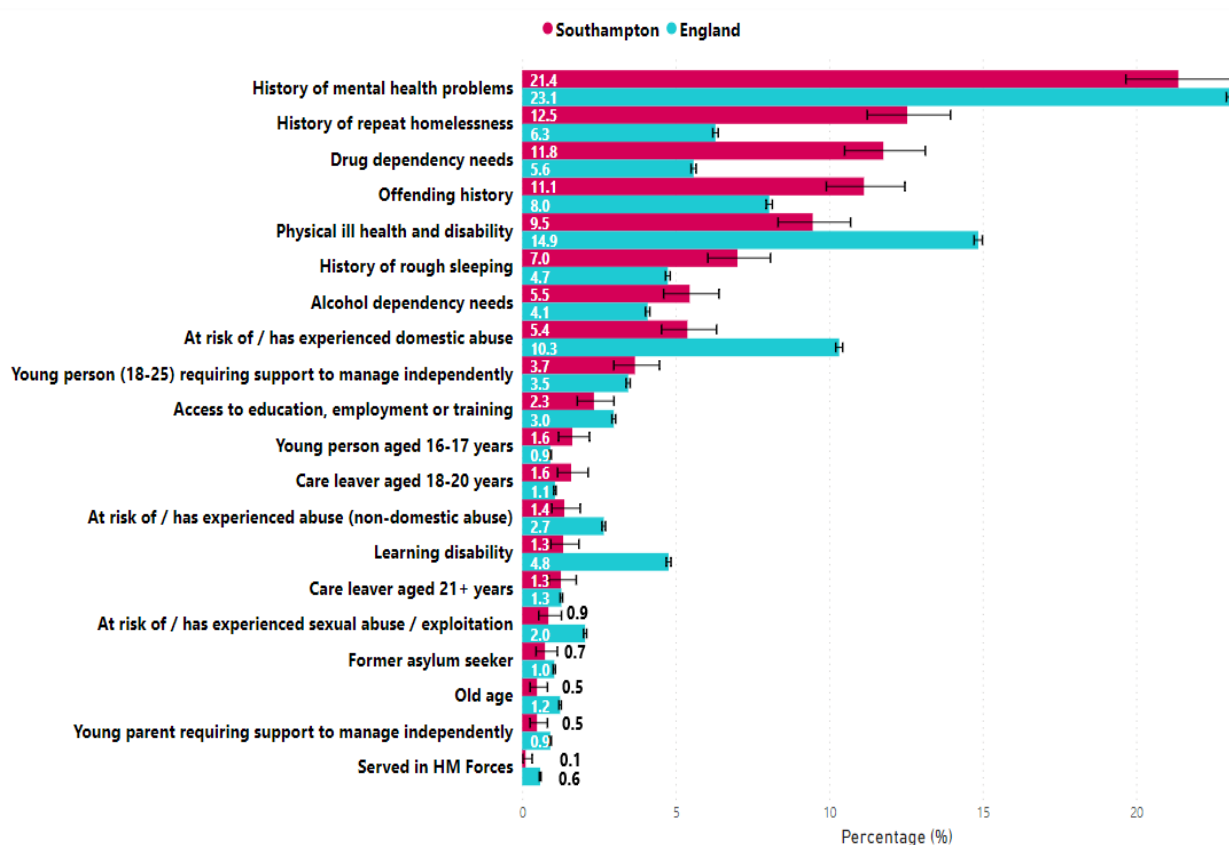


Source: DLUHC 2022 – Statutory homelessness in England: Financial year 2021/22

Figure 2.13 shows the frequency (%) of each support need in Southampton and England. It is important to note that each household can have more than one support need and the percentage below is expressed as the number of support needs by category divided by the total number of support needs, rather than the number of households with support needs. The top five support needs of households owed a prevention or relief duty in Southampton, making up 66.3% of all needs, were a history of mental health problems (21.4% of needs), a history of repeat homelessness (12.5% of needs), drug dependency needs (11.8%), having a history of offending (11.1%) and having physically ill health or a disability (9.5%). Among these, Southampton had significantly higher levels of needs in comparison to the national level when it came to a history of repeat homelessness (12.5% compared to 6.3% in England), drug dependency needs (11.8% compared to 5.6%) and a history of offending (11.1%

compared to 8%), and a significantly lower rate when it came to physically ill health or disability (9.5% compared to 14.9%).

Figure 2.13: Breakdown by type of support need (%) in Southampton and England: 2021/22

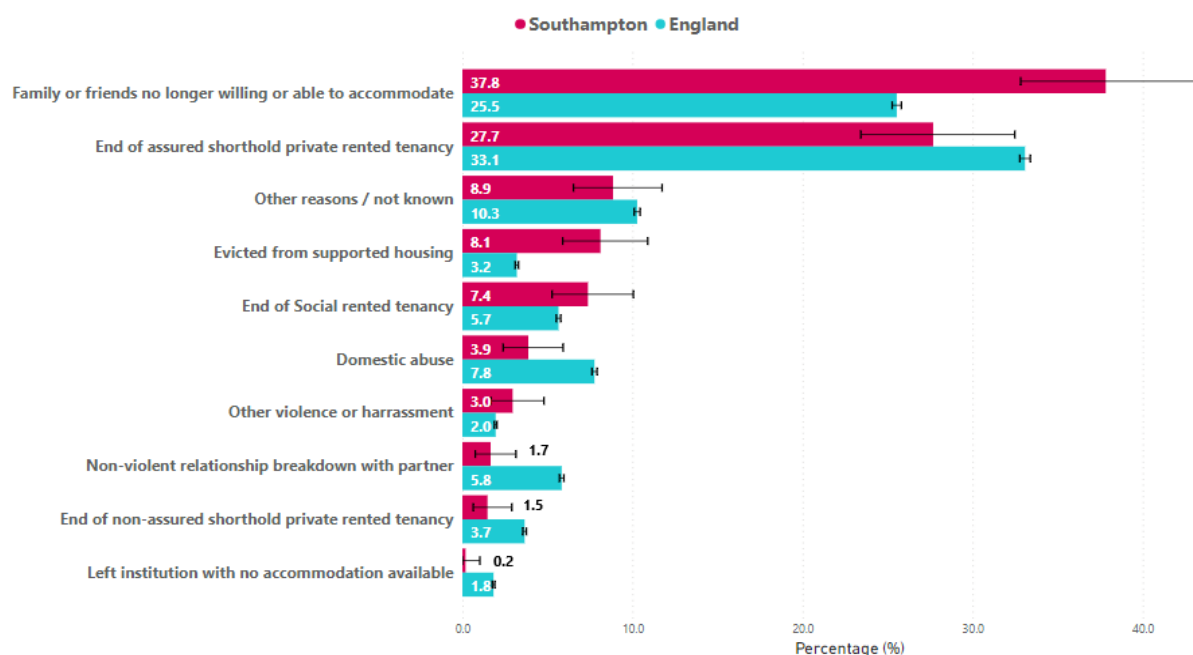


Source: DLUHC 2022 – Statutory homelessness in England: Financial year 2021/22

2.1.3 Reasons for Statutory Homelessness

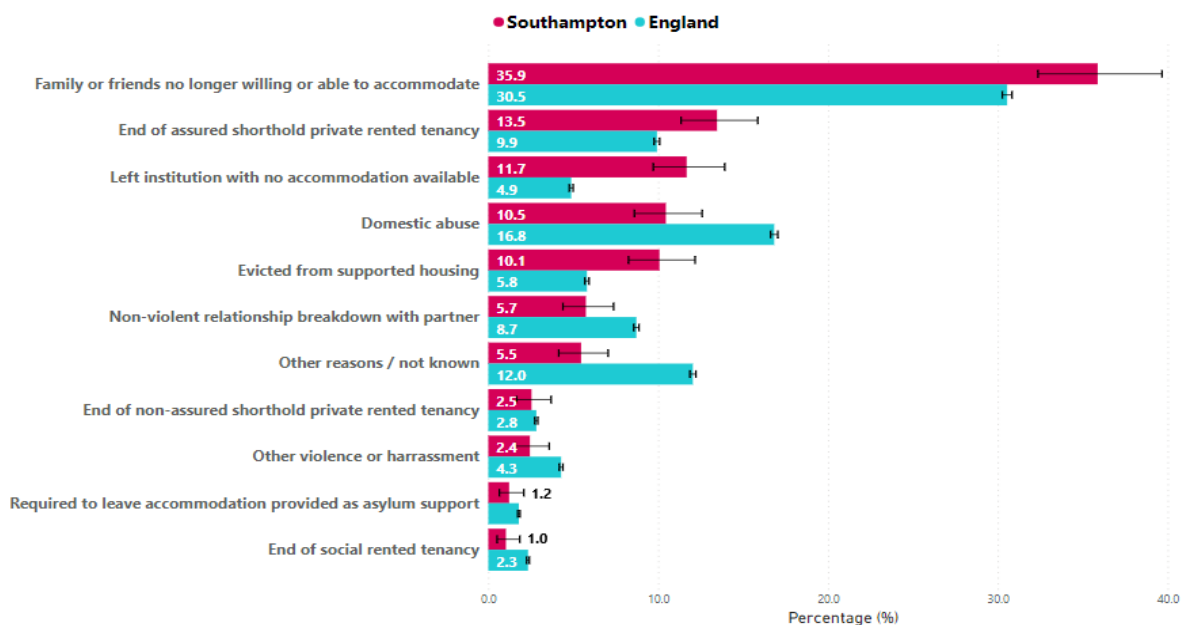
The most frequent reason for households being threatened by homelessness in Southampton during 2021/22 (Figure 2.14) was family and friends no longer willing or able to accommodate (205, 37.8%), which is significantly higher compared to England (25.5%). The second most frequent reason was the end of assured shorthold privately rented tenancy (150, 27.7%). Similar patterns are also observed for households assessed as homeless (Figure 2.15), with family and friends no longer willing or able to accommodate (381, 35.9%) and the end of assured shorthold privately rented tenancy (143, 13.5%) top for Southampton in 2021/22. It is important to note that counts are small at a Southampton level and only present the cohort over one year.

Figure 2.14: Reasons for homelessness of households assessed as threatened by homelessness (%) in Southampton and England: 2021/22



Source: DLUHC 2022 – Statutory homelessness in England: Financial year 2021/22

Figure 2.15: Reasons for homelessness among households assessed as homeless (%) in Southampton and England: 2021/22



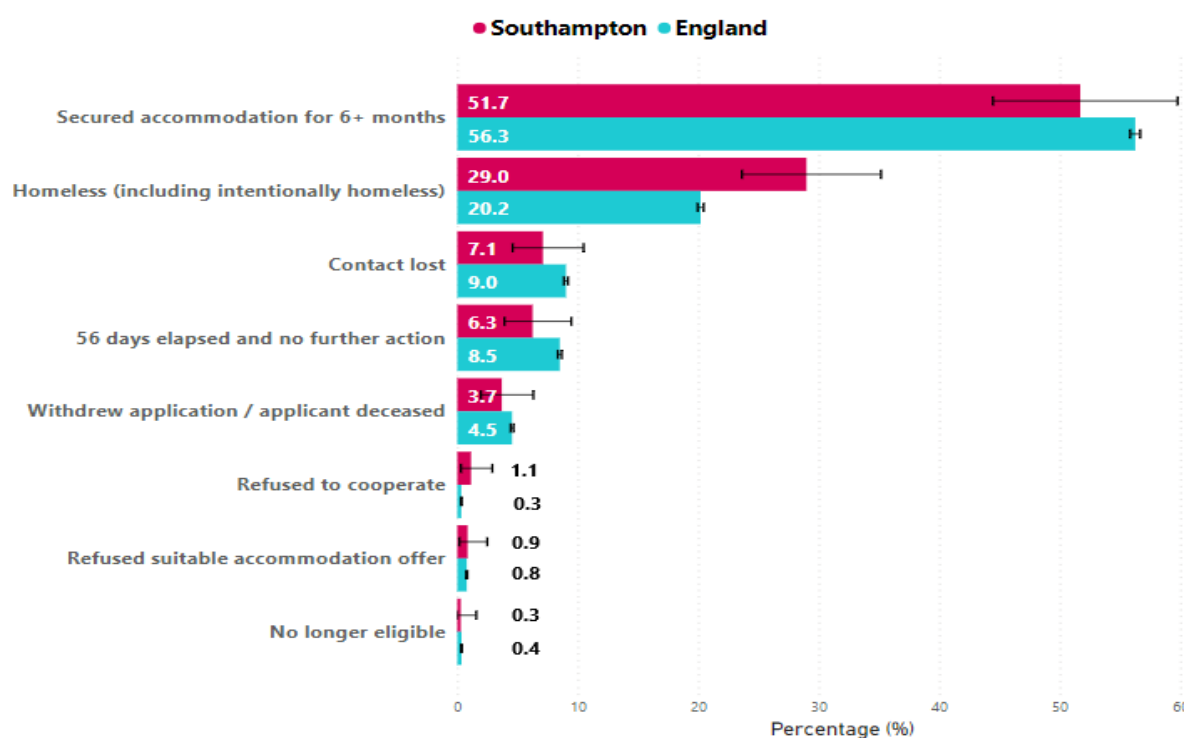
Source: DLUHC 2022 – Statutory homelessness in England: Financial year 2021/22

2.1.4 Accommodation Outcomes

This subsection looks at outcomes at each stage of the process of preventing and/or relieving homelessness, highlighting the percentage of people that have been supported in securing temporary and long-term accommodation.

Figure 2.16 shows the outcomes at the end of the prevention duty for people threatened by homelessness within 56 days. For the financial year 2021/22, just over half of the households threatened by homelessness in Southampton (182, 51.7%) secured accommodation for six months or more. This is lower, but not significantly, than the national average (56.3%). The second most common outcome at the end of prevention duty was households became homeless (102, 29%). This was a significantly higher proportion of households compared to the national average (20.2%). The third and fourth most frequent outcomes in Southampton were either to have lost contact with the household (25, 7.1%) or that 56 days elapsed, and no further action was taken (22, 6.3%), with these proportions lower, but not significantly compared to the national average (9% and 8.5% respectively).

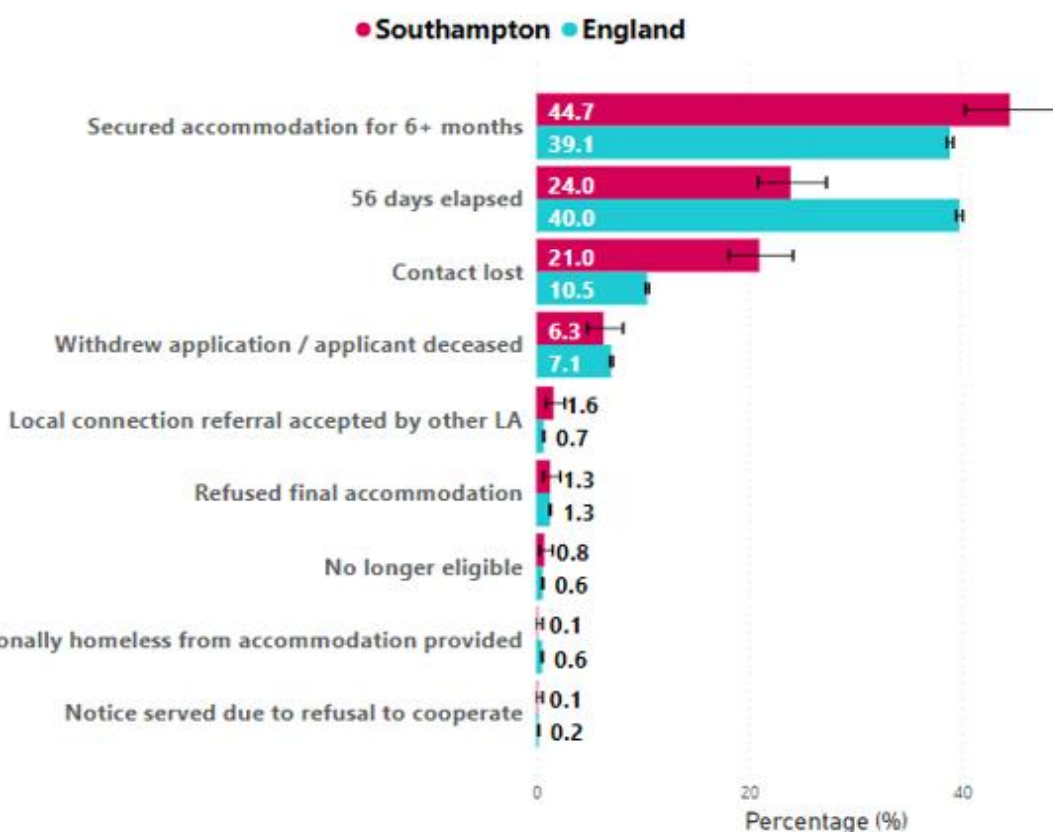
Figure 2.16: Outcomes at the end of duty to prevent homelessness (%) in Southampton and England: 2021/22



Source: DLUHC 2022 – Statutory homelessness in England: Financial year 2021/22

Figure 2.17 shows the outcomes for households at the end of the duty to relieve homelessness. The most frequent outcome in Southampton during 2021/22 was having secured accommodation for six months or more; occurring in 44.7% (410) of the cases, which is significantly higher than at the national average (39.1%). The second most frequent outcome in Southampton was that duty ended due to 56 days having elapsed (220, 24%), which is significantly lower compared to the national average (40%). The third most frequent outcome was having lost contact, occurring in 21% (193) of the cases in Southampton, significantly higher and more than double the national rate (10.5%).

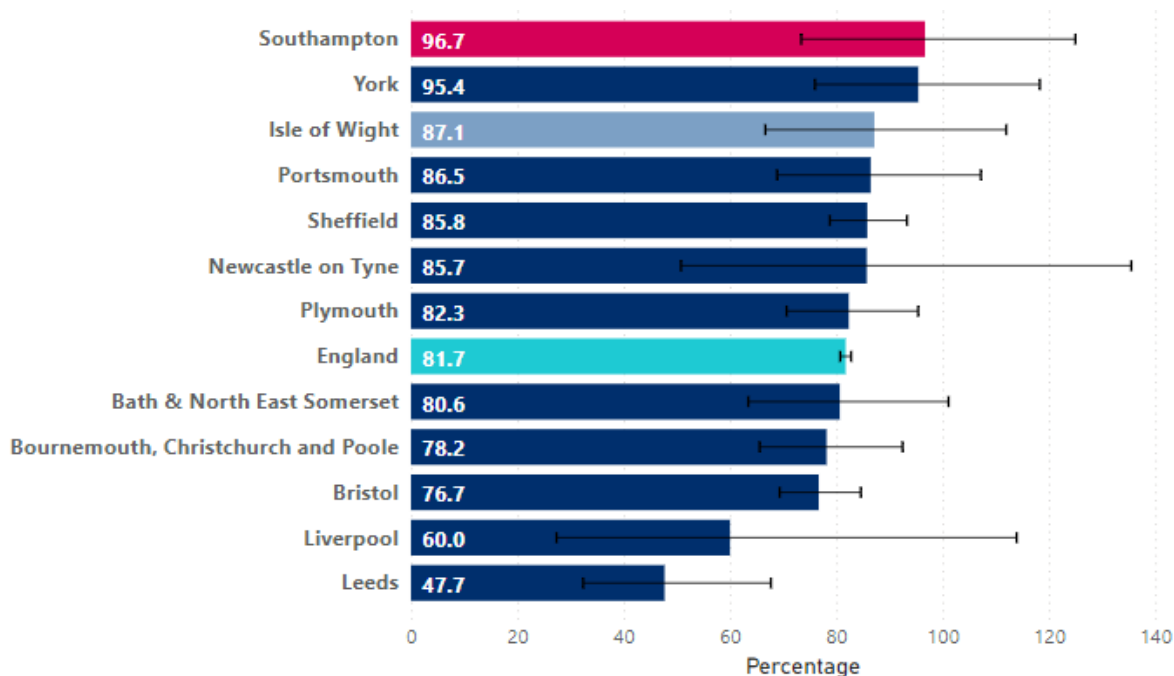
Figure 2.17: Outcomes at the end of duty to relieve homelessness (%) in Southampton and England: 2021/22



Source: DLUHC 2022 – Statutory homelessness in England: Financial year 2021/22

Most households finding themselves at the end of main duty were offered socially or privately rented accommodation in Southampton during 2021/22 (Figure 2.18). The percentage of households offered accommodation in Southampton (58, 96.7%) and therefore, ending the main duty, was the highest among its ONS comparators. Although, the difference is not statistically significant, except from Leeds (31, 47.7%).

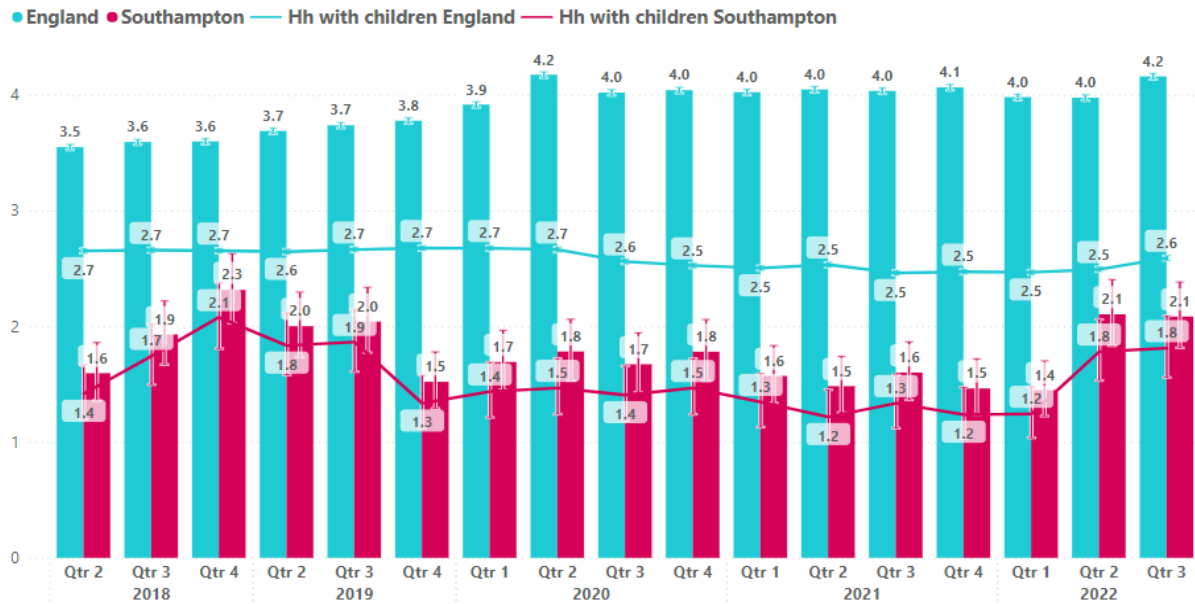
Figure 2.18: Percentage of household offered social or privately rented accommodation out of the total number of households whose main duty ended in Southampton and ONS comparators: 2021/22



Source: DLUHC 2022 – Statutory homelessness in England: Financial year 2021/22

To prevent or relieve homelessness, local authorities can also offer households temporary accommodation. Snapshot figures from the end of each quarter between 2018 and 2022 (Figure 2.19) shows that the rate of all households in temporary accommodation per 1k households in Southampton varied from 1.6 (162 households) in the second quarter in 2018 to 2.1 (213 households) in the third quarter of 2022. Compared to Southampton, England had significantly higher rates both for all households and households with children and rates have been relatively stable over time.

Figure 2.19: All households and households with children in temporary accommodation (rate per 1k households) in Southampton and England: Quarterly data 2018-2022

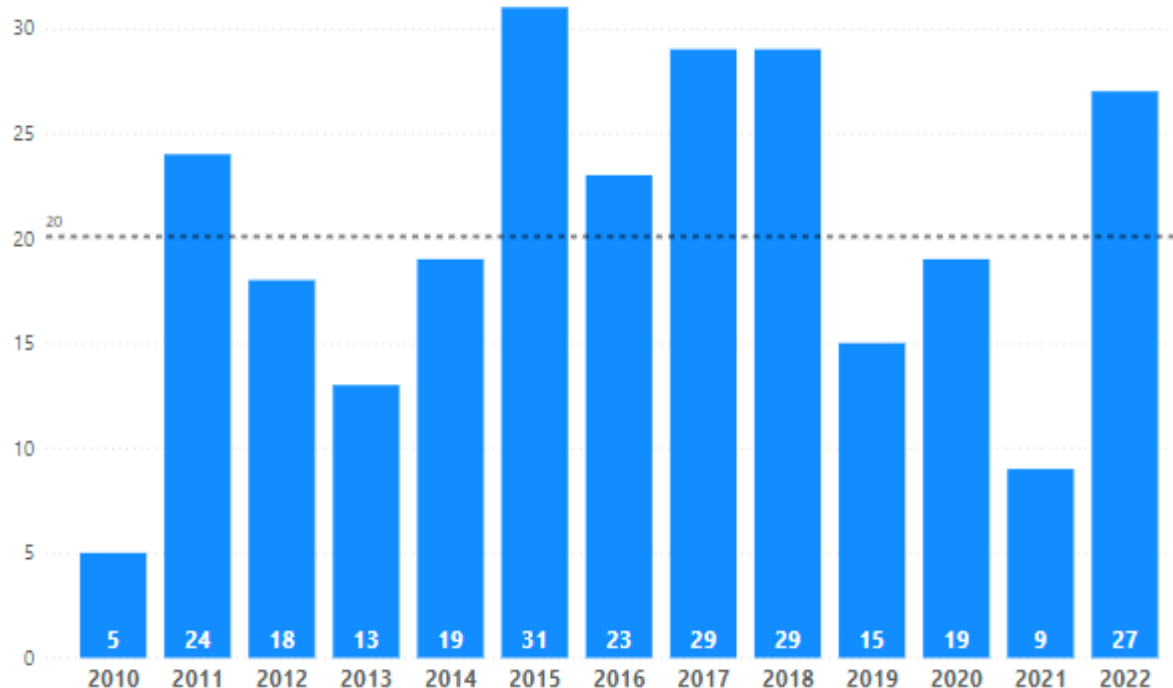


Source: DLUHC 2022 – Statutory homelessness in England: Quarterly data 2018-2022

2.1.5 People who are Rough Sleeping

Based on Autumn count data the number of people rough sleeping on a single night in Southampton was three times higher in 2022 (27 people) compared to 2021 (9 people). Looking at trends over time, the average count between 2010 and 2022 was 20 people a year, with the 2022 count (27 people) above this average (Figure 2.20).

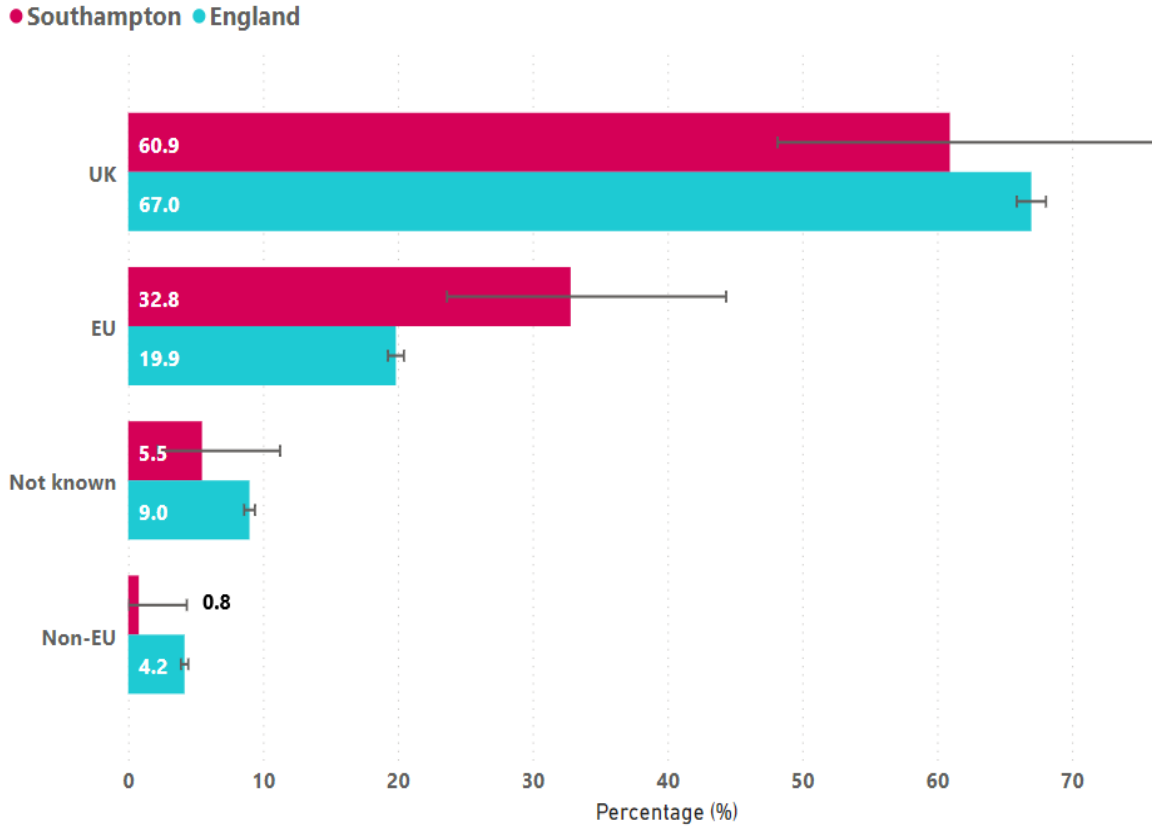
Figure 2.20: Number of people rough sleeping (autumn count) in Southampton: 2010 – 2022



Source: DLUHC 2023 – Rough sleeping in England: Autumn count 2010-2022

The demographic profile of rough sleepers in Southampton is similar to that of rough sleepers at the national level. 107 (83.6%) of the 128 people rough sleeping between 2017 and 2022 on a single night in autumn in Southampton have been men, compared to 83.7% at the national level. 78 (60.9%) of the 128 rough sleepers in Southampton were UK nationals in Southampton (Figure 2.21); similar to national (67%). However, EU nationals represent a significantly higher percentage in Southampton (42, 32.8%) than in England (19.9%), but it is important to note that overall counts are small.

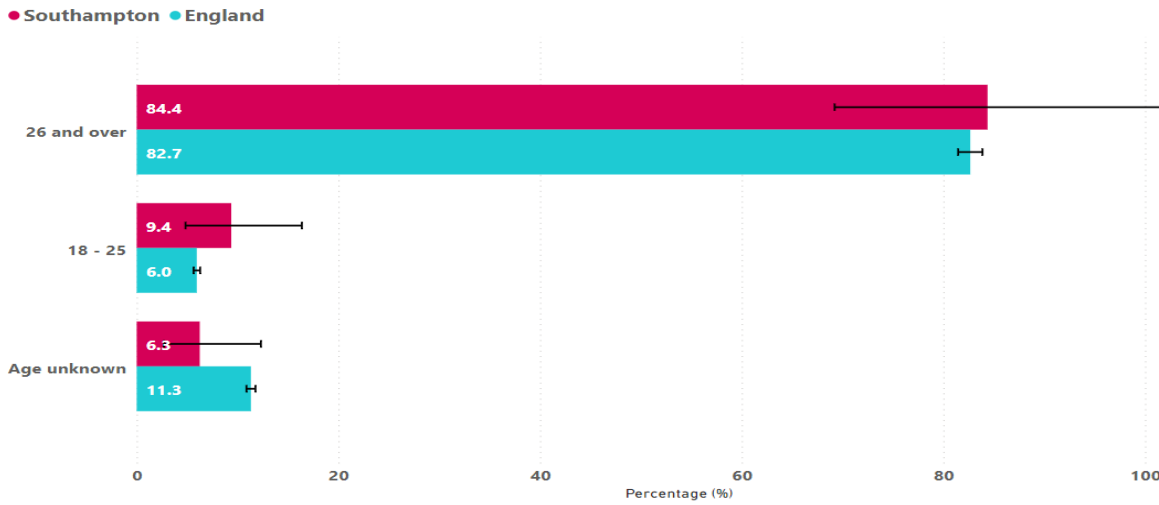
Figure 2.21: Aggregate ethnic composition of people sleeping rough (autumn count) in Southampton and England: 2017-2022



Source: DLUHC 2023 – Rough sleeping in England: Autumn count 2017-2022

The age distribution of rough sleepers in Southampton is similar to the national profile, with most rough sleepers included in autumn counts between 2017 and 2022 in Southampton (108, 84.4%) and in England (82.7%) being adults aged 26 and over (Figure 2.22).

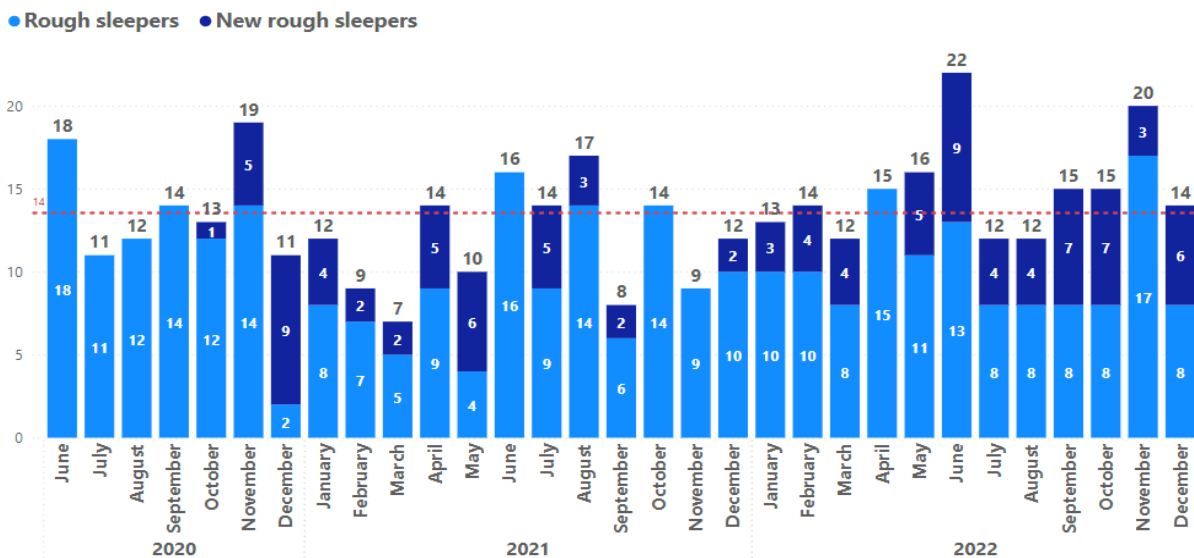
Figure 2.22: Overall age composition of people sleeping rough (autumn count) in Southampton and England: 2017-2022



Source: DLUHC 2023 – Rough sleeping in England: Autumn count 2017-2022

According to data from the monthly report on rough sleeping, there were on average 14 people rough sleeping on a single night in Southampton between 2020 and 2022 (Figure 2.23). On average, 4 of the people rough sleeping on a single night were new to rough sleeping. More recent data seems to indicate that there has been an increase to rough sleeping, including a large cohort of people with restricted eligibility and people with no local connection.

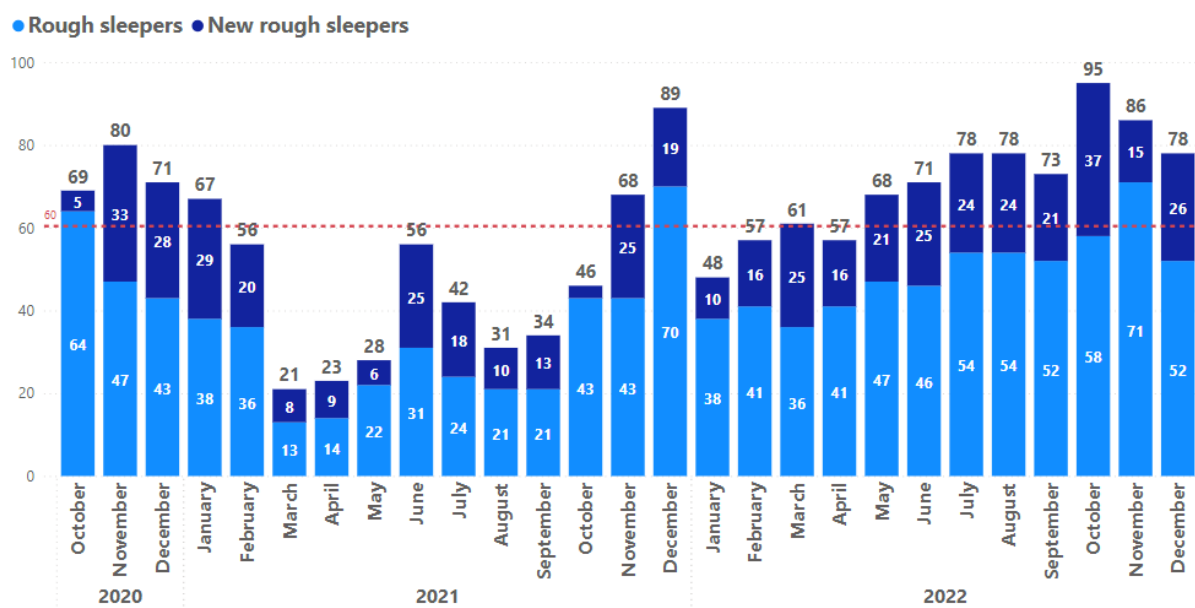
Figure 2.23: Number of people rough sleeping on a single night in Southampton: June 2020-December 2022



Source: DLUHC 2023 – Support for people sleeping rough in England June 2020 – December 2022

On average 60 people rough slept over the course of the month, out of which 19 were new to rough sleeping. Figure 2.24 shows the trend over time between October 2020 and December 2022. Recent data highlights that the number of people rough sleeping throughout the month has remained above the average of 60 since May 2022.

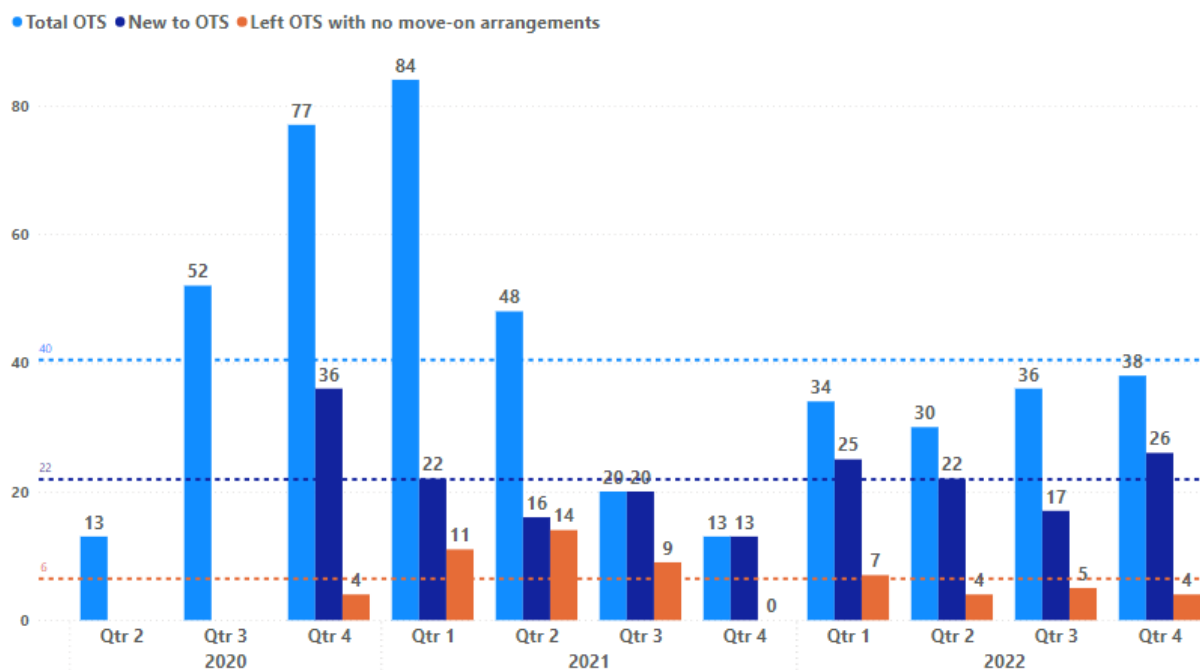
Figure 2.24: Number of people rough sleeping over the course of the month in Southampton: October 2020-December 2022



Source: DLUHC 2023 – Support for people sleeping rough in England June 2020 – December 2022

Monthly data regarding movement into and out of off-the-street accommodation (definition in [Appendix 1](#)) between June 2020 and December 2022 (Figure 2.25) highlights several changes post Covid-19 in Southampton. Firstly, the total number of people moving into off-the-street accommodation had a decreasing trend throughout 2021, falling from 84 in the first quarter to 13 in the last. At the beginning of 2022, numbers increased, reaching 34 and remained stable. Secondly, people new to off-the-street accommodation have become a larger proportion of all people offered off-the-street accommodation. For example, in the last quarter of 2022, 26 out of the 38 people in off-the-street accommodation were new. Finally, there is still a small number of people leaving off-the-street accommodation with no move-on arrangements. However, their number has remained in the single digits during 2022 in Southampton.

Figure 2.25: People rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping moving into and out off-the-street accommodation in Southampton: June 2020-December 2022



Source: DLUHC 2023 – Support for people sleeping rough in England June 2020 – December 2022

2.1.6 Key Findings

- For 2021/22, Southampton had a rate of 5.3 (per 1k) households assessed as threatened by homelessness in the next 56 days and a rate of 10.4 households assessed as homeless per 1k households.
- Trend data shows that the rate of people being threatened by homelessness has been increasing since the 3rd quarter of 2021, while the rate of homelessness has been decreasing since the 1st quarter of 2022.
- The demographic profile of those who are statutory homeless or threatened by homelessness was generally in keeping with the national profile, with the majority of applicants in Southampton being white (81.5%) and skewed towards younger age groups; 35.8% of those assessed as homeless or threatened by homelessness in Southampton were unemployed and 23.6% were not working due to a long-term illness or disability, which is significantly higher than the national average (14.1%);
- Single applicants made up the largest portion of applicants that are threatened by homelessness (46.9%) and homeless (80.7%) in Southampton during 2021/22, which is in line with the national average.

- Southampton had one of the highest percentages of households with additional support needs (1229, 76.6%) (out of those households for which a duty of prevention or relief of homelessness was accepted) among comparators in 2021/22, highlighting the complexity of Southampton's homeless cohort.
- The top five support needs of those assessed as homeless in Southampton during 2021/22 were: history of mental health (21.4%), history of repeat homelessness (12.5%) and drug dependency needs (11.8%), offending history (11.1%) and physical ill health and disability (9.5%). Southampton had a significantly higher proportion of repeat homelessness, drug dependency and history of offending support needs compared to national averages.
- Family or friends no longer being willing or able to accommodate people, was the most frequent reason for being threatened by homelessness (37.8%) or homeless (35.9%) in Southampton during 2021/22. The rates are significantly higher than the national level (25.5% and 30.5%, respectively).
- Just over half of the households threatened by homelessness in Southampton (182, 51.7%) secured accommodation for six months or more, similar to the national average (56.3%);
- The second most common outcome at the end of prevention duty was households became homeless (102, 29%). A significantly higher proportion of households at the end of prevention duty in Southampton (102, 29%) became homeless compared to the national average (20.2%).

2.2 Wider Determinants of Homelessness

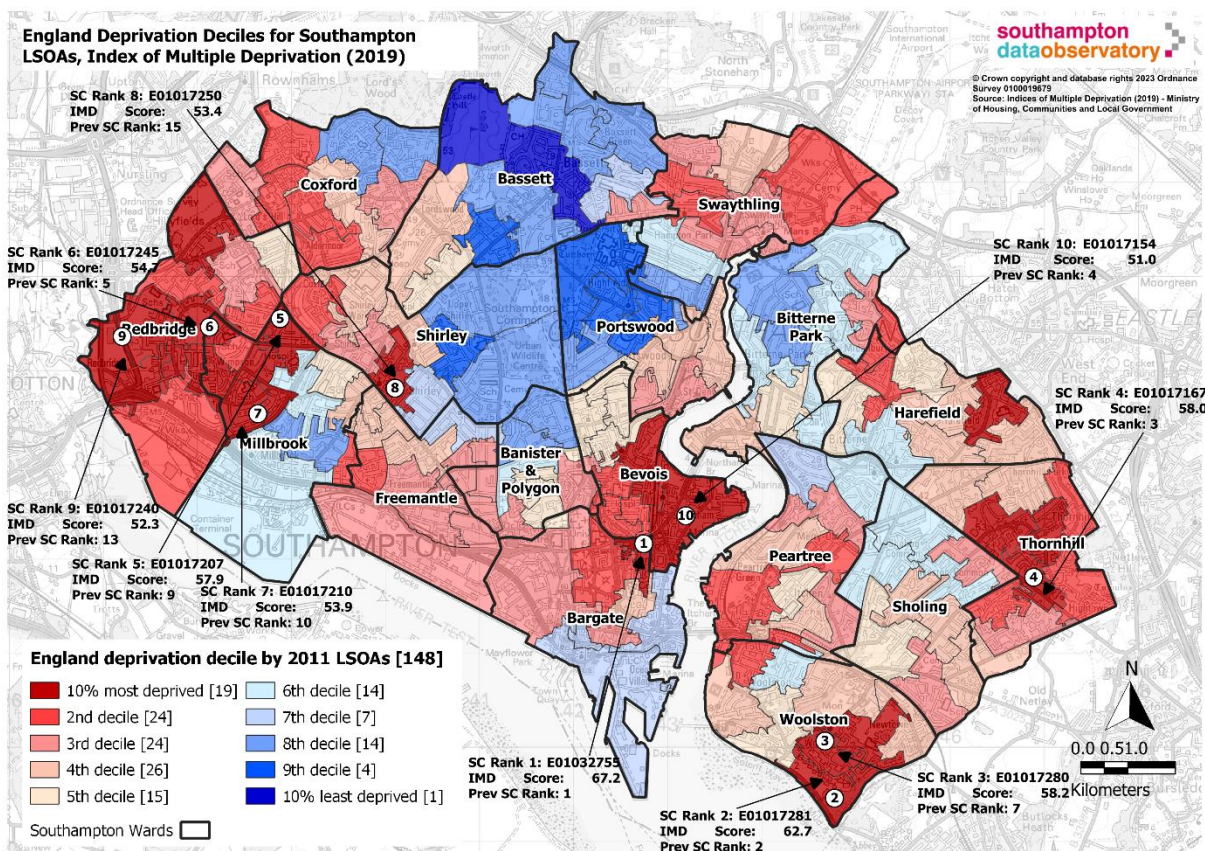
It is not only important to consider statutory homeless statistics, but also the factors that make individuals more or less likely to experience homelessness; known as wider determinants. Wider determinants such as poverty and deprivation are linked to a wide range of outcomes. Examining the wider determinants provides an opportunity to understand and address some of the underlying causes of homelessness to try and prevent individuals from becoming homeless in the first place.

More information on wider determinants can be found on the [Southampton Data Observatory](#).

2.2.1 Deprivation and Poverty

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD 2019) illustrates how Southampton continues to be a relatively deprived city. Based on average deprivation rank of its neighbourhoods (LSOAs), Southampton is ranked 55th (where 1st is the most deprived) out of 317 local authorities: more deprived than the comparator cities of Bristol (82nd), Leeds (92nd) and Sheffield (93rd). Southampton has 19 Lower Super Output Areas within the 10% most deprived in England and one in the 10% least deprived.

Figure 2.26: Map showing overall England deprivation deciles in Southampton (IMD 2019)



Source: Indices of Multiple Deprivation (2019) -Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. Crown copyright and database rights 2019 Ordnance Survey 100019679

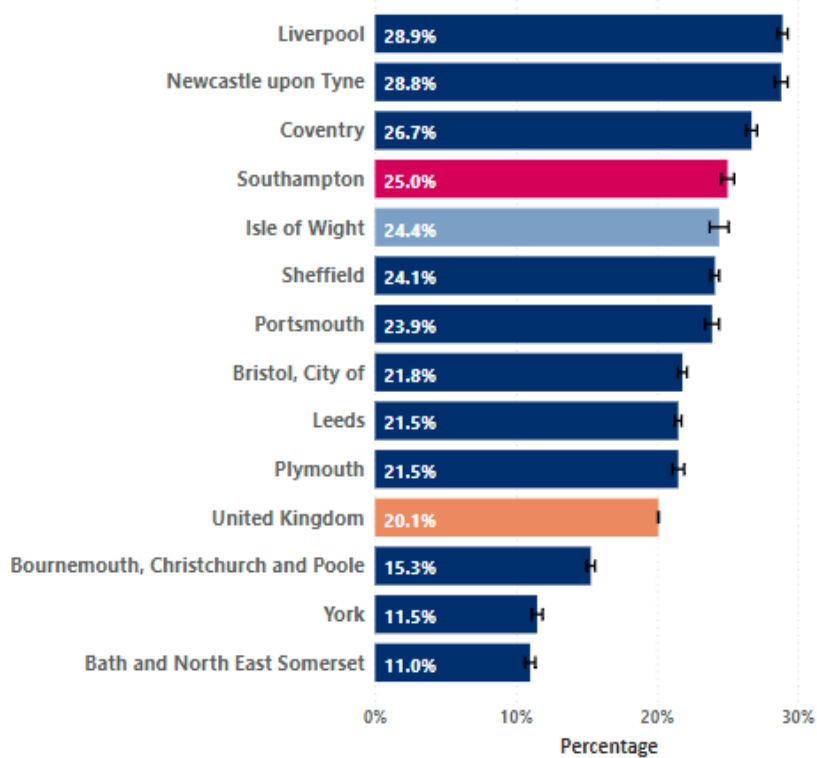
Southampton is ranked 3rd worst in the country for crime deprivation and is in the worst 20% of local authorities for 5 other deprivation domains. Additionally, around 12% of Southampton’s population live in neighbourhoods within the 10% most deprived nationally; this rises to 18% for the under 18 population, suggesting deprivation disproportionately impacts upon young people in the city.

25% of children aged under 16 were living in relative low-income families in Southampton during 2021/22 (Figure 2.27), which is significantly higher than several ONS comparators and the UK average (20.1%).

Southampton has experienced an overall increase in the proportion of children living in relative low-income families since 2014/15 (16.4%) (Figure 2.28). This trend is also seen nationally, although rates nationally have remained significantly lower compared to Southampton.

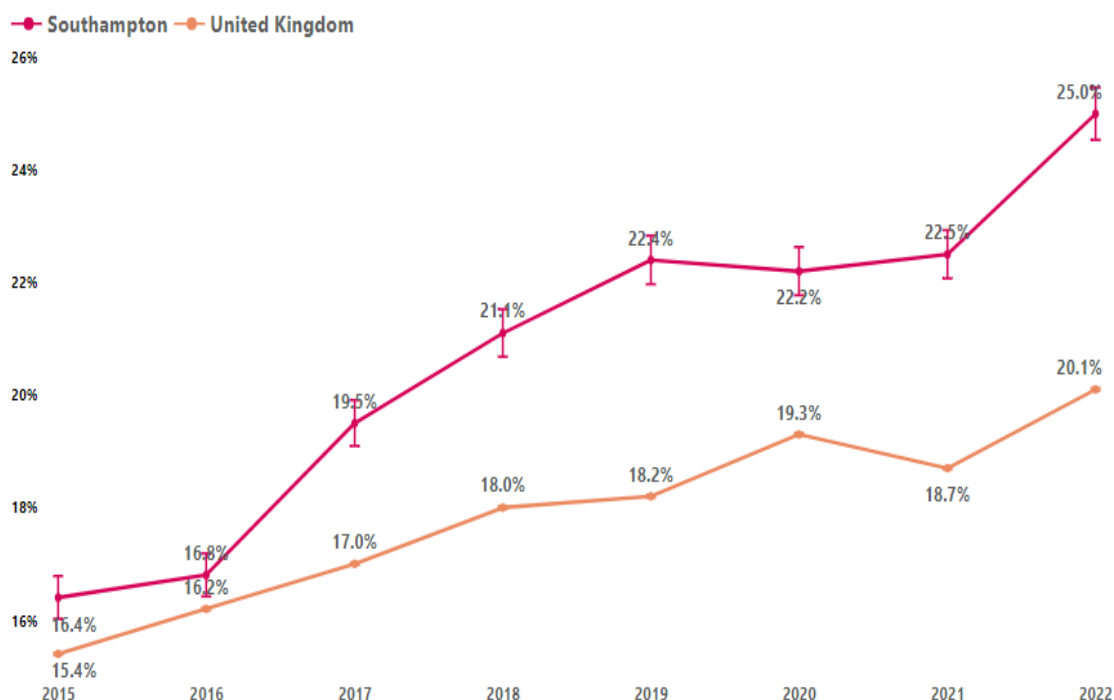
More information on Deprivation and Poverty can be found on the [Southampton Data Observatory](#).

Figure 2.27: Percentage of children (aged under 16) living in relative low-income families: Southampton and ONS comparators in the 2021/22 financial year.



Source: DWP 2023 – Children in low-income families: local area statistics 2014 to 2022

Figure 2.28: Percentage of children (aged under 16) living in relative low-income families in Southampton and the UK: 2014/15-2021/22



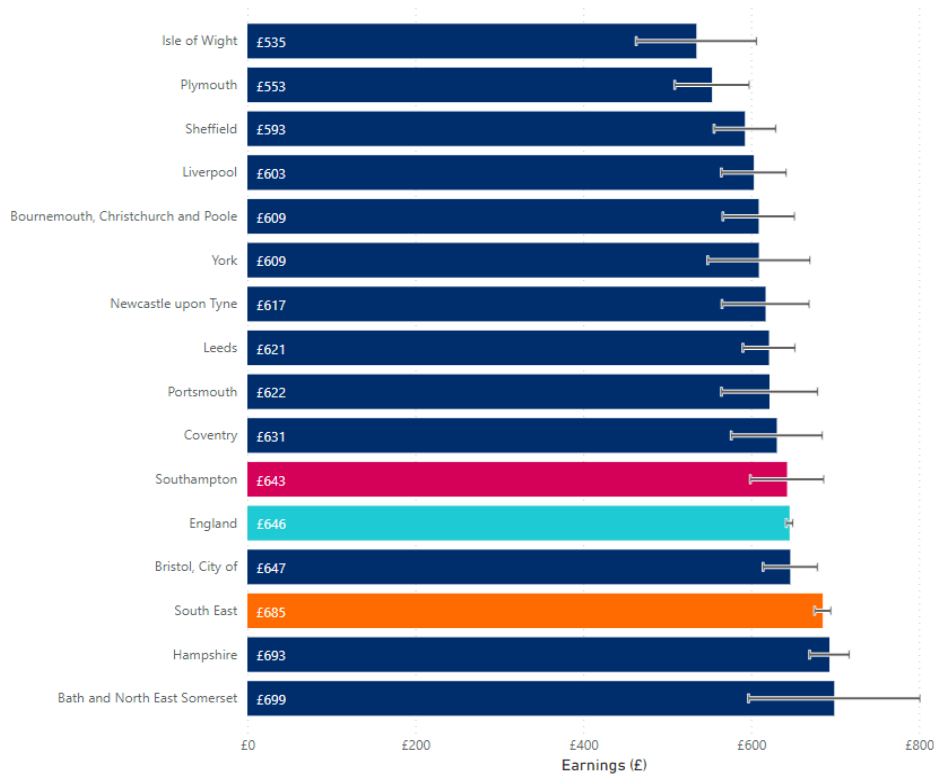
Source: DWP 2023 – Children in low income families: local area statistics 2014 to 2022
*Please note x-axis displays the financial year end: e.g. 2015 for the 2014/2015 financial year

2.2.2 Earnings and Benefits

Earnings data can be broken down into two main categories: earnings for ‘residents’ who *live* in the city and earnings for ‘workers’ who *work* in the city, but live outside it. During 2022, the median gross weekly pay for full-time workers *resident* in Southampton was £643 per week (Figure 2.29), which is similar to the national level (£646) but remains lower compared to those who *work* in the city but live outside it (£680 per week).

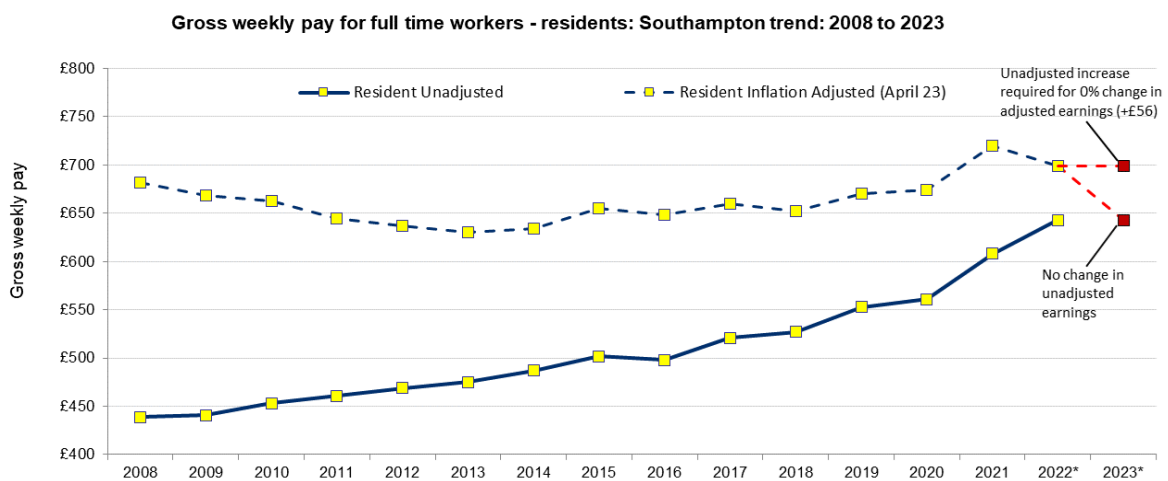
After adjusting for inflation, pay declined in ‘real’ terms between 2008 and 2013. Yet since 2013, weekly pay has generally increased in ‘real’ terms for both residents and workers in Southampton. Adjusted for inflation, weekly earnings declined between 2021 and 2022 for residents who live in the city (-£21, -3.0%) and for people who work in the city (-£24, -3.1%). This decline is a result of unprecedented inflation experienced since late 2021. Unadjusted weekly earnings would need to increase by a further £56 for residents and £59 for workers who live outside the city to negate the impact of inflation as of April 2023 (130.4 CPI all items) (Figure 2.30).

Figure 2.29. Gross weekly pay for full time workers residents of Southampton and ONS comparators: 2022



Source: ONS – Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) 2022

Figure 2.30. Gross weekly pay (inflation adjusted and unadjusted) for full time workers (residents) in Southampton: 2008 to 2023

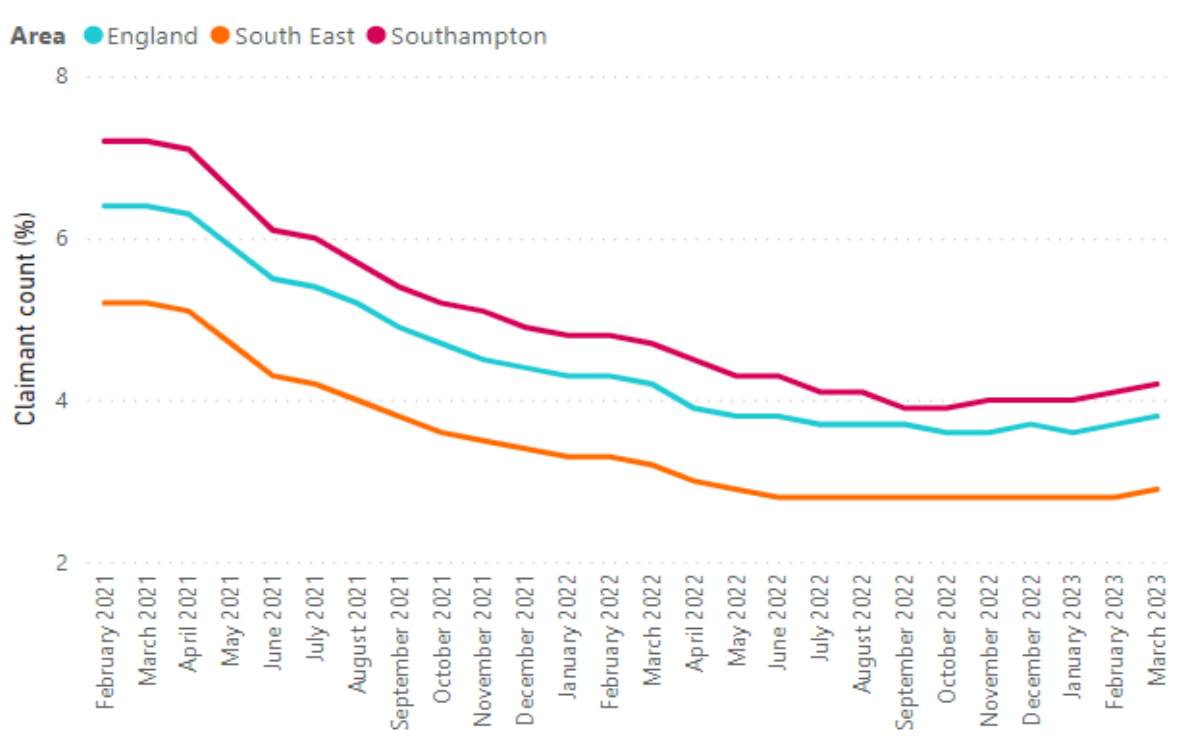


Source: ONS - Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings & Consumer Price Inflation. *Data for the latest year is provisional.

Source: ONS – Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) 2008-2023 (2023 is an estimate based on April 2023 CPI)

Claimant count data is published monthly and allows for the proportion of adults claiming out of work benefit to be monitored in detail. Locally and nationally the number of adults claiming out of work benefits has significantly decreased over the last year. As of March 2023, 4.2% (7,060) of the working age population were claiming out of work benefits in Southampton; a decline of -4,940 (-41%) since April 2021 (7.1%) (Figure 2.31). This highlights the progress that has been made in recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. However, Southampton is yet to return to the pre-pandemic baseline (less than 3.5% in January to March 2020). The claimant count also appears to have slowly increased in recent months, which is possibly linked to recent financial pressures and growing economic uncertainty .

Figure 2.31: Claimant count – claimants as a proportion of residents aged 16-64 in Southampton, England and South East: February 2021 – March 2023



Source: DWP 2023

In addition to examining data on unemployment, it is also important to examine those in receipt of housing related benefits: Housing Benefit (HB) and Universal Credit (UC).

Housing Benefit (HB) provides people with help in paying their rents if they are unemployed, on a low income or in receipt of another qualifying income related benefit. HB is being replaced by Universal Credit (UC) for Working Age claimants. Therefore, this makes it difficult to examine trends over time and it is not appropriate to compare HB and UC with housing

entitlement. As of February 2023, there were 10,379 housing benefit claimants in Southampton. As of February 2023, there were 23,950 households on universal credit in Southampton, of these 16,344 (68%) included housing entitlement.³ It should also be recognised that as of April 2023 there has been 10% uplift in several benefits in line with inflation.

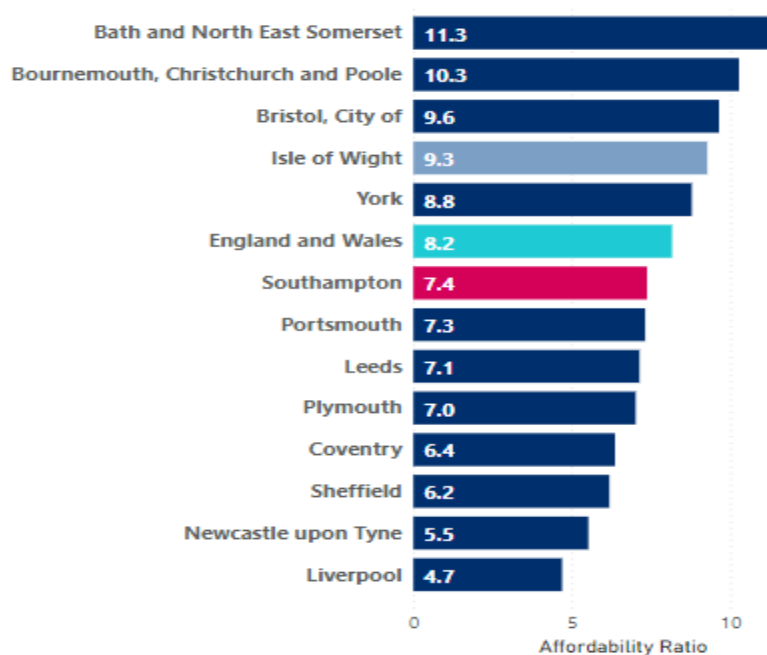
More information on the economy can be found on the [Southampton Data Observatory](https://data.southampton.gov.uk).

2.2.3 Affordability and Availability of Housing

Another key wider determinant is the affordability and availability of housing in Southampton. Affordability is measured by the ONS through a ratio between the median house prices and median workplace earnings for the 12-month period ending in September of each year. In 2022, the ratio for Southampton was 7.4, suggesting that full-time employees in Southampton who wished to buy a home would have had to spend around 7.4 times their annual earnings to buy one (Figure 2.32).

³ Please note most recent data is provisional and subject to revisions – source: Department of Work and Pensions 2023

Figure 2.32: Housing Affordability Ratio in Southampton and ONS Comparators: 2022

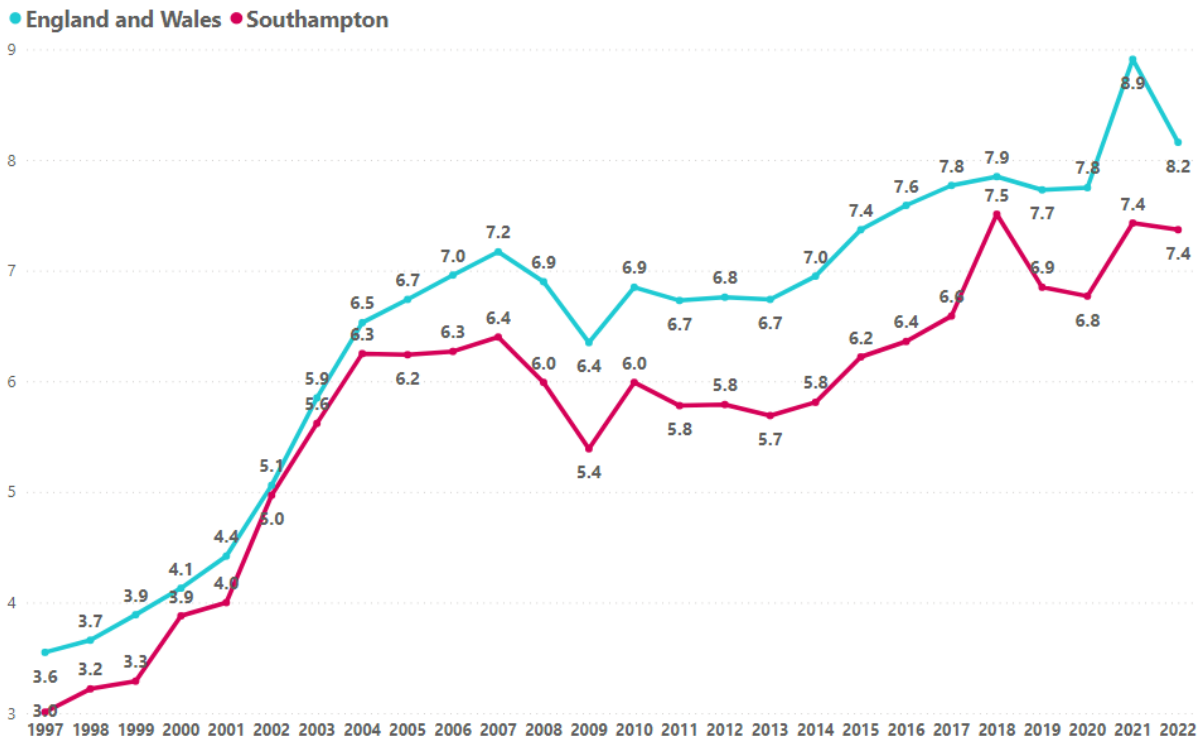


Source: Office of National Statistics 2023

Over time, the ratio has increased both in Southampton (from 3 in 1997 to 7.4 in 2022) and nationally (from 3.6 in 1997 to 8.2 in 2022), meaning houses have become considerably less affordable, both locally and nationally (Figure 2.33). The recent cost of living crisis and increased interest rates also make housing affordability more challenging.⁴

⁴ Office for National Statistics (2022) – Housing affordability bulletin, online available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/bulletins/housingaffordabilityinenglandandwales/2022#affordability-and-the-cost-of-living>

Figure 2.33: Housing Affordability Ratio in Southampton and England and Wales: 1997-2022

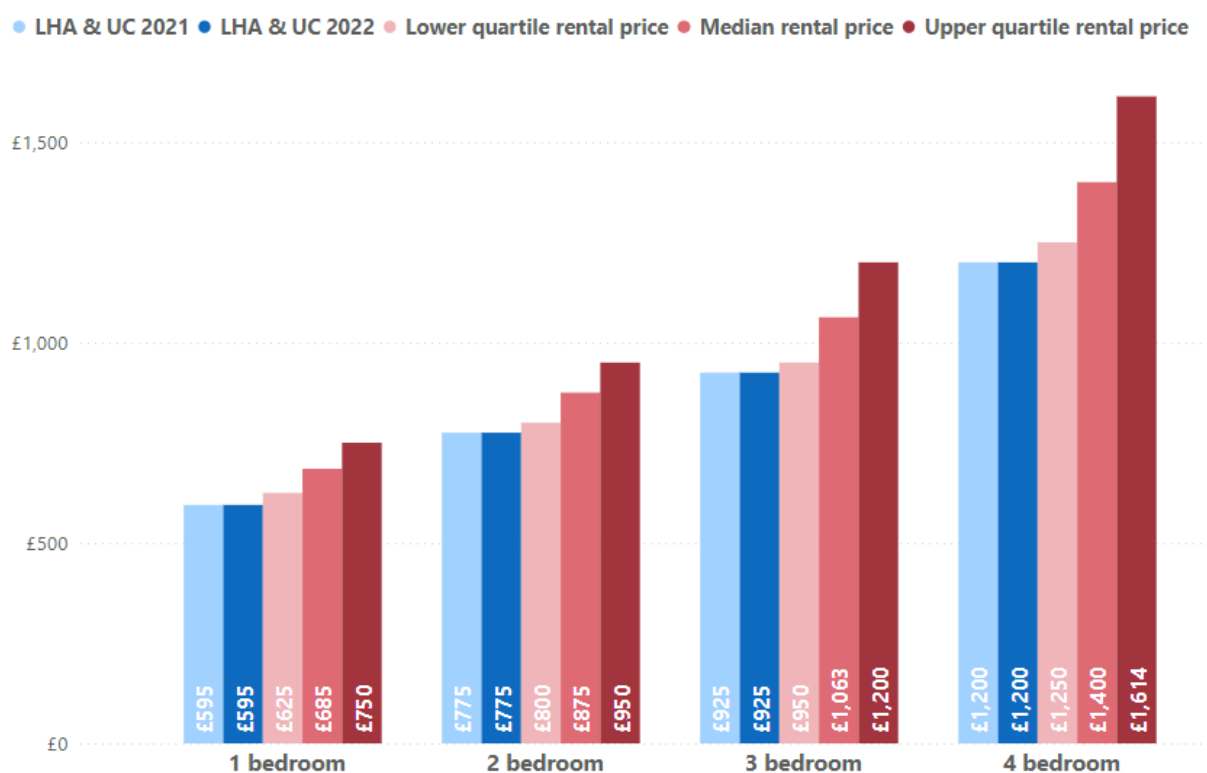


Source: Office of National Statistics 2023

Data from the Valuation Office Agency between October 2021 and September 2022 shows that a one-bedroom property rented on average for £685 a month, while Universal Credit (UC) and Local Housing Allowance (LHA) only covered £595. A two-bedroom property rented for £875 a month, of which up to £775 were covered by UC and LHA. A three-bedroom rented for £1,063 a month, of which up to £925 could be covered and finally, a four plus bedroom rented for £1,400 of which up to £1,200 could be covered. Thus, on average, there is a £100 deficit between UC and LHA combined, and monthly private rent for a one to three-bedroom property, and a £200 deficit for a four plus bedroom property (Figure 2.34).

However, it is important to stress that with increased interest rates, the cost of privately renting a property has also increased alongside mortgages for homeowners.⁵ Across England private rental prices paid by tenants in the UK rose by 4.8% in the 12 months to April 2023.⁶

Figure 2.34: Universal Credit and Local Housing Allowance in April 2021 and April 2022, compared to private rental prices in Southampton for October 2021- September 2022



Source: DWP 2022 & 2023 & Valuation Office Agency 2023

Data from the yearly return of Local Authority Housing Statistics, can inform on the quantity of social housing in Southampton (Figure 2.35). Of the 108,518 dwellings in Southampton on March 31st 2022, 84,236 (77.6%) belonged to the private sector. 16,381 (15.1%) dwellings

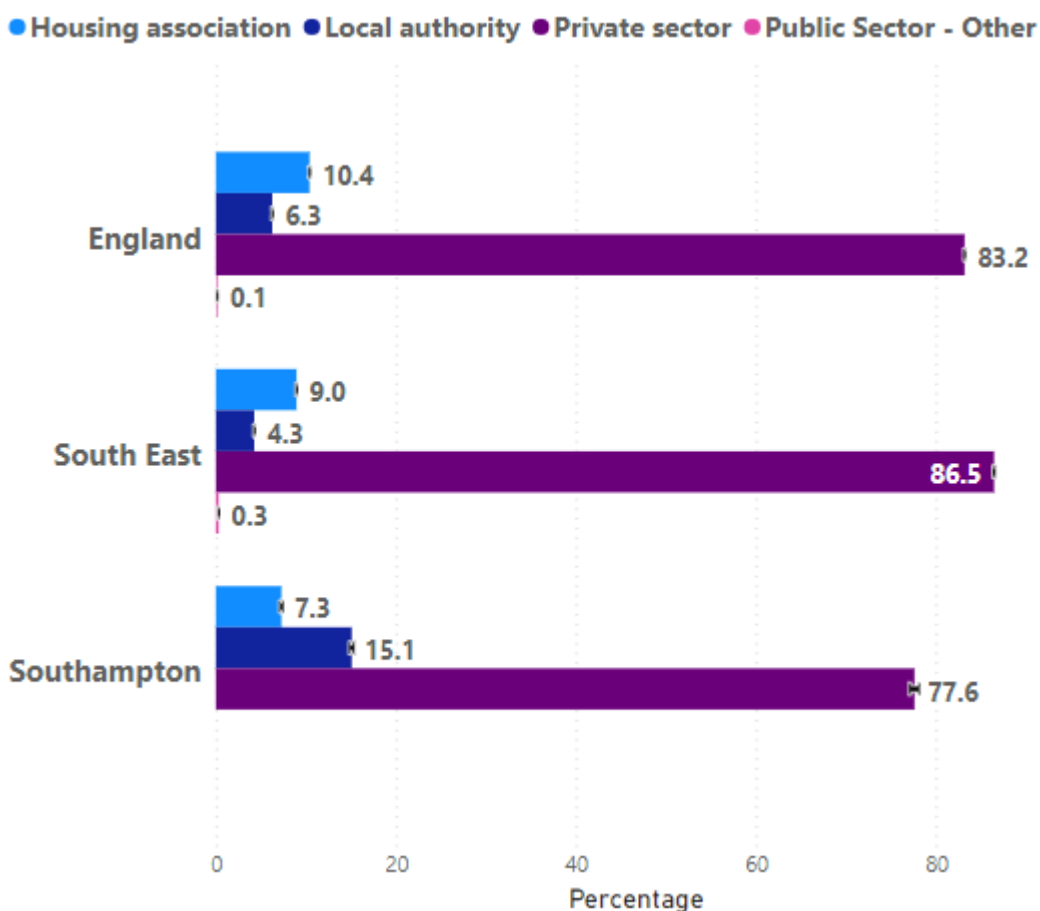
⁵ Office for National Statistics (2023) – impact of increasing housing costs on households. Online available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/articles/howincreasesinhousingcostsimpacthouseholds/2023-01-09>

⁶ Office for National Statistics (April 2023) – index of private housing rental prices. Online available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/bulletins/indexofprivatehousingrentalprices/april2023>

were owned by the Local Authority. A further 7,901 (7.3%) dwellings were owned by housing associations in Southampton.

1024 social lettings were made in Southampton during 2021/22 (Table 2.1). Of these, 543 (53%) were let to new social tenants, 358 (35%) to existing social tenants and 123 (12%) were mutual exchanges. Of the 1024 total lettings, most were made within general housing needs (649, 63.4%), while the rest (375, 36.6%) were in supported housing.

Figure 2.35: Housing Stock in Southampton, South East and England: March 31st 2022



Source: DLUHC 2023: Local Authority Housing Statistics 2021/22

There were 7,379 people on the waiting list for social housing in Southampton on March 31st, 2022 (Table 2.1) but only 1024 social houses let in the same year. The limited number of lettings is due to various reasons, such as a lack of vacancies in social housing and the incompatibility between what applicants require for a suitable household and what housing is available. In essence, the demand for social housing in the city far exceeds supply. Most people on the waiting list were waiting for a one-bedroom property (4,150, 56.2%), followed

by households waiting for three-bedroom (1,493, 20.2%) and two-bedroom properties (1,416, 19.2%). A much smaller number (320, 4.3%) were waiting for properties with four bedrooms or more.

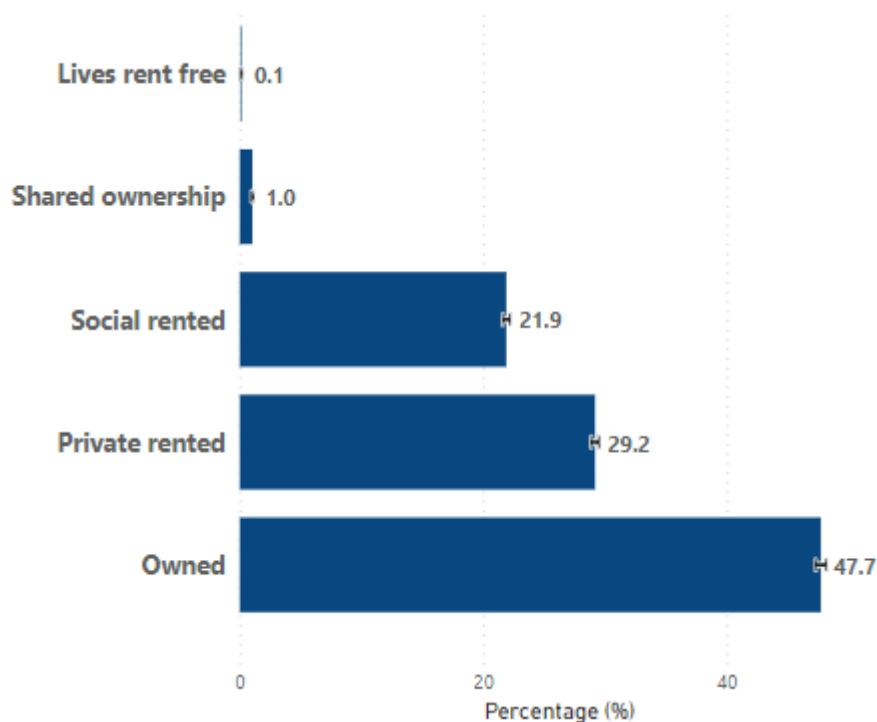
Table 2.1: Southampton Social Housing Lettings and Waiting List: 2021/22

Social Housing Waiting List on March 31 st 2022			Social Housing Lettings 2021/22		
Number of bedrooms	Number of households	Percentage of households	Type of Letting	Number of dwellings	Percentage of dwellings
One-bedroom	4,150	56.2%	Let to existing social tenants	358	35%
Two-bedroom	1,416	19.2%	Let to new social tenants	543	53%
Three-bedroom	1,493	20.2%	Let through mutual exchanges	123	12%
Four-bedroom and more	320	4.3%	Total lettings	1,024	100%
Total	7,379	100%	Of total: Lettings within General needs housing	649	63.4%
			Of total: Lettings within Supported housing	375	36.6%

Source: DLUHC 2023: Local Authority Housing Statistics 2021/22

In 2021, 48,838 (47.7%) of households owned their home in Southampton (23,049 owned outright and 25,789 with a mortgage or loan), whereas 29,860 (29.2%) rented their home privately. 22,397 (21.9%) lived in social rented homes, 1,061 (1%) lived in shared ownership homes 134 (0.1%) lived rent free (Figure 2.36). This illustrates that the majority of households in Southampton are vulnerable to changes in mortgage interest rates or changes in rent prices.

Figure 2.36. Household tenure in Southampton: Census 2021

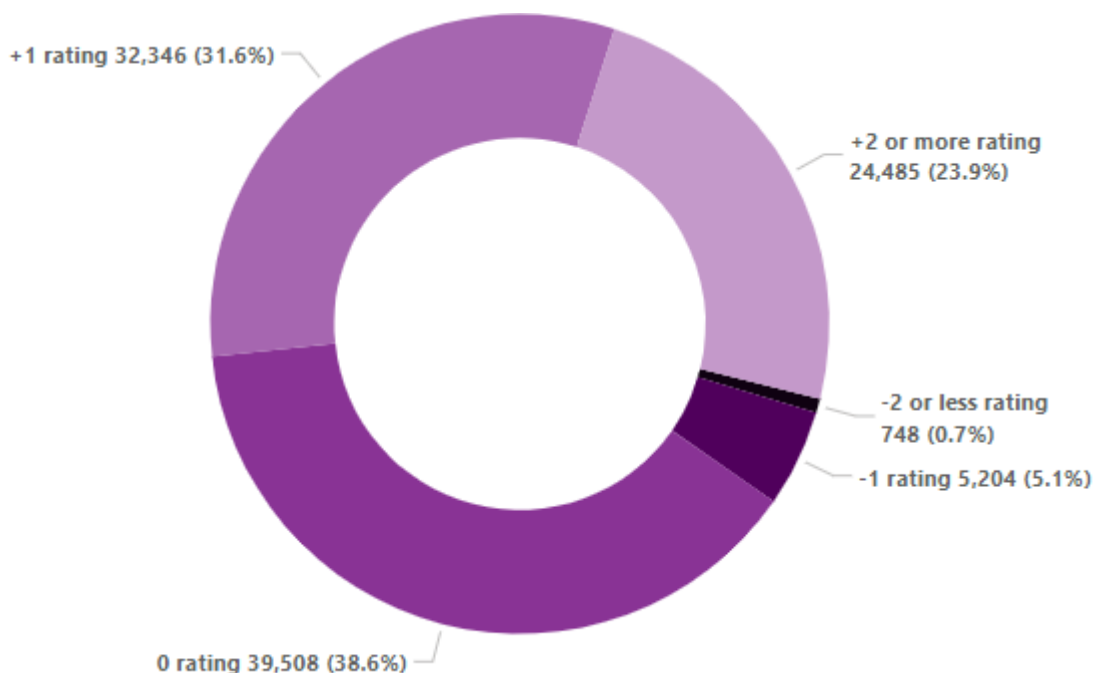


Source: Office of National Statistics

Occupancy ratings use the difference between the number of bedrooms in a household and the legally required number of bedrooms based on the size of the household to determine overcrowding. Overcrowding is indicated by having a negative occupancy rating (of “-1” or “-2 or less”). 2021 Census data shows that bedroom overcrowding is a concern for 5,952 (5.8%) households in Southampton. Of those that are overcrowded, most households require one more room (5,204, 5.1%) and 748 (0.7%) households require two or more rooms (Figure 2.37).

It is important to consider occupancy ratings as the top reason for people being threatened by homelessness (**Error! Reference source not found.**) and of being homeless (**Error! Reference source not found.**) is family unwilling or unable to accommodate.

Figure 2.37. Bedroom occupancy ratings in Southampton: Census 2021



Source: Office of National Statistics

2.2.4 Key Findings

- Southampton often ranks poorly against the national average and against comparators for a wide range of wider determinants, particularly those relating to poverty and deprivation.
- Southampton is ranked 55th (where 1 is the most deprived) out of 317 local authorities on the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD 2019).
- Approximately 12% of Southampton’s population live in neighbourhoods within the 10% most deprived nationally; this rises to 18% for the under 18 population, suggesting deprivation disproportionately impacts upon young people in the city.
- 25% of children under the age of 16 lived in relative low-income families in Southampton during 2021/2022.
- Adjusted for inflation, weekly resident (-£21, -3.0%) and workplace (-£24, -3.1%) earnings for full time workers both declined between 2021 and 2022.
- Unadjusted weekly earnings would need to increase by a further £56 for residents and £59 for workers to negate the impact of inflation as of April 2023 (130.4 CPI all items).

- As of March 2023, 4.2% (7,060) of the working age population were claiming out of work benefits in Southampton.
- Full-time employees in Southampton who wish to buy a home would have to spend around 7.4 times their annual earnings to buy a home (2022). The affordability ratio in Southampton has increased from 3 in 1997 to 7.4 in 2022, meaning houses have become considerably less affordable, both locally and nationally.
- High levels of inflation and increases in interest rates have affected the affordability of rents and mortgages, with private rental prices increasing by 4.8% across the UK (12 months to April 2023).
- There is a gap between Universal Credit (UC) and Local Housing Allowance (LHA) combined and rental prices, with rental prices recently increasing due to rises in interest rates.
- Demand for social housing in the city exceeds supply, with 7,379 households on the social housing waiting list in Southampton at the end of March 2022.

3 Homelessness Prevention and Support

3.1 Homelessness Preventions

We recognise that there is high demand for all types of accommodation in Southampton and if households are homeless or at risk of being homeless, it is extremely important that they seek advice immediately. The sooner households make contact with the team the more likely we will be able to help them.

We will always try to prevent homelessness first and we do this in the following ways:

- direct prevention, intervention, and mediation work to prevent households from becoming homeless;
- intervening and mediating between tenants and landlords to reduce the number of people being made homeless due to the ending of Assured Shorthold Tenancies;
- helping households to access the private rented sector through providing deposits, rent in advance;
- providing guidance and information around budgeting to help maintain tenancies.

3.2 Homelessness Support

We have a number of teams within the Homelessness unit that provide support to those that are 'at risk' or Homeless.

Homelessness Outreach Mediation Officers – These officers are based in the community. They focus on prevention work to families and those that are considered 'priority need'. Their main aim is to keep people where they are, or preparing planned move on accommodation, removing the need for emergency appointments.

Family Engagement Workers – These posts are seconded from Children's services and focus on families that are affected by welfare reform, specifically the benefit cap. This team is prevention focused.

Statutory Homeless Team – When prevention has been unsuccessful and the relief duty is owed to families and those considered 'priority need', this team conduct investigations into the cause of homelessness and plan to relieve it. They also source emergency accommodation when necessary and continue to support those that are owed the main housing duty.

Street Homeless Prevention Team – This team focuses on single homelessness, working under both our prevention and relief duties and includes those that are rough sleeping. The team also includes dedicated Rough Sleeper Initiative Outreach officer who solely supports those that are rough sleeping.

Homeseekers Letting service – This team manages all our temporary accommodation in the city and focuses on moving families into longer term housing options such as social housing or privately rented accommodation.

3.3 The Navigator Service

The Navigator service is provided by Two Saints Limited. This team provide tailored and intensive support to rough sleepers. This support aims to reduce the incidence of homelessness, support people to access and maintain accommodation, improve health and wellbeing, intervene effectively, coordinate multi agency involvement, facilitate access and engagement to support and encourage and support individuals to access primary care.

The Navigators Service will:

- work flexibly, have a variety of skills to work with clients who may struggle to engage with services, over an extended period;
- provide intensive support and engagement, including regular outreach sessions;
- enable the individual to make changes through a personalised approach, working in an inclusive and empowering way and acting as a single point of contact;
- develop a relationship with the individual, offering personalised, creative, innovative and effective support;
- manage risk;
- establish partnership agreements with other providers and services;
- provide a psychologically informed service;
- work in close partnership with the Rough Sleeper Initiative outreach workers within the Street Homeless Prevention Team (SHPT);
- help people who sleep rough to access appropriate local services, get off the streets and into settled accommodation.

Core Outcomes for all interventions:

- provide personalised solutions to reduce and prevent rough sleeping;
- reduce the impact of homelessness on individuals;
- reduce the incidence of homelessness;
- reduce begging behaviours in this cohort;
- facilitate engagement in primary care;
- improve health and wellbeing;
- agreeing and managing personalised support plans and flexible personalisation resources;

- coordinating training for specialist and non-specialist staff working with people experiencing homelessness;
- coordinating teams and interventions.

Eligible individuals will be identified and referred to the Service by Southampton City Council's Street Homeless Prevention Team (SHPT) and via the Outreach Coordination meeting. Navigators will ensure that any individuals noted rough sleeping are raised with the SHPT/RSI outreach teams and provide details where possible. The multi skilled workforce will participate in city outreach. All team members will deliver accessible, person centred, confidential, non-judgmental engagement, care planning and support.

3.4 Severe Weather Emergency Provision

Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) describes Southampton's arrangements for responding to people who are sleeping rough, and the additional arrangements that will be put in place to protect people when there are severe weather conditions. Severe weather includes weather warnings, freezing temperatures, rain, snow, wind chill, gales or heat.

SWEP includes arrangements for a single offer of a safe place to stay for people sleeping rough, including those without recourse to public funds. The SWEP is an extension of Southampton's offer of Somewhere Safe to Stay (delivered by The Salvation Army) and Low Threshold Beds (delivered by Society of St James).

SWEP will be accessible to every person sleeping rough, including those who may otherwise be excluded from services, for example people with no recourse to public funds, and those with no local connection. Services will be offered based on need. We are currently refreshing our SWEP offer to ensure it is robust to meet the needs of the city both during cold and hot weather.

During cold weather in partnership with City Life Church, Southampton City Council may choose to implement a Winter Beds provision for a sleeping space within a local church hall for those rough sleeping. The service will be supported by volunteers and collaboration with local churches.

During hot weather, Homelessness services (including but not limited to the Street Homeless Prevention Team, Navigators Team and Southampton Day Centre) will offer rough sleepers' water, suncream, hats, sunglasses and loose-fitting clothing.

4 Conclusions

4.1 Overview

Section 2.1 provided an overview of homelessness in Southampton, using nationally recorded data to benchmark against the national average as well as examining trends over time. Southampton, alongside a number of other comparators face substantial challenges when it comes to homelessness and rough sleeping, with key findings highlighted in [section 2.1.6](#).

It is also important to consider the wider determinants of homelessness. If these worsen, we may see subsequent increases in homelessness. Southampton often ranks poorly against the national average for several wider determinants, particularly those relating to poverty and deprivation. Recent economic uncertainty should also be acknowledged, with increased mortgage rates and rents likely to put households and families under further pressure and potentially at risk of homelessness.

The above highlights that it is important for Southampton City Council and partners to continue to focus on ways to prevent homelessness and support people who are threatened by, or experiencing homeless, to secure accommodation.

4.2 Homelessness Duties

The Council has a responsibility to take reasonable steps to help someone threatened with homelessness from becoming homeless under the prevention duty. However, a significantly higher number of households at the end of prevention duty (29%) were **not** provided with accommodation and became homeless in 2021/2022, compared to the national average (20.2%). With an increase in the number of people threatened by homelessness since the end of 2021, there needs to be a focus on preventing the onset of need, ensuring fewer people are at risk of being threatened by homelessness.

The Council also has a responsibility to support a household experiencing homelessness to secure accommodation for 6 months, under the relief duty. The duty lasts 56 days and can only be extended if the household is not owed a main duty. In comparison to the national average, Southampton was relatively successful with the outcomes of the relief duty in 2021/2022. The most frequent outcome (occurring in 44.7% or 410 of the cases) in 2021/2022 was that households secured accommodation for six months or more. This is significantly higher than the national average (39.1%). Of the households that were not provided with accommodation at the end of relief stage, the majority (96.93.2% in 2021/2022), were provided with a main duty. This means that they were deemed unintentionally homeless and had a priority need.

Under the main duty, the Council has the responsibility to provide the eligible household with temporary or permanent accommodation. In Southampton, the overall rate of households owed a main duty (0.9 per 1k) was relatively low in comparison to a number of ONS comparators in 2021/2022.

4.3 Who is Accessing Services?

The Strategic Assessment provides a better understanding of who is accessing homelessness services, and homeless and/or threatened by homelessness in Southampton.

Most people threatened by homelessness or homelessness in 2021/2022 were relatively young with 19.8% aged 18-24 years old and 31.2% who were 25-34 years old. There is also a large proportion of households who were categorised as “not working due to long-term illness and disability” and homeless or threatened by homelessness (23.6%). This was significantly higher than the national average (14.1%). The proportion of people who were “employed” was also significantly lower (19%) than the national level of 24.5%. This highlights that there is a need to support people into employment in Southampton, including people with a disability and long-term illness. For people who are unable to work, there is a need to ensure that their support is adequate to prevent them from being threatened by, or experiencing homelessness.

The Strategic Assessment also highlighted that there are a significant number of **complex cases**, where people require additional support than housing support, such as mental health support. 76.6% of households threatened by homelessness or presented as homeless for which a prevention or relief duty was accepted had additional needs. These cases require a time-intensive and person-centred approach with multi-agency solutions. To ensure that these households receive a range of support required to be successful and maintain a tenancy, there is a need for effective partnership working and referral pathways.

4.4 Causes of Homelessness

One of the most frequent reasons for being threatened by homelessness (37.8%) or homeless (35.9%) in Southampton during 2021/22 was due to family or friends no longer being willing or able to accommodate people. The rates are significantly higher than the national level (25.5% and 30.5%, respectively). This may reflect the impact of the cost of living on families and friends who have less disposable income and resources to provide for extra individuals. This also may reflect the lack of affordable housing for these individuals to move into.

There are also several wider determinants that impact the likelihood of households experiencing homelessness. Southampton has a high rate of households in **deprivation and**

poverty and is ranked 55th most deprived of the 317 Local Authorities in England. With a lack of income and resources to pay for housing bills and related costs, many households can become homeless or at risk of homelessness. Moreover, around 12% of Southampton's population live in neighbourhoods within the 10% most deprived nationally; this rises to 18% for the under-18 population. 25% of children aged under 16 were living in relative low-income families in Southampton during 2021/22 (Figure 2.27). This data highlights that children and **young people** are disproportionately impacted by deprivation and poverty. So, there is a growing generation at risk of homelessness. This is reinforced by the data above outlining that most households threatened by homelessness or homeless in 2021/2022 were relatively young.

The Strategic Assessment highlights that the cost-of-living crisis, with an unprecedented increase in inflation since 2021, has eroded the value of **earnings**. Adjusted for inflation, weekly earnings for full-time workers who are resident in the city, declined by £21 or 3.0%. Although the number of people claiming out of work benefits has significantly decreased over the last year, Southampton is yet to return to pre-pandemic baseline. This has resulted in many households facing limited resources and income.

There is also a lack of **affordable housing options** for people. The social housing in the city far exceeds the supply. The increase in inflation and interest rates have affected the affordability of private rentals and mortgages. Moreover, there is a gap between Universal Credit and Local Housing Allowance benefits (which aim to support paying household costs) and the increasing rental prices due to high interest rates. With fewer affordable housing options, there is a challenge to provide people in temporary accommodation with adequate move-on solutions.

The Strategic Assessment highlights that there is a rising demand for homelessness and housing services, with increasingly limited options to provide support and relief. The reasons for homelessness are complex, and therefore, there will be a variety of actions needed to help tackle homelessness. The information in this Strategic Assessment has been used to inform the development of the new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-2029 to address the housing and homelessness needs in Southampton.

5 Appendices

5.1 Appendix 1: Definitions

5.1.1 Homelessness and threatened by homelessness

Homelessness ([Section 175 of the 1996 Housing Act](#)).

Someone is homeless if:

- they have no accommodation they are legally entitled to occupy, either in the UK or overseas;
- they have accommodation but cannot secure entry to it;
- they have accommodation designed or adapted to be lived in that consists of a 'moveable structure' (such as a caravan, mobile home, or canal boat) but they have nowhere to put it;
- they have accommodation but it is not reasonable or suitable to continue living there.

Threatened with homelessness ([Section 175 of the 1996 Housing Act](#)).

Somebody is threatened with homelessness if:

- they are likely to become homeless within 28 days;
- they have been given a valid notice (known as a 'Section 21 notice') to leave a property, and that notice will expire within 56 days.

5.1.2 Homelessness Duties

- **Prevention duty:** where a local authority must take reasonable steps to help someone threatened with homelessness within 56 days to secure accommodation.
- **Relief duty:** where a local authority must help an applicant who is already homeless secure accommodation for at least 6 months. The duty lasts 56 days and can only be extended if the household is not owed a main duty.
- **Main duty:** is provided where the relief duty has ended and the applicant has not been provided with accommodation for at least 6 months. A local authorities must provide an applicant with temporary or permanent accommodation. The applicant must be unintentionally homeless, eligible for assistance and have a priority need.

5.1.3 Autumn Counts

Autumn counts offer a yearly snapshot of people rough sleeping on a single night in autumn across England. The autumn counts are based on evidence-based estimations or actual count-based estimations of visible rough-sleeping carried out by each local authority on a date between the beginning of October and end of November.

5.1.4 Off-the Street Accommodation

Off-the-street accommodation includes any placement for rough sleepers for six months or less, such as: hostels, temporary accommodation placements, severe weather emergency protocol placements, specific winter provision, short term options, hotels for respite and assessment, other assessment bed settings, no second night out beds and night beds. Prior to April 1st, 2022, only people in emergency and short-term accommodation were counted, excluding people in hostels or in supported housing services, unless awarded on exceptional basis to those ineligible for homeless support (DLUHC 2023).

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BRIEFING PAPER

SUBJECT: Protection of Green Spaces / Amenity Spaces in Council Housing Estates

DATE: 14 December 2023

RECIPIENT: Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee

THIS IS NOT A DECISION PAPER

SUMMARY:

1. This report considers the protection of green spaces, or amenity / garden land, commonly found within Southampton Council housing estates. These are typically parcels of green space land incorporated as part of the original design of the estates at the end of individual rows of homes to create additional space either side of roads or public footpaths. The report recommends changing the current policy, and only permit the sale of this land in exceptional circumstances.
2. The recommendation is to adopt a new policy that protects amenity land / green spaces in housing estates, and only enables the sale of such land in exceptional circumstances. Exceptional circumstances will relate to the provision of access needed or land required for adaptations for disabilities.

BACKGROUND and BRIEFING DETAILS:

3. In February 2012, Cabinet approved a report ([Cabinet Report February 2012](#)) which set out a process for the sale of Housing Revenue Account (HRA) amenity land. The report explained how the Council had for many years, allowed tenants, leaseholders, and property owners on Council estates to acquire interests over infill pieces of HRA land.
4. With the 2019 launch of [The Green City Plan 2030](#) and Charter, the Council now has more pressing considerations related to the protection / preservation of green spaces including the use of green spaces as areas for sustainable urban drainage, such as a rain garden and surface water runoff.
5. Prior to 2012, these green spaces were subject to licence negotiations for use, however the 2012 policy change enabled residents to apply to purchase amenity land, with each application considered on its individual merits. The policy required, among other things, consideration of the following:
 - a. Any Council proposals for the specific space and/or the area in general
 - b. The impact of any sale upon the management and maintenance of the Estate
 - c. The loss of open space (if any) involved.
 - d. Potential impact on neighbours
 - e. The wider public benefit or harm
 - f. Environmental impact

BRIEFING PAPER

6. The current application procedure involves significant officer time to process each application, including information gathering on the parcel of land being applied for, photographs, site plans and, carrying out a consultation with officers across Housing Management, City Services and Estates Regeneration.
7. In some instances, and depending on the site, the relevant Cabinet and Ward Members are also involved in the consultation.
8. Based on the outcome of the consultation, if a decision is reached to sell the amenity land, that decision is delegated to the Head of Corporate Estate & Assets, under the delegated powers outlined in the Council's Constitution.
9. At the beginning of each application process, the applicant pays a fee for their request to be considered. The related enquiries received, and applications made breakdown thus:

	Enquiries received	Applications made	Application progressed to sale	Sale completions / Licences
2016 - 2019 (limited data available)		33		17
2019 - 2022	152	54	2	1
2022 - 2023	22	10	2	2

10. This demonstrates that the majority of applications are not progressed because in a significant number of cases, the criteria for sale approval is not met. In cases where applications are refused, these can lead to complaints. Dealing with these complaints places further pressure on stretched resources and takes up officers' time.
11. Principally, this sale of amenity land activity does not allow the Valuation & Estates Team to focus their work on activity that will lead to the growth of the city and income for the Council. The Council's Valuation & Estates Team deals with the garden / amenity land sales, and the activity involved takes up time that could be spent on crucial income generating activity like lease renewals and rent reviews for the commercial portfolio, both activities which the team are currently behind on.
12. Rent reviews, which are an evaluation of a current commercial lease, are very time consuming. Typically the review takes into consideration the condition of the property, and current market to negotiate an increase in the rent that the tenant / leaseholder will pay to the Landlord. These are income generating, negotiation activity that the Valuation & Estates Team have with the tenant / leaseholder on behalf of the Council.
13. The change in the policy will enable the time spent on administering amenity / garden land sales to be reallocated to lease / rent reviews and other similar income generating activity for the Council.
14. Over the last few years most applications that have been submitted have been unsuccessful, but whilst the policy remains in place there is a requirement for the Council

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to continue to take the £100 application fee and process applications. This results in disappointment to members of the public.

RESOURCE/POLICY/FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

15. The sale of amenity land generates limited income for the City Council, and this is outlined within the table below:

2016 - March						
2019	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	
£ 400.00	£ 5,000.00	£ 700.00	£ 700.00	£ 600.00	£ 900.00	
£ -	£ 2,300.00	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	
£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	
£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	Total GLA income (2019 to 2023)
£ 400.00	£ 7,300.00	£ 700.00	£ 700.00	£ 600.00	£ 900.00	£ 10,600.00

However, the process involves significant officer time, which when quantified outweighs this minor income.

16. The table below demonstrates the per annum cost equivalent of the time spent administering the application process, as it currently stands. Note however, that this table does not account for management time spent reviewing the applications, cross Council department consultation time spent reviewing the detail of application, nor further officer time spent dealing with complaints in instances where applications have been refused:

Estates Support Officer role:	4 hours per week
Estate Surveyor role:	1 hour per week
Total cost equivalent of time spent per week	£ 149.32
Total cost equivalent of time spent per annum (52 wks)	£ 7,764.64
Total cost equivalent of time spent from 2016 to 2023 (416 wks)	£ 62,117.12
Total income received from sale of amenity land from 2016 to 2023	£ 10,600.00

17. From 2016 to date, a total income of £10,600 has been received in relation to the policy, however it is important to note that the income collected falls short of covering the FTE officer time to process applications, the surveyor time to visit the site and take photos of the areas in question, and the number of other officers' input to respond to the related consultation.

18. The overwhelming evidence demonstrates that the current approach does not represent value for money to the Council, or fairness to members of the public.

OPTIONS and TIMESCALES:

19. The following options were considered:

- Continue with the existing approach to the sale of amenity / garden land.
- Allow residents to continue to negotiate licences for land use.

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20. These options were rejected as they do not enable the Council to prevent a change of use of these open spaces which are important for sustainable urban drainage and surface water run-off and in some cases are important environments for biodiversity.

21. The preferred option is to adopt a new policy that protects amenity land / green spaces in housing estates, and only enables the sale of such land in exceptional circumstances. Exceptional circumstances will relate to the provision of access needed or land required for adaptations for disabilities.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

22. The option not to sell amenity / garden land or only restricting sales to exceptional circumstances, risks complaints if residents are unable to buy land to extend their property. However, since 2019 a significant number of sale applications have not met the approved criteria and have therefore been rejected.

23. Whilst these parcels of garden / amenity land may seem small and relatively insignificant spaces, collectively they offer significant benefits, for instance in the case of biodiversity, they act as corridors that offer a network for wildlife across the city.

Appendices/Supporting Information:

Further Information Available From:	Name:	Ola Onabajo – Service Manager: Asset Management
	Tel:	023 8091 7809
	E-mail:	Ola.onabajo@southampton.gov.uk

DECISION-MAKER:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE		
SUBJECT:	MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE		
DATE OF DECISION:	14 DECEMBER 2023		
REPORT OF:	SCRUTINY MANAGER		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
Executive Director	Title	Executive Director – Corporate Services	
	Name:	Mel Creighton	Tel: 023 8083 3528
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Author:	Title	Scrutiny Manager	
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY			
N/A			
BRIEF SUMMARY			
This item enables the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to monitor and track progress on recommendations made to the Executive at previous meetings.			
RECOMMENDATIONS:			
	(i)	That the Committee considers the responses from the Executive to recommendations from previous meetings and provides feedback.	
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS			
1.	To assist the Committee in assessing the impact and consequence of recommendations made at previous meetings.		
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED			
2.	None.		
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)			
3.	Appendix 1 of the report sets out the recommendations made to the Executive at previous meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC). It also contains a summary of action taken by the Executive in response to the recommendations.		
4.	The progress status for each recommendation is indicated and if the OSMC confirms acceptance of the items marked as completed they will be removed from the list. In cases where action on the recommendation is outstanding or the Committee does not accept the matter has been adequately completed, it will be kept on the list and reported back to the next meeting. It will remain on the list until such time as the Committee accepts the recommendation as completed. Rejected recommendations will only be removed from the list after being reported to the OSMC.		

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
5.	None.
<u>Property/Other</u>	
6.	None.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
7.	The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
8.	None
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
9.	None.
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
10.	None
KEY DECISION	No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	None directly as a result of this report
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	Monitoring Scrutiny Recommendations – 14 December 2023
Documents In Members' Rooms	
1.	None
Equality Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessments (ESIA) to be carried out?	No
Data Protection Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out?	No
Other Background Documents Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:	
Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	None

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee: Holding the Executive to Account

Scrutiny Monitoring – 14 December 2023

Date	Portfolio	Title	Action proposed	Action Taken	Progress Status
12/10/23	Finance & Change	MTFS Update	1) That, whilst recognising the need for the Council to take timely decisions, the Executive commits to ensuring that, moving forward, the principles of transparency and openness continue to be employed by the Council when making decisions.	Agreed – efforts will be made to circulate papers as much in advance as possible, as has occurred by circulating the Cabinet paper in advance of Cabinet publication on this occasion.	Completed
			2) That clarification is provided with regards to whether additional funding has been provided by the Government in 2023/24 specifically for pothole repairs.	We received £378,400 additional funding in 2023/24 for potholes. A further funding announced last week by Government as well on extra funding. No formal decision was taken about how to apply this, but will be discussed at Strategic Capital Board and a decision subsequently made.	Completed
12/10/23	Adults, Health & Housing	Adult Social Care Charging Policy	1) That the Committee are provided with the Executive's analysis with regards to the percentage of clients who will pay more for their care and the percentage of clients who will pay less for their care following the implementation of the proposed changes.	<p>To assess the impact, one week's charging transactions (from May 23) for non-residential care arranged by SCC were taken as a sample and analysed. 1328 people were charged, and the key findings were that:</p> <p>1035 people (78%) would not be affected, as the cost of their care is already higher than their means-tested contribution (the maximum amount they can afford to pay for their care based on the financial assessment, using government rates and rules). They would continue to pay their contribution.</p> <p>80 people (6%) who are "full-cost" (expected to pay the full cost of their care</p>	Completed

Date	Portfolio	Title	Action proposed	Action Taken	Progress Status
Page 190				<p>due to their level of financial assets), would be significantly impacted. 64 of these would see an increase in their charges, the average increase being 28%. The highest weekly charge would rise from £1161 to £1851.</p> <p>213 people (16%) who are “low-cost” (charged the cost of their care because it is lower than their means-tested contribution) would also be significantly impacted. 189 of these would see an increase in their charges, the average increase being 19%. However, the total amounts for this group are much lower than the full-cost people, and the worst case scenario (for 29 people) would be that their charges rise to their contribution amount.</p>	
12/10/23	Environment & Transport	Change in City Centre Parking Charging Hours	<p>1) That, at the earliest opportunity, the Executive seeks to identify solutions that will help to mitigate the impact of the proposals on charitable and community organisations in the city.</p>	<p>Officers will put options forward for consideration by the administration to be included as an exemption within a future amendment of the off-street order. In the interim, Parking Services will review any requests that come forward from such organisations with due consideration on whether offering provision can be sustained.</p>	Under review
			<p>2) That, at the earliest opportunity, the Administration invites Go South Coast to engage with faith communities and consider additional bus routes and increasing service frequency to enable modal shift to occur.</p>	<p>The Council has entered into an Enhanced Partnership with local bus operators. As part of the Partnership, discussions will be held on identifying new opportunities for bus routes and services, and the use of fare offers such as group fare discounts.</p>	