

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020 – 2025

APPENDICES A TO E FOR THE CONSULTATION SUMMARY

The appendices for the draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025 consultation summary report. The full report is available to view on our [South](#) and [Vale](#) websites.

JANUARY 2020



APPENDIX A – BACKGROUND TO THE CONSULTATION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

There is a legal requirement for Local Housing Authorities to publish a homelessness and rough sleeping strategy every five years that sets out the scale and cause of the problem and how to prevent and tackle it.

Since 2010 homelessness and rough sleeping has risen significantly in England. South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse have not witnessed a similar rise, despite the increasing demands placed upon the homelessness service.

The councils have a proactive approach to tackling homelessness, with a strong focus upon prevention, early intervention and increasing access to sustainable accommodation. These actions have helped maintain low levels of homelessness and rough sleeping in the districts.

The joint Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025 retains a clear focus upon early intervention to prevent homelessness; or if prevention is not possible, to end homelessness at the earliest opportunity.

The new strategy increases the support and accommodation available for homeless households and rough sleepers in the districts.

The strategy has been developed following a review of services that included a series of stakeholder engagement exercises with councillors; service users and partner organisations.

The review considered the councils' achievements during the lifetime of the previous strategy; the current demands on the homelessness service, and the ability to meet these demands in the future. The review findings informed the aims and objectives of the new strategy.

The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, supported by a detailed action plan, has three **aims**:

- to prevent homelessness whenever possible
- to end incidents of homelessness at the earliest opportunity
- to end the need for rough sleeping

Five **strategic objectives** have been identified to support the achievement of the aims:

1. To improve county-wide partnership working to prevent and reduce homelessness.
2. To minimise the use of temporary accommodation.
3. To further develop our housing needs service to prevent and relieve homelessness at the earliest opportunity.
4. To improve access to emergency accommodation and increase support for rough sleepers.

5. To improve access to sustainable accommodation for households who are at risk of homelessness or who are homeless.

The success of the strategy will be measured against Key Performance Indicators and targets will be set annually.

The strategy will be reviewed on an annual basis and the findings published on the councils' websites.

Have your say

To give your views on the proposed strategy please complete our survey, using this link <https://survey.southandvale.gov.uk/s/Homelessness2019/> by **5pm on Monday 25 November 2019**.

If you have any questions about the survey or require it in alternative format (for example large print, Braille, audio, email, easy to read and alternative languages), please email haveyoursay@southandvale.gov.uk or call 01235 422425. If you have any questions for our housing team please email housing@southandvale.gov.uk or call 01235 422436.

More information

You can find out more by reading the full draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025 available on our websites www.southoxon.gov.uk/housingpolicies or www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/housingpolicies.

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils, October 2019



APPENDIX B – CONSULTATION COMMUNICATION

A copy of the email notification sent out to consultees is below. The text was adapted for the letter sent to those who opted to receive postal notifications.

Subject: Your comments are invited on the draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025

Dear [NAME]

We are asking for comments on our draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025, which sets out how we believe we can prevent and tackle homelessness and rough sleeping in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse.

By law, we are required to publish a homelessness and rough sleeping strategy every five years and our strategy lasts until 2020.

We would like to know what you think of the draft aims and objectives, which we believe increases the support and accommodation available for homeless households and rough sleepers in the districts. You will also have the opportunity to suggest other measures that could be taken to prevent or relieve homelessness.

You can find out more by reading the short background document or the full draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025 on our [South](#) and [Vale](#) websites – you can find the proposed actions on pages 33 to 41.

To give your views on our proposed strategy please complete the online survey here [SURVEYLINK] by **5pm on Monday 25 November 2019**.

This link is uniquely tied to this survey and your email address. Please do not forward this message.

We will not ask for your name or any contact details. Your response is linked to your email address but all raw data will be deleted after a summary consultation report is published. You also do not have to answer any questions that you do not want to.

Once the survey has closed, we will present a consultation summary report to our Cabinets; we currently expect this to happen in January 2020. Subject to approval, we will then publish full details of the updated strategy on our [South](#) and [Vale](#) websites alongside the consultation summary report. Once published, we will delete the raw data. The new strategy will come into effect from the date of publication.

If you have any questions about this survey or require it in an alternative format (for example large print, Braille, audio, email, easy to read and alternative languages), please email haveyoursay@southandvale.gov.uk or call 01235 422425. If you have a query regarding your housing, please email housing@southandvale.gov.uk or telephone 01235 422436.

Kind regards

Phil Ealey

Housing Needs Manager
South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils

If you do not wish to receive further emails from us, please click the link below, and you will be removed from our consultation mailing list. Please note, we may still need to contact you for certain consultations if we have a legal obligation to do so. [OPTOUT]

APPENDIX C – SURVEY

A copy of the paper comment form is below; it is based on the online survey.

Comment form for the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping: consultation on proposed strategy for 2020-2025

Introduction

We are asking for comments on our draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025, which sets out how we believe we can prevent and tackle homelessness and rough sleeping in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse. By law, we are required to publish a homelessness and rough sleeping strategy every five years and our strategy lasts until 2020.

This survey will ask you a few questions to find out your views on our draft aims and objectives. You can find out more by reading the background information document, enclosed with this survey. Alternatively, you can view the full strategy available on our websites, southoxon.gov.uk/housingpolicies or whitehorsedc.gov.uk/housingpolicies

The deadline for completing this survey is **5pm on Monday 25 November 2019**.

How to comment

Comments can be made by:

- completing this comment form and posting or emailing it back to us (addresses below)
- emailing haveyoursay@southandvale.gov.uk
- writing to us using our freepost address: Freepost SOUTH AND VALE CONSULTATIONS (no stamp is needed)
- using our online comment form, which is available here: <https://survey.southandvale.gov.uk/s/Homelessness2019/>

What happens next?

Once the consultation has closed, we will present a consultation summary report to our Cabinets; we currently expect this to happen in January 2020. Subject to approval, we will then publish full details of the updated strategy on our South and Vale websites alongside the consultation summary report (see addresses above). Once published, we will delete the raw data. The strategy will come into effect from the date of publication.

If you require this comment form or any of the supporting documents in an alternative format (for example large print, Braille, audio, email, easy to read and alternative languages) please contact haveyoursay@southandvale.gov.uk or call **01235 422425**.

If you are responding as an individual, you are not required to provide your name or contact details. Any personal information you provide to the council within your comments that could identify you will not be published in the summary report. If you are responding in your capacity as a councillor or council officer, we ask you to provide the name of your council, and if you are responding on behalf of an organisation or business, we ask you to provide its name – the summary report will include this information. Further information on data protection is available

in our privacy statement available on our websites, www.southoxon.gov.uk/about-us/have-your-say or www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/about-us/have-your-say

A. General

1. Do you currently receive, or have you ever received, support from the South Oxfordshire or Vale of White Horse housing needs team?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	This doesn't apply to me

2. Are you responding to this survey as:

<input type="checkbox"/>	An individual / member of the public (Please go to section B)
<input type="checkbox"/>	A business / organisation
<input type="checkbox"/>	A district, county or town/parish councillor
<input type="checkbox"/>	A district, county or town/parish officer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify):

3. What is the name of your business / organisation or council?

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B. Aims and objectives of the strategy

The draft Joint Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025, supported by a detailed action plan, has three **aims**:

- to prevent homelessness whenever possible;
- to end incidents of homelessness at the earliest opportunity;
- to end the need for rough sleeping.

We have identified five strategic **objectives** to help to achieve these aims:

1. To improve county-wide partnership working to prevent and reduce homelessness.
2. To minimise the use of temporary accommodation.
3. To further develop our housing needs service to prevent and relieve homelessness at the earliest opportunity.
4. To improve access to emergency accommodation and increase support for rough sleepers.
5. To improve access to sustainable accommodation for households who are at risk of homelessness or who are homeless.

Proposed actions:

The detailed actions that are proposed to meet each of the objectives of the strategy are set out on pages 33 to 41 of the draft strategy document on our website (see addresses above).

4. How far do you agree or disagree with each of the proposed objectives that have been identified to support the aims of the strategy?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
1. Improving county-wide partnership working to prevent and reduce homelessness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Minimising the use of temporary accommodation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Further developing our housing needs service to prevent and relieve homelessness at the earliest opportunity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Improving access to emergency accommodation and increasing support for rough sleepers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Improving access to sustainable accommodation for households who are at risk of homelessness or who are homeless	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Do you have any comments or suggestions on proposed objective 1?

6. Do you have any comments or suggestions on proposed objective 2?

7. Do you have any comments or suggestions on proposed objective 3?

8. Do you have any comments or suggestions on proposed objective 4?

9. Do you have any comments or suggestions on proposed objective 5?

10. Overall, how far do you agree or disagree with the proposed aims and objectives in the draft strategy?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly agree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Agree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know

Do you have any comments or suggestions on the **overall** proposed aims and objectives?

NOTE: If you are responding to this survey on behalf of an agency, organisation or council please go straight to section D.

C. Equalities

We are committed to making sure that residents have equal access to services. The answers to the following questions will help inform how the strategy will address the needs of residents with particular characteristics.

Please help us to keep track of how successfully we are achieving this by ticking the appropriate boxes below. All information is confidential and will only be used to help us monitor whether views differ across the community.

11. Which of the following describes how you think of yourself?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Male
<input type="checkbox"/>	Female
<input type="checkbox"/>	In another way
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say

12. How old are you?

<input type="checkbox"/>	16-24
<input type="checkbox"/>	25-34
<input type="checkbox"/>	35-44
<input type="checkbox"/>	45-54
<input type="checkbox"/>	55-64
<input type="checkbox"/>	65+
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say

13. Are your day to day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted or is expected to last 12 months or more? (please include problems related to old age)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say

If yes, please specify:

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14. What is your ethnic group?

	White
<input type="checkbox"/>	White English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, British
<input type="checkbox"/>	Irish
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gypsy or Irish Traveller
<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other White background
	Black or Black British
<input type="checkbox"/>	Caribbean
<input type="checkbox"/>	African
<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other Black background
	Mixed or multiple ethnic groups
<input type="checkbox"/>	White & Black Caribbean
<input type="checkbox"/>	White & Black African
<input type="checkbox"/>	White & Asian
<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other mixed background
	Asian or Asian British
<input type="checkbox"/>	Indian

<input type="checkbox"/>	Pakistani
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bangladeshi
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chinese
<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other Asian background
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other ethnic group (please specify):

15. Which of the following best describes your religion or belief? (please tick one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Buddhist
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hindu
<input type="checkbox"/>	Muslim
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jewish
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sikh
<input type="checkbox"/>	Christian
<input type="checkbox"/>	No religion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify):

16. Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation? (please tick one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Heterosexual / straight
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gay man
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gay women/ lesbian
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bisexual
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify):

D. And finally...

17. How did you hear about the homelessness and rough sleeping survey? (please select all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Twitter
<input type="checkbox"/>	Facebook
<input type="checkbox"/>	Newsletter

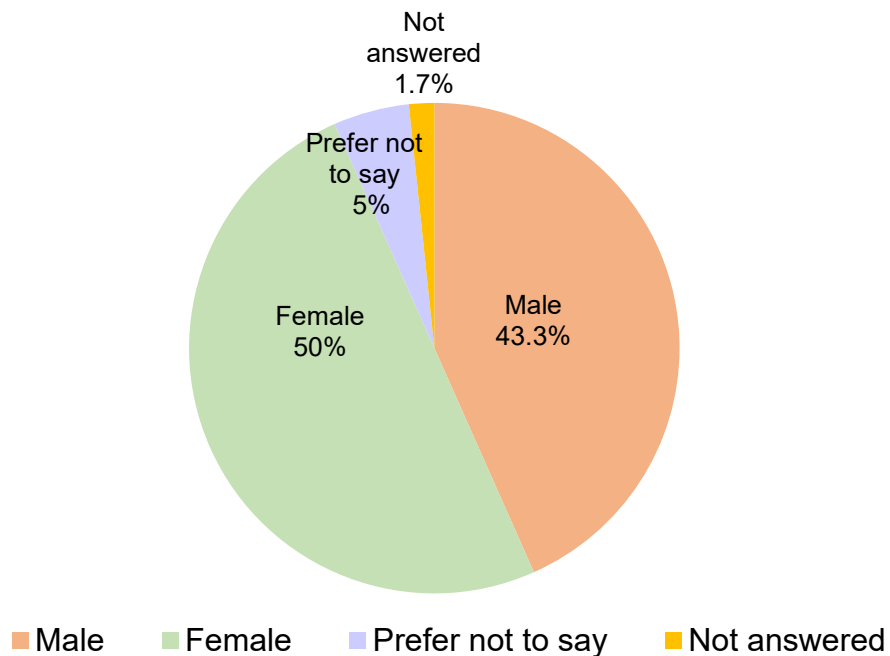
<input type="checkbox"/>	Email
<input type="checkbox"/>	Letter
<input type="checkbox"/>	Our website
<input type="checkbox"/>	Word of mouth
<input type="checkbox"/>	Radio/TV
<input type="checkbox"/>	Read it in the newspaper
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (please specify):

Thank you for your comments.

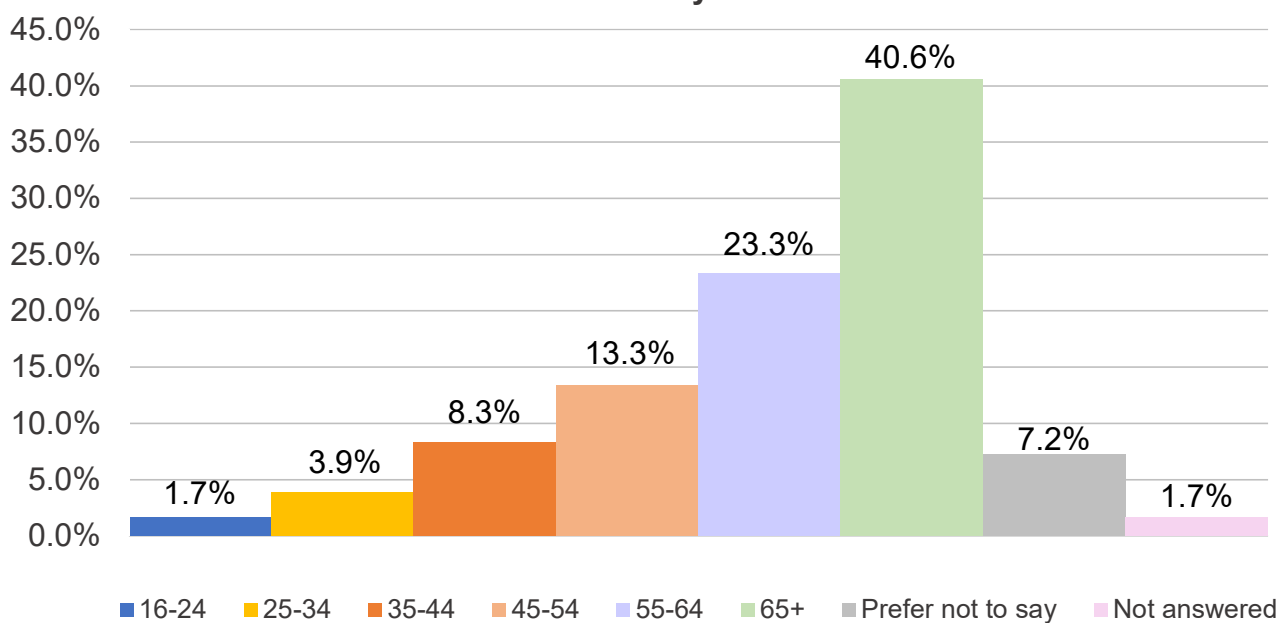
APPENDIX D – DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Below is all the demographic data collected in the consultation.

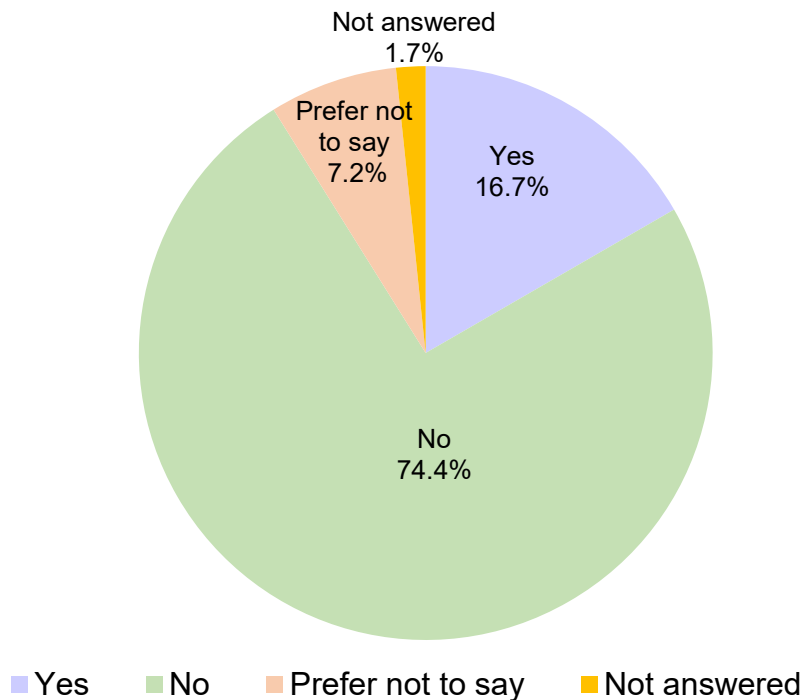
Which of the following describes how you think of yourself?



How old are you?



Are your day to day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted or is expected to last 12 months or more?
(please include problems related to old age)



If yes, please specify:

Chronic fatigue syndrome

Stroke survivor

Spinal problems, Parkinson's, obstructive Sleep Apnoea.

How does that question relate to me answering the questionnaire? Do my answers have more or less credibility if I am disabled?

Chronic back pain, Arthritis and Asthma.

not limited by my health but I am full time career to husband who has early onset dementia (age 63)

Arthritis

Two left knee replacements that have not worked.

Cannot do as much during the day as energy levels are not what they were - although given time can usually get it done. Sight and hearing not what they were but then.....

Visual impairment.

Wheelchair user but I don't say my activities are limited. I think that use a very poorly worded question.

Unidentified nerve problem

GCA and AF

I'm old. Experience with age and social basis, ambition and failure (including death and despair)

Lung and arthritic problems

Old age

heart disease and diabetes

Arthritis in both legs and neck

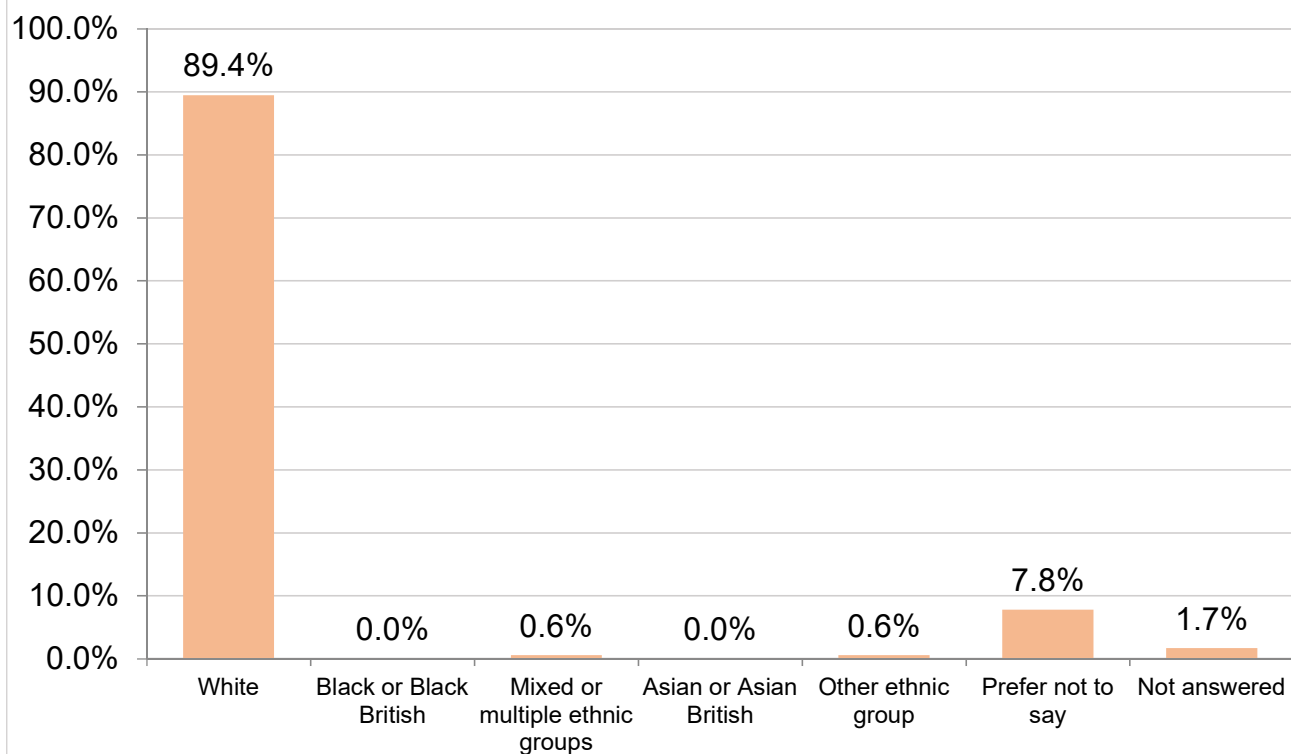
Rheumatoid arthritis

Chronic arthritis and back issue but still work full time.

Cancer

Heart disease

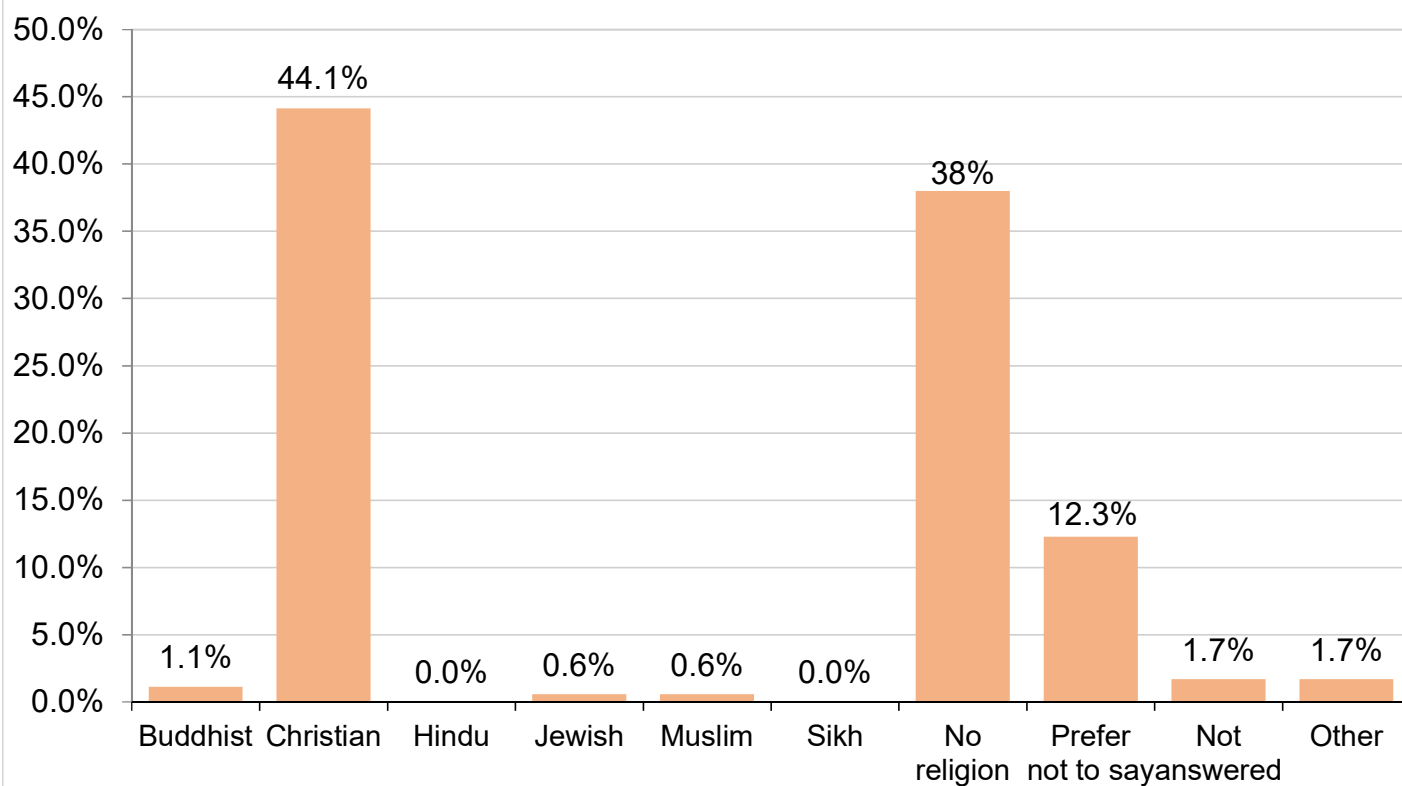
What is your ethnic group?



Other ethnic group (please specify):

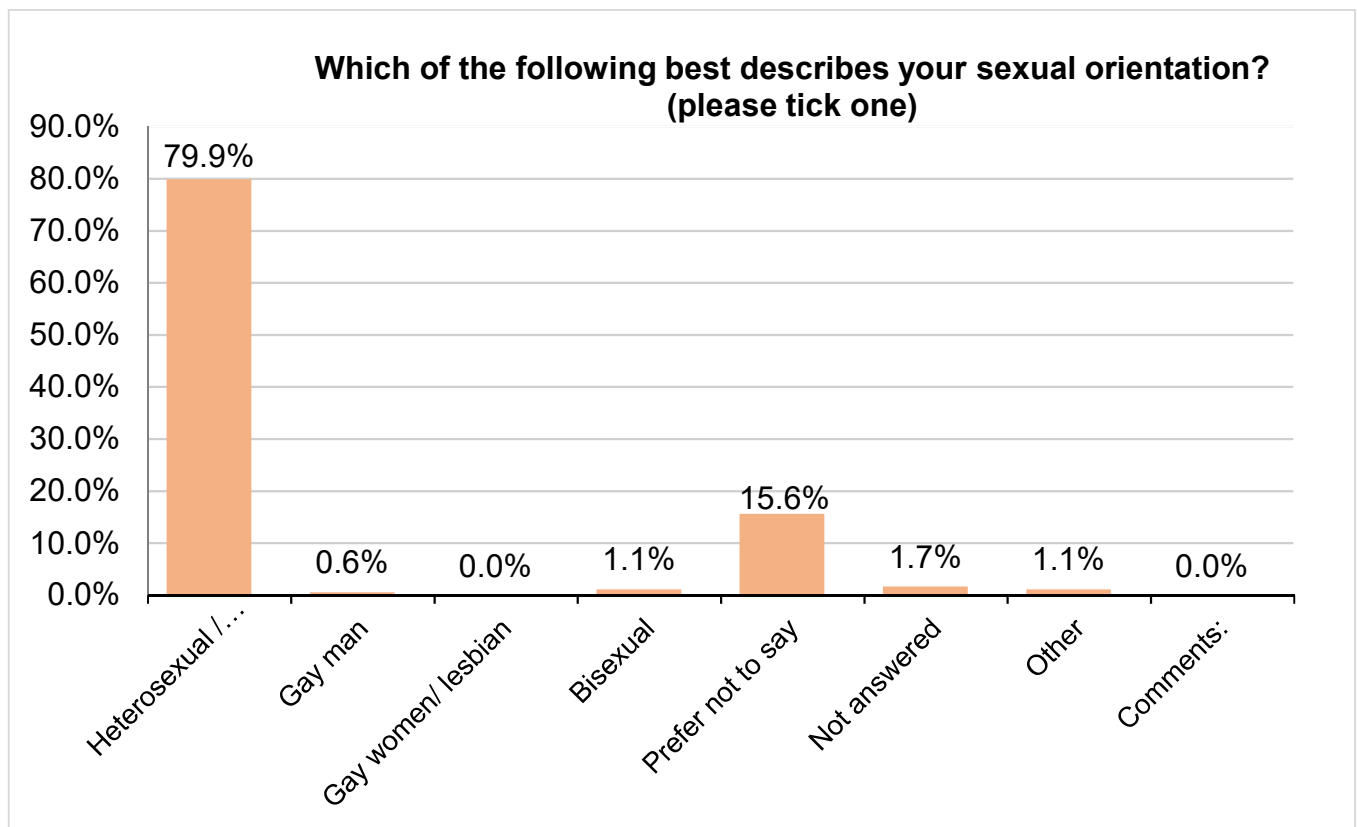
Mixed European

Which of the following best describes your religion or belief?



Other (please specify):

Spiritualist
ATHEIST
Humanist



Other (please specify):

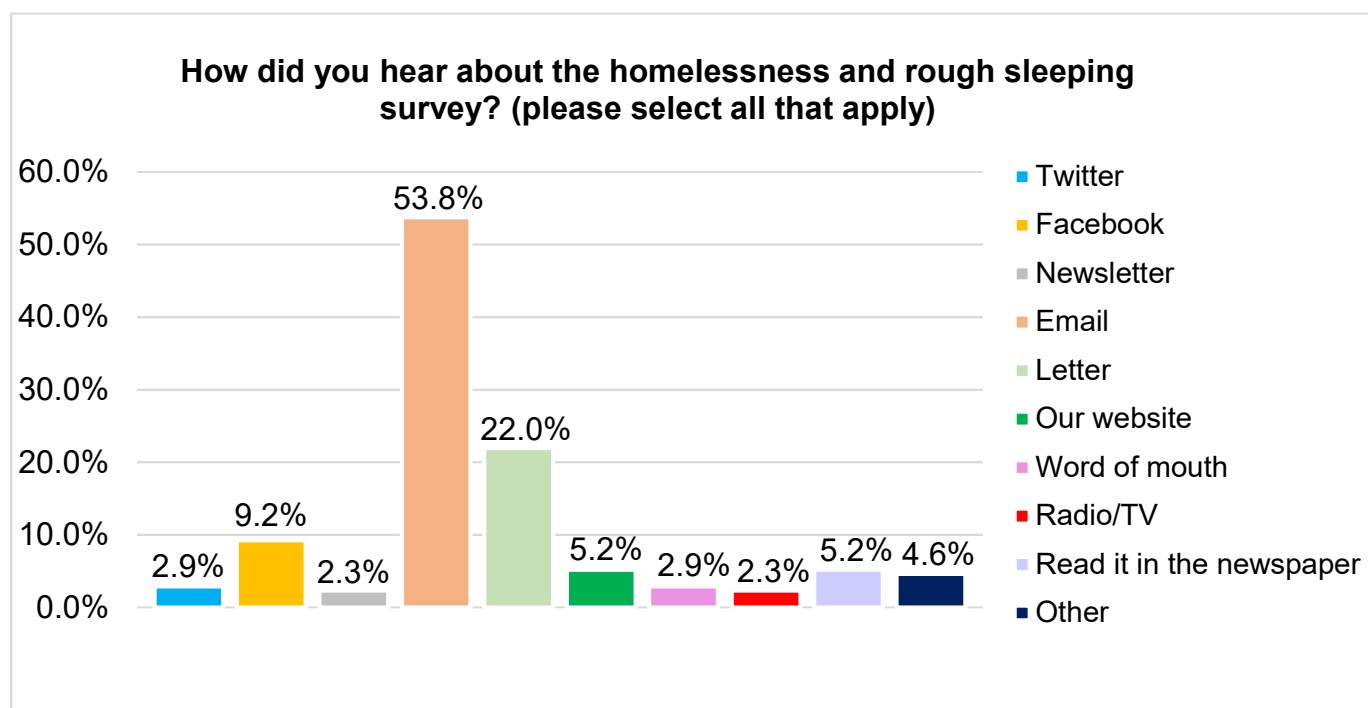
Mind your own business

NO SEXUAL URGE - SUBLIMATED

Comments:

How is this relevant to anything?

We also asked respondents to tell us how they heard about the consultation, to help us plan how we contact people and ensure that we offer a wide variety of ways to get involved.



Other (please specify):

I am a supporter of the St. Dismas Charity
 Trustee for a homeless charity in Reading
 Postal survey just received
 I didn't, survey was posted to me
 South Ox District Council Letters
 Community run what's app group
 Interest in local affairs
 Paper copy of survey

APPENDIX E – FULL LIST OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

A full list of comments raised in their original form can be found below. Please note, the following comments are taken as written and are unedited, which means they are a true reflection of the submission but may include spelling, grammatical and punctual errors.

Two hard-copy responses were unreadable and have been scanned and added to this report.

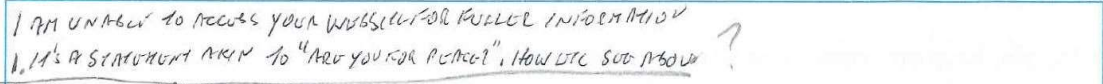
Proposed objective 1:

To improve county-wide partnership working to prevent and reduce homelessness.

Below are the comments received to the question:

Do you have any comments or suggestions on proposed objective 1?

Response ID	Comments
129029394	Prevention is the key. Most data show that early intervention is the primary indicator in reduced homelessness. Especially where that intervention is with those who suffer mental issues.
129030303	None
129030941	The Personal Housing Plan system was hidden from me when I was homeless. My housing officer didn't suggest it. It was only through intervention by Shelter that they disclosed this existed!
129033571	Agreed, the issue needs to be dealt with in the widest possible context.
129035261	work more with the local communities
129038408	Agreed every agency should be involved.
129040219	I like the idea of a Homelessness Coordinator and building on Traliblaizer network links is good. I think finding solutions to creating more viable move on options is vital.
129048027	no
129041287	I think business have a place in help with this issue with the area. We need to ask them how they are effected by this issue and ask them to get involved.
129054256	You can only support those who want support. Does the fact that there is little rough sleeping in SODC mean that they migrate to Oxford where it is rampant in the city centre? This comment runs throughout all the questions.
129053869	Be careful not to move people away from their friends and family.
129067859	Each town council should be allotted a contingency emergency fund for through sleepers. Those who stop on their way to oxford. Ie Didcot had had approx 12 over the last 12 months. All have been helped and supported by didcot residents as town council have no process in place. Its not good enough.
129070411	It appears focused on bureaucracy rather than results
129072803	I fear that this strategy will simply act as a magnet and I will have to pay for it
129080682	More affordable housing in/near places where work is, i.e. Town/city centre or brownfield such as Milton Park, make simpler!
129110446	Particularly important with regard to rough sleepers as numbers in SODC and VOWH are small. As loss of private tenancy is a main factor in homelessness, engagement with landlords is important and this could be developed on a larger scale
129123371	One wonders why there has not been close cooperation in this matter in the past.
129138501	If you have no money you cannot travel county - wide. There needs to be hostels in many localities
129142851	Making the public more aware of how it can support the council with working on prevention and support for communities.
129171806	More small "pods" to assist before the situation becomes critical

129211841	Are the links and shared databases between district councils and housing associations robust enough? Are the systems to facilitate housing swaps flexible enough? Neither flexible nor robust is enough if the information is not managed quickly and efficiently eg is there a system for the Friday afternoon crisis?
129226925	Clearly there are many good intentions. But what I so far do not see are any practical ideas for how to accomplish those good intentions. The important question is always "How". Perhaps the aim is to follow up this paper, after consultation, with another paper containing the practical suggestions/decisions taken by the Council. If that is so then I would be eager to see that. This comment is the same comment I would make on all the proposed objectives.
129227602	Work closer with people that have a criminal record, still don't like the term intentionally homeless. There is a void still with people who are imprisoned.
129254553	Some councils people all over the country. I think working county wide is essential but not necessarily nationwide.
129270403	I feel homelessness should not be happening in this country, a wealthy one. Obviously there are many reasons for homelessness and these should be dealt with individually.
129320214	No
129360164	No
129395841	I am unable to access your website for fuller information. It's a statement akin to 'are you for peace'. How will ?? - unreadable sentence, screenshot of scanned sentence provided below: 
129397780	The relationship between addiction (and alcohol / drugs) and homelessness needs to be addressed.
129470082	Need to cooperate with other local authorities to find solutions to homelessness, BUT avoid Oxford City pushing homeless people into VWH!
129620662	Working together is great but it should not mean local families shipped out to the far side of the county without the means to continue in schools etc.
129653675	None
129656306	Ensure South Oxfordshire taxes are not spent in other areas
129671775	No - very general statement. Hard to disagree with it.
129674194	I would say you have produced 5 objectives but without any analysis of the problems. Are you dealing with age, sex, finances, mentality, education, social or antisocial, hard working or shy of work. Are the clients local or international. Are they different in every case. Do they have physical, mental, sexual, cultural etc problems. You haven't met your solutions with questions rather than defined problems and individuality.
129678633	Sounds like a quango. Little agreement and even less action to help those who need help rather than strategies.
129679426	Going into Oxford City on a regular basis I'm disappointed and disgusted to see grown men - sometimes women - asleep under piles of covers / blankets etc and huddled in shop doorways. Often surrounded by rubbish / debris. These are an eyesore and blight on 'historic Oxford'. I have been sorely embarrassed to watch a street sleeper - apparently drunk - squaring up or forcing foreign tourist taking a photo of a landmark. To homeless man 'thought' man was photographing him! Dreadful.
129691837	No one should be homeless, but sadly some people would rather spend any money allotted to them on drugs. A stronger effort to wean these people off their drugs.
129693715	Mental health access needs to be improved along with the strategy's.
129693974	To ensure the homeless do not congregate where service is deemed better.

129698304	A certain percentage have drink or drug problems - This is self inflicted and therefore they do not in my view need housing - they need treatment. Give the housing to the most deserving. Give them jobs - however manual i.e labouring, road works, grass cutting, washing up, cleaning, to name but a few (working for the council).
129737336	Working together across all relevant and contributing organisations has got to be the right approach. This may also include approved voluntary organisations, but because homelessness can have many complex issues such as drug abuse or mental health issues it needs to be tackled collaboratively with expert resources.
129927499	Yes forget about other areas and concentrate on your own area SODC
129939310	Prevent 'blocking' of council-owned family properties by single people by relocating to one-bedroom properties. (know of 2 in West Hagbourne). Assess this situation county-wide and if this situation is widespread, build more single accommodation.
129940633	'partnership' - what does this mean? Meaningless statement.
129941148	No
129943823	On reading the actions my only concern is that the necessary communication could extend beyond the partners listed - To identify homeless people, potentially vulnerable families / individuals. You could even involve schools, colleges, pubs - i.e use the community.
129944974	I agree that all relevant organisations in the county should work together more closely to identify and resolve this problem.
129955365	Accommodation for local people only.
129995111	all people that can work e.g. people that don't have disabilities or children 0-3 should be encouraged to work. the council should be allowed to tell them that they have to do something in order to help themselves as it is not fair on the families that do work hard and privately rent and have nothing to show for it
130182236	Homelessness in the SODC area MUST be tackled seriously.
130185468	No
130191359	I do know some people who are homeless, there are few people who are genuinely homeless. Most people come to Oxford City to beg for money for drugs or drink. These people need to be helped to get out of their downward spiral. The VOWHDC is hard up so I think other councils and counties should get together and share responsibilities and ideas on the subject of homelessness.
130198035	Getting people off the streets should be no 1 priority
130200027	I strongly agree with organisations working together to tackle homelessness issues. When things are fragmented well- being people step in to help and this is not always a good idea or sustainable.
130202740	I am not aware of any proactive methods of identifying arising problems in advance and question if there is a regulator which people can applied to if for any reason they are aware of being evicted. Noting this latter reason might not be their fault.
130316359	Link up teams from District and Town Councils in order to count numbers of homeless people. Try and find out why people are homeless. Health? Physical / mental. Ex forces. Marriage break-up etc.
130383607	Rough sleepers are from other areas in many cases
130729011	'Partnerships' is not clear enough. It is important to ensure multiple property owners are not those who gain from (any greater) council investment but funds go to meet the needs of those risking homelessness.
131201818	As a society / community the emphasis needs to be taken away from financial considerations. We need to make decisions from our hearts and use our heads to implement them, rather than trying to 'control' everything with our heads.
131347173	In section 1, Improve country-wide partnership working to prevent and reduce homelessness, you indicate your wish to work with county-wide partners. However, nowhere is it mentioned that very local organisations, charities and volunteers are sometimes best placed to identify issues around current and prospective homelessness in their own communities.

131377786	Extra help and support to young people
131480128	No
129029923	Mental health agencies should be involved as often the inability to cope with “normal” life leads to opting out which can result in homelessness
129075898	I think for all objectives housing and help should be given to homeless people that deserve it and if they commit a crime it should be revoked so given on good behaviour
129150246	Admirable proposals, if they have enough funds to make them a reality
131591655	Ensure that actions / potential actions by the council do not contribute to the problem. e.g taking non payers of council tax to court at great expense and then imprisoning them at great cost. That money could be better diverted to solving their problems... mental? financial? etc. rather than further causing problems

Proposed objective 2:

To minimise the use of temporary accommodation

Below are the comments received to the question:

Do you have any comments or suggestions on proposed objective 2?

Response ID	Comments
129033571	Idealistic and obviously positive in its intention, but so dependant on new housing being available.
129034383	Temp accommodation is transient and puts people in limbo but is necessary from time to time.
129034759	Temporary accomodation is disruptive and depressing and the more you can avoid it the better I strongly support the principle of an exit plan being in place from the outset, so people aren't 'dumped' into temporary accomodation
129035261	get them out of cheap B&B's or if you do have to use it then let them stay in them during the day.
129040219	Early intervention is key, I agree with this as a main focus for prevention
129048027	no
129041287	Yes we need more permanent housing to be able to support this problem
129072803	See above
129073067	Why minimise the use TA when the need is still there if they move on from the TA was better coordinated than the time in TA would be reduced. TA support should be delivered from a Statutory service but connecting more with the Charity sector, or support from community Navigators.
129080682	I suggest temporary means just that, and is required to be used as there is no bank of spare housing, however increase in council housing by charging appropriate rent would support this. And right to buy needs to pay for council to replace, too heavily discounted.
129110446	I note that SODC owns no temporary accommodation. While I agree with the policy, for those with a chaotic lifestyle or immediate relationship breakdown, temporary accommodation is sometimes the only answer, so this policy should not be a reason for poor provision of temporary accommodation.
129123371	One wonders why there has not been close cooperation in this matter in the past.
129138501	Why? Anything is better than being on the streets.
129139302	'Minimising the use of temporary accommodation' by..... This objective needs completing as it is almost a platitude as it stands.
129142851	Temporary accommodation is needed anyway so it will be a struggle to minimise it.
129171806	as above
129211841	As this is likely to be more expensive and dislocating for those affected, the only solution is to have some capacity in the housing stock but therein lies the problem. Ideally each area would

	have one or two homes available for emergency use to avoid temporary accommodation- or a block of 4 living units/
129226925	See above
129227602	Temporary accommodation is all well, but if no duty is accepted after that, then they are street homeless. More accommodation is needed for the elderly people being released from custody.
129254553	People struggle getting jobs, credit, schools etc if they do not have a regular address so temporary accommodation is neither good for the person and it is expensive for the tax payer.
129320214	No
129360164	No
129395841	Currently if possible without causing more problems
129397780	Where the accommodation is placed needs careful consideration. Needs to be evenly distributed.
129620662	How is it acceptable for people to be housed in rooms with no access to cooking facilities? Foodbanks should not have to supply food which can only be prepared with a kettle or eaten cold. 24 hours maybe but for months on end is unsustainable.
129653675	None
129671775	Rather than 'minimising the use' the objective should be to 'minimise the NEED'. The use of emergency accommodation should be maximised to ensure that all who need it can have it.
129674194	Ditto 5: I would say you have produced 5 objectives but without any analysis of the problems. Are you dealing with age, sex, finances, mentality, education, social or antisocial, hard working or shy of work. Are the clients local or international. Are they different in every case. Do they have physical, mental, sexual, cultural etc problems. You haven't met your solutions with questions rather than defined problems and individuality.
129678633	Need temporary as much as permanent.
129679426	I cannot understand why there's a need to 'minimise' usage of temporary housing when there's an apparent need for it - see reply as 1 (Going into Oxford City on a regular basis I'm disappointed and disgusted to see grown men - sometimes women - asleep under piles of covers / blankets etc and huddled in shop doorways. Often surrounded by rubbish / debris. These are an eyesore and blight on 'historic Oxford'. I have been sorely embarrassed to watch a street sleeper - apparently drunk - squaring up or forcing foreign tourist taking a photo of a landmark. To homeless man 'thought' man was photographing him! Dreadful.)
129693715	Mental health
129698304	See item C on question 7: C - Shops are closing due to Amazon (online shopping). Take over these shops (compulsory purchase) for a reasonable price and turn them into houses and collect rent for them.
129737336	Not sure how temporary accommodation fits but sometimes it is important to break social groups up to help people move in the right direction and get the right help.
129939310	Maybe this is linked to my comment above [objective 1: Prevent 'blocking' of council -owned family properties by single people by relocating to one-bedroom properties. (know of 2 in West Hagbourne). Assess this situation county-wide and if this situation is widespread, build more single accommodation]. If this situation is widespread, relocation would minimise temporary accommodation costs in the long-term.
129940633	Use ex army barracks and hotels so there is an incentive to get a job and move on.
129941148	No
129943823	All good aims and actions - but this does assure that there is enough temporary accommodation to serve the needs - I guess this is part of the last action (objective 1: On reading the actions my only concern is that the necessary communication could extend beyond the partners listed - To identify homeless people, potentially vulnerable families / individuals. You could even involve schools, colleges, pubs - i.e use the community.).
129944974	I only know from reports on TV about families being placed in poor standards of rented accommodation. There should be better council inspected / run hostels on homes for very short-term emergency shelter.

129995111	tempary accommodation should be available when needed e.g. social house/ privately rented house under repair due to unforeseen damage or a new build waiting to be signed off for a homeless family
130182236	Temporary accommodation is very important - I should be used whenever possible.
130185468	No
130185790	1) Rehousing families as quickly as possible in more stable accommodation 2) For single individual, the situation is quite different and temporary accommodation might be a more short / medium term solution.
130191359	Homeless people see the Oxford area as a very attractive place. There is far too much accommodation available already. Other councils need to do much more. Cheap / subsidised housing will not help the problem. Temporary accommodation will not help either. There are just too many people with complex problems.
130198035	Temporary housing is better than the streets - as long as it does put more people onto the streets it has a place. - Minimise is key word not eliminate.
130200027	Yes please stop making rip off landlords of substandard temporary accommodation rich. Build some suitable accommodation.
130202740	I do not think this type of accommodation can be ignored, if the availability of long term properties are not present.
130314963	No
130316359	Temporary accommodation, should not wildly benefit private landlords. It should be clean dry and safe. Tenants would be there for fixed times, 3 months, 6, 9, 1 year. only. But a plan should be in place for them to move into COUNCIL OWNED flats / houses.
130383607	We should accommodate our local people first
130729011	Use of temporary accommodation can be appropriate but should be very short term for emergencies.
130734175	Surely there will always be a need for temporary accommodation?
131201818	The Planning Dept needs attention. The 'housing crisis' is not too few 'houses' but too many of the wrong type of houses (3 & 4 bed built by developers FOR developers) and too few of the type needed (1 & 2 bed units in places accessible by public transport). Planners seem to be allowing developers to 'set the rules'. Planners should be working for the community they serve - not the government.
131480128	Temporary accommodation is necessary whilst you sort individual cases.
129150246	Again, great if you have the funds
129035177	2. Surely providing accommodation although not desirable is better than seeing homeless on the street or living in tents or makeshift tarpaulins etc.
130688836	better to prevent
131591655	Yes build more council homes specifically for the less well off/ homeless. Money spent on courts / imprisonment could be diverted for this more constructive way of dealing with this issue.

Proposed objective 3:

To further develop our housing needs service to prevent and relieve homelessness at the earliest opportunity.

Below are the comments received to the question:

Do you have any comments or suggestions on proposed objective 3?

Response ID	Comments
129034759	This is a core objective
129038408	Need to do what is necessary to ensure that the homeless have somewhere to stay and not sleep on the streets
129040219	I think this is a bit thin and needs more qualification around how you intend to achieve this
129048027	no comment
129053869	Yes. All private renters are at risk of homelessness. We need more long-term, secure accomodation for the general public.
129070411	I believe that working with organisations such as Mind could be effective
129072803	No
129073067	A revisit of the Community Navigators, it's an evidence-based approach that should have had a funding culture tailored to a local agenda, A clear objective to do more and not allow a culture of just doing enough to meet the need of HRA, More proactive, finding people in the community who may have a future housing crisis, before they present at the LA
129080682	No but this should be close to where work is
129110446	There are good projects in place eg Oxfordshire Trailblazers, Housing First and Gold Rose. There should be a longer term and more joined-up strategy to strengthen and support this policy. It is good to see that the housing needs service is improving. I have never been homeless, but support and clear communication must be very important at this time.
129123371	One wonders why there has not been close cooperation in this matter in the past.
129138501	Homelessness is immediate and cannot wait for the earliest possible opportunity.
129171806	use adapted shipping containers (as seen in Reading)
129211841	Easily accessible on-line and telephone service to advise tenants of measures they can take when threatened with eviction and possible short-term loans for rent arrear difficulties (eg while waiting for UC).
129226925	See above
129254553	This would be good to avoid homeless e.g. people who pay rent and fall behind are much better looked after before they become homeless. I should imagine it is cheaper to look after them before they become homeless as well.
129320214	No
129360164	No
129395841	Just now in Oxford there was a redundant school - ideal for hostel purposes. It was turned into luxury flats!!
129397780	Make the best use of existing housing. Renovation of derelict buildings possibly.
129653675	None
129671775	From what I've read the availability of alternative accommodation does not necessarily lead to a reduction in homelessness. Other factors can be more influential - i.e use of drugs, need for companionship, mental instability - and need to be taken into account.
129674194	Ditto 6: I would say you have produced 5 objectives but without any analysis of the problems. Are you dealing with age, sex, finances, mentality, education, social or antisocial, hard working or shy of work. Are the clients local or international. Are they different in every case. Do they have physical, mental, sexual, cultural etc problems. You haven't met your solutions with questions rather than defined problems and individuality.

129679426	Agree, providing that those who are housing there appreciate and respect what has been provided for them. They gain employment in order to pay their way. If they damage, trash or deface their accommodation, they pay for repairs. They do not upset decent neighbours.
129691837	Increased housing without infrastructure will create other problems. Not enough schools, access to health - local G.P practices and forced to hospitals.
129693715	Mental health
129693974	As long as this does not impinge on the prospects of long-term locals acquiring houses.
129698304	A - Build affordable housing (that's no down payment) B - for a reasonable rent. Give families with children priority. C - Shops are closing due to Amazon (online shopping). Take over these shops (compulsory purchase) for a reasonable price and turn them into houses and collect rent for them.
129737336	Housing is a complex issue. Affordable housing which enables people to "buy" a stake is an important factor but is this the group of people most at risk of homelessness?
129927499	this type of property should be mixed in with private and professional rented property and not dumped in one place thereby creating a slum area and areas with no ambition
129939310	For those who are unwilling (not unable) to remedy there situation by working / completing a substance abuse programme, housing should only be provided in severe weather conditions in hostel-type accommodation.
129940633	What? developing? Says nothing.
129941148	No
129943823	Again, all good - though surely one development is to develop an improved communication network (see response to objective 1 - On reading the actions my only concern is that the necessary communication could extend beyond the partners listed - To identify homeless people, potentially vulnerable families / individuals. You could even involve schools, colleges, pubs - i.e use the community.).
129944974	I have no experience of the 'housing needs service' I do not know how to access the service, where it is based, nor what it does. I would suggest it needs to advertised!
12995111	availability for the homeless who's fault is not in there hands should be offered services and guidance in order to change there circumstances asap but those who continuously play the system and do things in order to get there own place should be made to follow the procedures
130182236	Yes develop.
130185468	No
130185790	Yes to the objective. Some creativity might be useful i.e using rundown existing stock / asking charities / volunteers help to get it back to use.
130191359	You could build thousands of homes, but if people have got no money because of debt unemployment, drug or drink problems they will not have money to pay rent. I do not think it is fair to expect the rate paying hard up families to foot the bill.
130198035	This is definitely a need and should be prioritised.
130202740	This is a funding problem. I'm not aware if this proposal can ever be met.
130314963	No
130316359	Raise Council Tax [difficult] to start a fund for COUNCIL OWNED properties and get local builders to build these homes. Builders get some sort of financial encouragement. Less Business Tax?, to join the scheme.
130729011	The primary objective should be to identify risk of homelessness and be able to take action to prevent it. This is difficult but would avoid many more difficult situations which arise from homelessness both for families and single people. Financial planning help is badly needed by many with support to manage limited funds.
131201818	The Planning Dept needs attention. The 'housing crisis' is not too few 'houses' but too many of the wrong type of houses (3 & 4 bed built by developers FOR developers) and too few of the type needed (1 & 2 bed units in places accessible by public transport). Planners seem to be

	allowing developers to 'set the rules'. Planners should be working for the community they serve - not the Government.
131299453	Society cannot and must not ignore homelessness. We must tackle and eliminate the roots causes of homelessness. Local and District authorities have a key role to play in both helping provide accommodation and in educating their residents to stop ignoring the homeless.
131480128	No, but you need a variety of types of accommodation for single people/families.
129035177	New building projects although required to provide a % of affordable housing are still out of financial reach of the homeless as they are useally jobless as well.
131591655	Yes... see above [build more council homes specifically for the less well off/ homeless. Money spent

Proposed objective 4:

To improve access to emergency accommodation and increase support for rough sleepers

Below are the comments received to the question:

Do you have any comments or suggestions on proposed objective 3?

Response ID	Comments
129033571	I agree. This is a context in which the local authority could beneficially co-operate with the St. Dismas charity, which is specifically dedicated to relieving homelessness and rough sleeping.
129034759	The Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) is an admirable process and I strongly support your investigate providing access to a winter shelter throughout the winter months
129035261	Open up more places and shelters i.e. University accommodation during the summer and Christmas when the students aren't there.
129038408	You need proper emergency accommodation set up to cater for them.
129040219	Specialist Hosuing Needs Officer and Winter Shelter are great ideas
129048027	no comment
129041287	No on should should be forced to sleep rough unless they choose to.
129065487	I am concerned that this objective may be counter-productive as it may encourage rough sleepers from outside the area to come into the area if they perceive that the services they receive are likely to be better here than in the area where they currently are. I would be supportive of this objective if it is accompanied by measures to prevent such an influx.
129072803	No
129073067	Create a local provision, reducing the need to be placed in the City for the Single Homeless, set up smaller 3/4 bed projects in SODC/VALE reducing the larger hostel environments.
129089806	surely if provision is improved this could attract more 'homeless' people to the area.
129110446	I don't think that working with the voluntary sector was mentioned in this draft statement. With proper coordination, this could be very helpful.
129111678	On speaking with a homeless person in Oxford city the other year - this gentleman was really happy as he said something like: 'great news - its dropping below zero tonight so that means the shelter will be open'. I was horrified to hear this poor individual would only get 'emergency shelter' if the temperature is freezing. I feel rough sleepers should always have a shelter to go to at any time. I appreciate some struggle with everyday accommodation and for those people regular housing is not an option, therefore I feel there needs to be a permanent shelter to go to should anyone need it - it shouldn't just be available 'in an emergency'
129123371	One wonders why there has not been close cooperation in this matter in the past.
129138501	This should be immediate

129142851	Making people more aware who might be close to a homeless situation where they can seek help but also the wider public so they can support people who they know may be close to that situation. Maybe through a social media campaign.
129171806	as above
129211841	More hostels over a wider area with the status to support those who need an address to apply for work..
129226925	See above
129254553	Particularly in winter there should be no rough sleepers.
129320214	No
129360164	No
129395841	See comment above: Just now in Oxford there was a redundant school - ideal for hostel purposes. It was turned into luxury flats!!
129397780	Again, addiction / drugs needs to be addressed. Many homeless people won't use emergency accommodation because of the hostile atmosphere. Separate hostels for women for safety. No women/female is going to feel safe in a hostel containing even 1/2 drunken old men!
129398497	Need to tackle unemployment and drug / alcohol dependency in parallel as these are factors in homelessness.
129653675	None
129671775	The first part of the objective is OK. However the 2nd part 'increasing the support' needs further clarification (see my comment in 7 above: From what I've read the availability of alternative accommodation does not necessarily lead to a reduction in homelessness. Other factors can be more influential - i.e use of drugs, need for companionship, mental instability - and need to be taken into account.)
129674194	Ditto 7: I would say you have produced 5 objectives but without any analysis of the problems. Are you dealing with age, sex, finances, mentality, education, social or antisocial, hard working or shy of work. Are the clients local or international. Are they different in every case. Do they have physical, mental, sexual, cultural etc problems. You haven't met your solutions with questions rather than defined problems and individuality.
129678633	This is the front line where the most impact can be made for least cost.
129679426	Agree - essential - otherwise numbers of homeless and street sleepers will increase.
129691837	Homeless accommodation should also provide drug counselling for those who need it. Also mediation between young rough sleepers and their parents.
129693715	Mental health
129693974	No-one should be ignored if found sleeping rough. But I understand the accommodation is often turned down, because of fears about fellow inmates - drugs, theft, violence. Therefore every bed offered should be secure for the individual.
129698012	Involve churches and clergy in towns.
129698304	Instead of begging - give them community work and pay them in kind - food and hot drinks (not money that they can spend on drugs or drink)
129737336	Getting rough sleepers out of a cycle has got to be the way forward - temporary accommodation without addressing the wider issue is just papering over the cracks.
129939310	Some rough sleepers may be illiterate. Churches should be used to enable this objective. I believe all rough sleepers programmes should have access to medical care / literacy and know how to access these.
129940633	What sort? Barracks, open a hostel, not housing
129941148	No
129944974	Most support seems to be given by charity workers and i believe elected councils should provide a 'safety net' for rough sleepers. In the present day, no one should be sleeping on the streets.
129955685	Open up Didcot Civic Hall for people 7pm - 7am - have only people that behave.

130064224	This seems to me the most urgent objective - especially throughout winter when people should not be sleeping rough
130182236	Yes increase support for rough sleepers
130185468	No
130185790	Also, one would need to be sure that the extra accommodation for rough sleepers would be acceptable for them (fears of inquiries, police, etc ...)
130191359	There are obviously some genuine rough sleepers. It seems strange they gather in the city centre and not in rural areas. I think there should be access to emergency accommodation if the weather conditions could threaten life. It should not be seen as the norm. Who is paying for this?
130198035	Sticking plaster to the problem - long term accommodation and support is the key but as an interim whilst housing stock increased definitely needed.
130314963	No
130316359	Are there any Army / Air Force houses that could be used? Older student accommodation in Oxford City during Summer Holidays? Houses such as those 2 in Summerfields Abingdon North which are deserted?
130729011	Where possible focusing intervention on those new to rough sleeping is likely to be more beneficial as once the behaviour is embedded it is more difficult to change.
131480128	Homelessness is a result of many different scenarios and cannot be grouped. Converted office blocks are not suitable for families, but better suited to single people, as long as there is a communal area, so they don't feel isolated.
131591655	<p>Yes. This is merely a temporary measure the need for which would be reduced or eliminated by proper response to 1, 2 and 3 above.</p> <p>[Response 1: Ensure that actions / potential actions by the council do not contribute to the problem. e.g taking non payers of council tax to court at great expense and then imprisoning them at great cost. That money could be better diverted to solving their problems... mental? financial? etc. rather than further causing problems]</p> <p>[Response 2: Yes build more council homes specifically for the less well off/ homeless. Money spent on courts / imprisonment could be diverted for this more constructive way of dealing with this issue.]</p> <p>[Response 3: Yes... see above - build more council homes specifically for the less well off/ homeless. Money spent on courts / imprisonment could be diverted for this more constructive way of dealing with this issue.]</p>

Proposed objective 4:

To improve access to sustainable accommodation for households who are at risk of homelessness or who are homeless

Below are the comments received to the question:

Do you have any comments or suggestions on proposed objective 4?

Response ID	Comments
129033165	Make the building of social housing a priority, even if it implies a rise in Council Tax.
129033571	Well this is the ultimate solution to a growing problem. But I wonder if there is adequate funding to enable this laudable aim.
129034383	Consider longer term shared accommodation for single homeless people. I work in homelessness and this is something I have just created in London for working homeless people. Prevention of spiralling mental health and unemployment.
129034759	Prevention is vastly better than cure after the event
129035261	Get the banks and building societies to do more to stop evicting people

129038408	Do we understand the reason as to why people become homeless. If we can understand that we can then put a plan in place to reduce the need.
129040219	Housing First model development good. Also great to see ambition to provide incentives to let empty property
129048027	no comment
129053869	Access to housing should be viewed as a basic human right.
129072803	No
129073067	Working better with the Difficult tenancies so Family's faceless threat of eviction, creating a charter to do more for families at risk, Not doing this from a stat objective but commissioned service with a clear social mission to engage and support families to thrive.
129077520	The location of sustainable accommodation is important. It should be close to city/town centres and public transport links, so that vulnerable people are not disadvantaged by the lack of access to a private car for travel to work, school or place of study.
129080682	Again needs to be near the places of jobs
129089806	again, if people are aware of better options they may become homeless on purpose - how many people would genuinely evict their own child but if they thought they would receive care/accommodation then they may be less likely to find a solution to any issues they have.
129110446	I don't think that enough is done to bring empty accommodation into use. As above, improved relationships with private landlords could be very important.
129123371	One wonders why there has not been close cooperation in this matter in the past.
129136071	It seems imperative that to tackle homelessness we should address the homeless issue first and foremost by moving to a "Housing First" scheme where people are provided a stable home and offered suitable support rather housing being granted on the basis of people achieving certain criteria. An executed evaluation and exploration of this would be welcomed.
129138501	This is urgent
129139302	Perhaps be more explicit including the term 'building' sustainable accommodation - not just 'improving access'
129171806	as above
129211841	Affordability is the main issue so some subsidised rentals.
129226925	See above
129254553	Perhaps restrict Council Tax breaks on second and certainly third homes. Also address empty houses quicker.
129320214	No
129360164	No
129395841	No comment
129397780	Try to enable homeless people out of addiction (where applicable) in the long term. 'Sustainable' should not infer long-term. Homelessness is something need to get out of, not remain in.
129398497	Create a direct link to landlords with HMO's and work in partnership
129620662	Forget shared ownership, please start building proper council housing available for long term assured tenancies, without right to buy. I do appreciate this is a more national policy issue rather than local. But we need more good, reasonable, safe accommodation in order to provide stability.
129653675	None
129671775	The condition of 'homelessness' should be one that is suffered through circumstances beyond the control of the person claimed as such. It should not be something that anyone can claim at will. It should not result in a hand-out of public funds to people capable of supporting themselves unaided.

129674194	Ditto 8: I would say you have produced 5 objectives but without any analysis of the problems. Are you dealing with age, sex, finances, mentality, education, social or antisocial, hard working or shy of work. Are the clients local or international. Are they different in every case. Do they have physical, mental, sexual, cultural etc problems. You haven't met your solutions with questions rather than defined problems and individuality.
129679426	None
129693715	Mental health
129698304	Stop selling council houses. Instead, let them for an affordable rent. Buy (compulsory) any property which has been run down or neglected and is standing empty.
129737336	Access to affordable housing which people can 'buy a stake' into rather than perpetual renting has got to be the way forward for the majority of people. For a minority who get stuck in an at risk group of homelessness wider issues such as mental health and drug abuse need to be addressed as part of any housing solution.
129939310	See above [not clear which comment respondent is referring to by saying 'see above']
129940633	How, who pays, what terms and conditions?
129941148	No
129943823	Good aims, though i am not really sure what the last action is - developing a 'market strategy' sounds too commercial to me. Should I worry?
129944974	I think this links into objective 1. There are so many empty properties around the county I cant understand why there isn't a system in place already to provide access to them.
12995111	people need to know there options when they are at risk and advised how to help themselves not just rely on the system to then find themselves worse off then before
130182236	Proposed objective 5 is important to improve
130185468	No
130185790	Absolutely - There again the help of outfits like Citizen Advice Bureaux, to inform and steer in the right direction, would be essential to maximise the policy.
130191359	If a household with children is at risk they can apply for credit / benefits. If a pensioner household is at risk they can also get credits / benefits to help them. So can disabled people. I do not think fit, healthy people of working age should have automatic access to sustainable accommodation.
130198035	Encourage builder to build a % of all accommodation products to be available to these people and first time buyers - rather than the derive of 4-5 bedded luxury houses which seem to be being built.
130200027	It is not great that areas of the greenbelt are being developed for 'executive' housing - what about more social housing? Where I live there are already plenty of nice 4 bedroom detached homes. The huge development down the road has the social housing and 'affordable' homes as the final phase. Will it ever happen? In the meanwhile there are even more large expensive houses. What about bungalows?
130314963	No
130316359	Do not really understand what sustainable means in this case. If council owned, the tenants would be expected to help cultivate communal gardens, and clear paths etc.
130729011	The very high costs of housing in Oxfordshire present challenges to even moderate earners. Prevention of profiteering by foreign investors in Oxfordshire housing stock and more social housing is necessary.
131201818	I don't think sustainability is a consideration if one is homeless.
131480128	Absolutely necessary. And necessary it is SUITABLE. (No cubicles in converted buildings)

131591655	<p>Yes, bearing in mind 1, 2, 3 and 4 above</p> <p>[Response 1: Ensure that actions / potential actions by the council do not contribute to the problem. e.g taking non payers of council tax to court at great expense and then imprisoning them at great cost. That money could be better diverted to solving their problems... mental? financial? etc. rather than further causing problems]</p> <p>[Response 2: Yes build more council homes specifically for the less well off/ homeless. Money spent on courts / imprisonment could be diverted for this more constructive way of dealing with this issue.]</p> <p>[Response 3: Yes... see above - build more council homes specifically for the less well off/ homeless. Money spent on courts / imprisonment could be diverted for this more constructive way of dealing with this issue.]</p> <p>Response 4: Yes. This is merely a temporary measure the need for which would be reduced are eliminated by proper response to 1,2 and 3 above.]</p>
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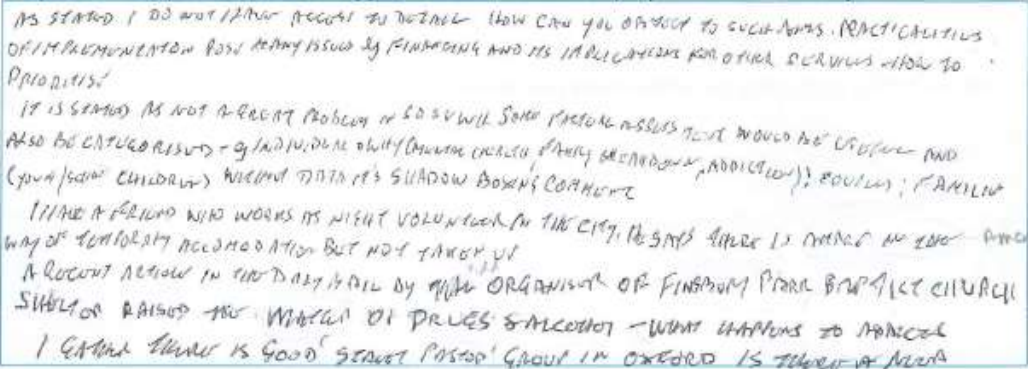
Overall proposed aims and objectives in the draft strategy:

Below are the comments received to the question:

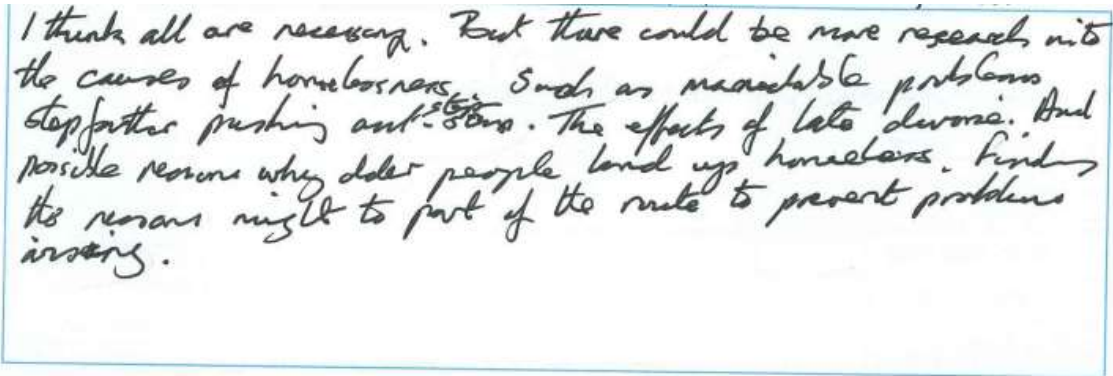
Overall, how far do you agree or disagree with the proposed aims and objectives in the draft strategy?

Response ID	Comments
129034759	In many ways you are continuing and buiding upon successes already achieved so I feel confident the strategy is sound
129048027	no comment
129041287	I these are good but how are these going to be achieved? I am not seeing the HOW in these statements
129051685	Not sure there is a sufficient strategy in place to help those with substance misuse problems to find and remain in suitable accommodation. Are not these people the very ones who might be said to be intentionally homeless due to their behaviour?
129054256	You can only support those who want support. Does the fact that there is little rough sleeping in SODC mean that they migrate to Oxford where it is rampant in the city centre?
129053869	Private renters who retire will not be able to afford to pay rent and could become homeless. Please work on providing accomodarian in advance. Please bear in mind that private landlords do not like renting to those on benefits.
129061081	Need positive action - not loads of committees and meetings!
129072803	No
129080682	Break the rules, people want to work and have pride, these homes need to have access to jobs and council housing is excellent but build where there's jobs for people in real need, i.e. On brown field! Don't just sell stock cheap and means test for rent. At same time don't build a ghetto.
129089806	I believe nobody should be forced to sleep rough on the streets but believe that the alternative should not be so attractive as to make it 'desirable'. Provision of a large hostel type accommodation which warm and provides basic facilities should be created - people should have access to health services and social services which can steer them to jobs/education and should only be short term and reviewed regularly to avoid being a social crutch forever.
129110446	It is lacking a financial impact statement. Rent deposit schemes and rent-in advance loans may be important, but how much will this cost? How much will the increased staffing cost and when will funding for some of these supported schemes run out?
129111678	I agree with the proposal in general. I would like to think there is a clear pathway to help homeless individuals get back to a life they would like. I would like to think that anyone using the service is given a change to review the service for continuous improvement e.g. if i was homeless i would like to feel safe in whatever help was offered

129117339	My only comment would be that this strategy needs to be person-centred and evidence-based. Research should be done on any proposals to ensure that there is evidence that they will improve services.
129123371	This page seems to be a repeat of an earlier, albeit in a different format.
129132465	I do feel that some homeless people do not do enough to help themselves. Drug use seems to be prevalent in stories I have heard. . Even though 'cheap' accommodation might be provided to rough sleepers I feel that support in helping or offering them employment would help them gain self respect. There are "poor people" as Mr Corbyn calls them that do not do anything to improve their conditions even though having a room above their head.
129136071	"Housing First" should be fast tracked - the timescale is too long.
129138501	Cannot it be realised that it needs urgent action, not more meetings!
129139302	The aims are weak and overlap far too much. Perhaps you need a 'vision' which can encompass these aims in one sentence and then split the aims out more distinctly. At some point you need to say who you will be working with ie local and national charities, the police etc
129211841	Homelessness should be regarded as a failure of the welfare state. Even hardened addicts and alcoholics should have somewhere to stay if they will cooperate with basic standards of behaviour.
129255839	A policy must be in place, therefore what is proposed is as good as any other.
129257280	Do maintain and develop your partnership working with other housing agencies and advice and guidance agencies such as Citizens Advice. In your draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Policy you talk about improving knowledge about Homelessness Provision. Could you broaden the information you are planning to provide to District Councillors and make sure that it is also promoted to Town and Parish Councils? Could you also make it available to Schools? Possibly via Head Teachers, but also School Nurses (at Secondary Schools). OCC has a weekly 'Schools News' emailed newsletter that goes out to all state schools in the County. (http://schools.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/node/132)
129320214	No

129395841	<p>As stated I do not have access to detail. How can you object to such aims. Practicalities of implementation pose many issues of financing and its implications for other services and how to prioritise. It is stated as not a great problem in SODC and VOWH, some practical assessment would be useful and also be categorised e.g. Individual with (mental health, family breakdown, addiction), ??, families (young / school children) without data it's shadow boxing comment. I have a friend who works as night volunteer in the City, he says there is amazing (?) array of temporary accommodation but not taken up. A recent article in the Daily Mail by an organiser of Finsbury Park Baptist Church Shelter raised the issue (?) of drugs and alcohol – what happens to addicts. I gather there is good 'Street Pastor' (?) group in Oxford. Is there a means for similar in Didcot, Henley etc? What does the Council do about neighbours from there? Protect the innocent but now house the offenders? The ?? is potentially a complicated problem – not getting easier. I had some connection with St George's Crypt, Leeds, 60 years ago. It sounds little more than straight forward. Allied was Faith Lodge, a stepping stone from homelessness to an address / the possibility of work. Although – the so-called Bedroom Tax was seen as a partial answer until it was hijacked for political purposes (as well as legitimate concerns). Surplus accommodation remains an issue (having lodgers is in decline). Some years ago the government tried to encourage shop owners to open up unused rooms above the store. Grants were offered for separate access. The whole flopped. I still look at seemingly under utilised rooms above shops.</p> <p>(?) - unreadable words, screenshot of scanned response below for reference:</p>  <p>As stated I do not have access to detail. How can you object to such aims. Practicalities of implementation pose many issues of financing and its implications for other services and how to prioritise.</p> <p>It is stated as not a great problem in SODC and VOWH, some practical assessment would be useful and also be categorised e.g. Individual with (mental health, family breakdown, addiction), ??, families (young / school children) without data it's shadow boxing comment.</p> <p>I have a friend who works as night volunteer in the City, he says there is amazing (?) array of temporary accommodation but not taken up.</p> <p>A recent article in the Daily Mail by the organiser of Finsbury Park Baptist Church Shelter raised the issue (?) of drugs and alcohol – what happens to addicts.</p> <p>I gather there is good 'Street Pastor' group in Oxford. Is there a means for similar in Didcot, Henley etc?</p> <p>What does the Council do about neighbours from there? Protect the innocent but now house the offenders?</p> <p>The issue is potentially a complicated problem – not getting easier.</p> <p>I had some connection with St George's Crypt, Leeds – 60 years ago. It sounds little more than straight forward. Allied was Faith Lodge, a stepping stone from homelessness to an address / the possibility of work.</p> <p>Although – the so-called Bedroom Tax was seen as a partial answer until it was hijacked for political purposes (as well as legitimate concerns). Surplus accommodation remains an issue (having lodgers is in decline).</p> <p>Some years ago the government tried to encourage shop owners to open up unused rooms above the store. Grants were offered for separate access. The whole flopped. I still look at seemingly under utilised rooms above shops.</p>
129397780	<p>Well meaning, but will never be eradicated. On-street begging and homelessness seems to go together. Does giving money to beggars help or hinder the problem? I've often been asked for money to stay in a night-shelter but strongly suspect it is for other reasons. The reasons WHY people have become homeless must be faced.</p>

129398284	Better understanding of other council depts - working together to find jobs and useful activities, could improve the 'homeless situation' (feeling life has a purpose, gives one strength to tackle these challenges).
129671775	Public support for the disadvantaged while morally desirable can, if not properly targeted and administered, lead to the undeserving being encouraged to take advantage of the 'system' to avoid supporting themselves.
129674194	Q4 identifies your suggestions but you provide no basis for the variety of problems. Helpless rather than homeless. The following comment was hand written on the paper comment form next this question: It is a one concept analysis with no identification of the problem.
129679426	I'm aware that some of these homeless and street sleepers lead dysfunctional and chaotic lives. However all humans should given a chance to improve / alter. Some choose to sleep rough. Others victim of circumstances. I'd like to see city authorities, police and social services working on the streets of Oxford, and surrounding areas, visibly interacting with street sleepers, beggars and homeless to remove them from doorways, alleyways, car parks etc to places of suitable safety /comfort/shelter such that public are not blighted by their physical presence. Those that can't/won't conform are not allowed to remain in situ.
129691837	Provide houses but also support so people do not return to sleeping on the streets.
129693715	Mental health and addiction services
129927499	You should be looking at all the empty properties we have in SODC and coming up with a plan to take them over until the owners act responsible. Example there is a five bedroom rectory on our village that has been empty for over a year I thought the C of E was one of your partners ?
129939310	Homelessness cannot be seen in isolation. Help may be needed with job applications, literacy, health care access, drug rehabilitation.
129940633	Seem vague. No detail. What are you proposing? This survey says nothing!
129941148	No
129943823	Looks thorough, well thought through. A few concerns listed on previous answers.
129944974	Aims and objectives are all very well on paper but we need to see action and implementation, not just words.
129955685	People must be able to sleep in a church as long as they behave.
130182236	Homelessness / rough sleepers needs are vital to improve and develop
130185468	In total agreement with aims and objectives
130191359	If councils had endless pots of money, it would be great to help the homeless, but the more help you give people the more dependent they become, today's favour becomes tomorrows expectation. Any money spent from the public purse needs careful scrutiny and should only be spent on high priority projects. That will benefit everyone.
130198035	Long overdue - Oxford is a disgrace and other towns are following suite with far too many people homeless and needing support.
130199600	Collection boxes donations (used postage stamps) at libraries / town halls - hopefully country wide. During bad weather more community centres opened and supplying food. No one should be on the streets sleeping rough its morally degrading.
130200027	I think the overall proposed aims and objectives are laudable. I strongly disagree with selling off council houses, and other social housing. Also developers seem to do what they want. There doesn't seem to be any sort of joined up thinking in this country.

130202740	<p>I think all are necessary, but there could be more research into the cause of homelessness. Such as... SENTENCE UNREADABLE - SEE ATTACHED ORIGINAL DOCUMENT. And possible reasons why older people land up homeless. Finding the reasons might to part of the route to prevent problems arising.</p> <p>Unreadable sentence, screenshot of scanned response below for reference:</p> 
130316359	<p>AIMS and OBJECTIVES will require much enthusiasm / energy of all those involved. We have helped Syrian families. VWHDC and SODC together should be able to reduce homelessness and rough sleeping over the years to come. In exchange, homeless people should be prepared to help their community where possible. Parks, litter picking, roadsides and verges.</p>
130383607	<p>Rough sleeping should be a national government policy decision</p>
130508753	<p>As requested by email, the respondent asked for these additional comments to be added to this response: There seemed to be no mention on what the council is going to do to meet the increasing demand for affordable rented housing, and the affordability of 'affordable rent' tenancies for the lowest income households. Secondly, I feel the statistics quoted in paragraphs below need clarity. Households with persons who have mental health needs: 'In South Oxfordshire, between April and December 2019, a total of 42 households at risk of homelessness had mental health issues. In the Vale of White Horse 37 households at risk of homelessness had mental health issues. This equates to 47 percent of households (What type of household - all types?) in South Oxfordshire and 40 per cent of households (What type of household - all types?) in the Vale of White Horse. Households with persons who have substance misuse issues:' In South Oxfordshire, between April and December 2018, a total of 16 households at risk of homelessness had substance misuse issues. The same number of households at risk of homelessness and suffering mental health issues approached the Vale of White Horse. This equates to 18 per cent of households (What type of household - all types?) in South Oxfordshire and 17 per cent of households (What type of household - all types?) in the Vale of White Horse.</p>
130718613	<p>Members welcomed the strategy. It was understood that the District Council had recently approved Part 2 of the 2031 Local Plan. It was understood that for future Local Plans the District Council would place a higher priority on affordable housing and a higher proportion of affordable housing would be provided in future developments. The Council welcomed this as a key objective for the future planning of the Vale.</p>
130729011	<p>It is important to ensure the limited funds available are focused on projects that are proven to make a difference and do not contribute to rent or property value inflation.</p>
131201818	<p>Nice ideas - but 'all mouth & no trousers' unless we stand up for local people.</p>
131299453	<p>The strategy needs the funding to deliver on its promises. Central Government must support it both financially and morally.</p>

131347173	In section 1, Improve country-wide partnership working to prevent and reduce homelessness, you indicate your wish to work with county-wide partners. However, nowhere is it mentioned that very local organisations, charities and volunteers are sometimes best placed to identify issues around current and prospective homelessness in their own communities. As far as I am aware, neither the District or County Councils have bothered to identify the myriad of organisations and networks which work in our communities. Certainly, the Community Safety Partnership has never shown an interest in community or safety at a local level. If you really want to pre-empt homelessness issues, please engage with really local networks and work out a way that they can feed into your strategy. At the moment, this seems to be an office-based exercise to tick the box for a Homelessness Strategy.
131366720	One of Oxford City Council's key corporate priorities is to meet housing need, both by tackling and preventing homelessness, and by supporting and delivering an increased supply of homes. We recognise that in order to achieve these objectives it depends on us working closely with our neighbouring district authorities. Many of the housing related problems the city currently faces, including unacceptably high levels of rough sleeping, unaffordability in the housing market, and limited access to the private rented market for those on a low income, are faced by people and communities countywide, and will not be solved in isolation by any one council. We agree with the objective contained in the draft joint S&V homelessness and rough sleeping strategy to continue with and develop joint working and a partnership approach between Oxfordshire's local authorities. Oxford City Council shares this vision and welcomes its inclusion in the draft strategy. Ending rough sleeping in Oxfordshire requires a transformation in approach. As part of this partners including South, Vale and Oxford councils have recognised that there is a need to step up collaborative working to tackle rough sleeping across the County and the commitment to the continuation of the joint commissioning arrangements is recognition of that. A key early step is the appointment of a Countywide Strategic Lead for single homeless and rough sleeping which has been made recently, who will lead work on developing a strategy for rough sleeping and single homelessness in Oxfordshire which is further testament to a 'step-change' in the way we are working together. We also welcome the strategies action to work with us and other partners to ensure learning from the countywide homelessness trailblazer is maintained and links are further developed with probation and prison services, social care and the hospitals. We also share many of the same objectives that the draft strategy identifies, in particular around rough sleeping and the prevention of homelessness. It is positive to see the direction of travel the city is moving to with services for our clients, is shared by the neighbouring authorities. We share the draft strategies objective to further move to a focus on the prevention of homelessness, in order to allow households to stay in their homes if possible, or if not to move on to different suitable accommodation before they are affected by homelessness. As part of this we are ensuring the prevention of homelessness is embedded in all our services. We are also working to bring empty homes back into use, and developing our offer to ensure continued access to the private rented sector for low income tenants.
131377786	There should be a stronger emphasis on trying to get all people sleeping on streets with stronger housing policy
131378888	There is nothing to disagree with. Ensuring that everyone has a home to live in that is fit for purpose and meets any special needs should be a top priority. My concern is that its all a bit motherhood and apple-pie but there are no actual targets. What does each action hope to achieve in actual numbers, and how? How will more people in need actually be housed? How will their needs be met? Are there safeguards in place to ensure there is no revolving door of homelessness?
131480128	Break it down to causes: Families Single people on hard times Addiction problems with help on site to help with problems
129150246	Make it happen, make funding available
131591655	Yes. Spend money on constructive things like building homes and helping people and spend less on punishing them.

