

---

# **Briefing to Overview and Scrutiny Board**

**Date: January 2021**

**Subject: Homelessness Strategy Update**

**For Discussion**

**Report of: Bryn Cooke – Head of Housing**

---

---

## **Summary of the issue:**

Whilst the completion of the revised Homelessness Strategy itself has been delayed until the Summer, a request has been made for a brief progress update to the Board, which is therefore as outlined below.

## **Recommendations to Overview and Scrutiny Board:**

To note the information/update provided and to consider the Strategy more fully at a future meeting as appropriate.

### **1.0 Background**

Oldham Council is in the process of developing a new Homelessness Strategy for the borough, which was due to be published by April 2021.

### **2.0 Current Position**

This anticipated publication date has now been moved back to September 2021, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the ongoing need to focus the majority of resources on the frontline response to homelessness. This includes (however is by no means limited to) – implementation of the government's rough sleeping directives such as 'Everyone In', moving services online and ensuring that temporary accommodation facilitates complied with social distancing measures.

With regards to the development of the new strategy itself, consultation has however been undertaken with residents, stakeholders and elected members, and a full desktop review of homelessness within the borough has been drafted. Early indications have highlighted a particular need to focus on tackling evictions and other issues in the private rented sector; domestic abuse and relationship breakdown; and meeting support needs to promote tenancy sustainment, such as mental health issues and debt management.

---