

Cherwell District Council
Equality and Climate Impact Assessment
Oxfordshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2026-28

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Section 1: Summary details

Directorate and Service Area	Wellbeing and Housing – Housing Services
What is being assessed (e.g. name of policy, procedure, project, service or proposed service change).	Oxfordshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy
Is this a new or existing function or policy?	Existing functions
Summary of assessment Briefly summarise the policy or proposed service change. Summarise possible impacts. Does the proposal bias, discriminate or unfairly disadvantage individuals or groups within the community? (following completion of the assessment).	The strategy covers the partnership services provided across Oxfordshire that are commissioned by the district, city and county councils and the ICB that relate to homelessness and rough sleeping. The strategy is an extension of the existing strategy in place from 2021-26 and takes the strategy through the LGR period. Statutory homelessness services are not within the scope of the strategy and are covered by separate strategy and legislation. It therefore does not directly impact on assessments of individual circumstances.
Completed By	Richard Smith
Authorised By	Nicola Riley
Date of Assessment	August 2026

Section 2: Detail of proposal

Context / Background Briefly summarise the background to the policy or proposed service change, including reasons for any changes from previous versions.	The Oxfordshire Homelessness Strategy was implemented in 2021 for a five-year period, following a feasibility study led by Crisis during the COVID-19 pandemic. It was signed by all Oxfordshire local authorities (Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford City Council, Cherwell, Vale of White Horse, South Oxfordshire, and West Oxfordshire District Councils) together with the NHS Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board. The strategy introduced a shared vision and five key priorities focused on prevention, rapid response, person-centred support, timely move-on, and securing the right home in the right place. Furthermore, it responded to the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board's Thematic Review of Homelessness (2019), which examined the deaths of nine individuals experiencing multiple exclusion homelessness in 2018–19. This review underscored the need for a system-wide shift in how homelessness is prevented and addressed. The Countywide Homelessness Steering Group (CHSG) was established to support the delivery of Oxfordshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy. CHSG provides direction and coordination for joint work across partners, ensuring that actions and activities undertaken by the system contribute meaningfully to the countywide strategy. The strategy has come to the end of its cycle, and a reviewed strategy has been produced and was consulted upon earlier this year. The strategy supports the current joint commissioning of countywide homelessness services through "The Alliance". Each organisation makes a financial contribution to the homeless pathway every year to enable supported accommodation, prevention and outreach services for rough sleepers.
Proposals Explain the detail of the proposals, including why this has been decided as the best course of action.	Extending the current approach will ensure the services provided to vulnerable people are not affected by and continue whilst the wider structural local government changes are ongoing through Local Government Regorganisation.

Evidence / Intelligence List and explain any data, consultation outcomes, research findings, feedback from service users and stakeholders etc, that supports your proposals and can help to inform the judgements you make about potential impact on different individuals, communities or groups and our ability to deliver our climate commitments.	A 6 week consultation took place earlier in 2026. The original strategy was in response to a number of rough sleeper deaths in Oxfordshire and emphasis the value in the shift to the current approach. This approach is now well established following the establishment of the Alliance. It is also compatible with the National Plan to End Homelessness, which is new government policy directive.
Alternatives considered / rejected Summarise any other approaches that have been considered in developing the policy or proposed service change, and the reasons why these were not adopted. This could include reasons why doing nothing is not an option.	The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below. Option 1: Not bring forward a reviewed strategy. As it not statutory document, this could be considered. However, Cherwell is located in the area covered by the existing strategy and accesses services within the wider partnership. This enables essential support for vulnerable people. To exit this arrangement without an alternative in place would put services at vulnerable people potentially at risk or harm. This is rejected

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Protected Characteristics

Appendix 2

Protected Characteristic	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of Impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner* (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Age	☒	☐	☐	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Disability	☒	☐	☐	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gender Reassignment	☒	☐	☐	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Marriage & Civil Partnership	☒	☐	☐	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pregnancy & Maternity	☒	☐	☐	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Race	☒	☐	☐	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sex	☒	☐	☐	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sexual Orientation	☒	☐	☐	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Religion or Belief	☒	☐	☐	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Community Impacts

Additional community impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Rural communities	☒	☐	☐	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Armed Forces	☒	☐	☐	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Carers	☒	☐	☐	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Areas of deprivation	☒	☐	☐	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Wider Impacts

Additional Wider Impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of Impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner* (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Other Council Services	☒	☐	☐	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Providers	☐	☒	☐	The countywide strategy does impact on wider providers operating within the Alliance. This is made up of a small number of charitable providers who provide the services such as supported accommodation, outreach and prevention services.	Annual monitoring	Head of Housing	N/A
Social Value ¹	☒	☐	☐	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

¹ If the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 applies to this proposal, please summarise here how you have considered how the contract might improve the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the relevant area

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Climate Change Impacts

OCC and CDC aim to be carbon neutral by 2030. How will your proposal affect our ability to reduce carbon emissions related to

Climate change impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Energy use in our buildings or highways	☒	☐	☐	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Our fleet	☒	☐	☐	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Staff travel	☒	☐	☐	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Purchased services and products (including construction)	☒	☐	☐	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Maintained schools	☒	☐	☐	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Appendix 2

We are also committed to enable Cherwell to become carbon neutral by 2030 and Oxfordshire by 2050. How will your proposal affect our ability to:

Climate change impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Enable carbon emissions reduction at district/county level?	☒	☐	☐	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Section 4: Review

Where bias, negative impact or disadvantage is identified, the proposal and/or implementation can be adapted or changed; meaning there is a need for regular review. This review may also be needed to reflect additional data and evidence for a fuller assessment (proportionate to the decision in question). Please state the agreed review timescale for the identified impacts of the policy implementation or service change.

Review Date	Upon review of strategy
Person Responsible for Review	Head of Housing
Authorised By	AD Wellbeing and Housing