



# RAUNDS TOWN COUNCIL

Report to: Finance and Policy Committee  
September 2019

## Summary:

A report on the **Rough Sleeping Guidelines 230.19**

## Attachments

Draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Guide

### 1.0 **Background**

In the winter of 2019 there were 5 people known to be rough sleeping in Raunds. 3 of these people were rough sleeping on town council land. The Clerk and council staff followed advice from the homelessness team in Rushden and local police in how to manage this.

In June 2019 the Finance and Policy Committee passed the following resolution

#### **Town Council Land**

a) To consider forming a strategy for Rough Sleepers in Raunds.

Members agreed that it was important to form a policy to ensure a consistent approach and to protect council staff.

It was agreed that a policy would be prepared for consideration at the next meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee and that the policy will take the form an information document that can be supplied to anyone rough sleeping in Raunds. Prior to adoption, the Homelessness team in Rushden will be asked to review the document.

The principles of the policy will be to:

Step 1: On becoming aware of any rough sleepers in Raunds, the homelessness team in Rushden will be advised.

Step 2: Rough Sleepers will be given information on all help available, including housing and health information. They will be offered support in contacting any support organisations

Step 3: Rough Sleepers will be given 7 days' notice to move off town council land.

**RESOLVED that the Clerk will prepare a policy to be considered at the next Finance and Policy Committee meeting.**

### 2.0 **Draft Policy / Guidelines**

A draft policy has been produced is attached to this report.

### 3.0 **Advice from East Northamptonshire Council**

The draft policy has been sent to the housing team at East Northamptonshire Council for review

A number of comments were raised which are summarised below:

<p><b>4.0 Recommendation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•ENC were not aware of a particular problem in Raunds</li> <li>•ENC as the district council has the statutory responsibility to produce a homelessness and rough sleeping strategy, and this is currently in progress at a North Northants level.</li> <li>•Staff safety Town Council staff should not need to go out to rough sleepers to offer advice and they are not trained to deal with people who may have mental health problems or drug and alcohol issues. As our housing options contractor, Homes Direct are engaged by the council to do this.</li> <li>•If you have rough sleepers in the town you should report this to East Northants Council and we will ensure that Homes Direct attempt to make contact with them to offer appropriate advice and assistance.</li> <li>•Have the police commented on the document and are they able to support you by attending site with you?</li> <li>•You may need to seek legal advice before serving a notice on someone to remove them from Town Council Land.</li> </ul> <p>That the Finance and Policy Committee consider the attached document in light of the advice from ENC.</p>	
Council objectives:	Management of Town Council Land	x
Equalities & Human Rights	There are no equalities and human rights issues	x
Financial	There are no financial implications at this stage	x
	There will be financial implications –	
	There is provision within the budget	
	Decisions may give rise to additional expenditure	
	Decisions may have potential for income generation	x
Legal	Localism Act General Power of Competence	
	Local Government Act 1972	
	Other considerations: None	
Risk Management		
	-Inherent risk score:	
	-Residual risk score:	
<b>Person originating this report:</b> Kate Houlihan, Clerk to the Council		
<b>Date:</b> 29 August 2019		