

Local Challenge 8: “To have a homelessness strategy which sets out a proactive approach to preventing homelessness and is reviewed annually to be responsive to emerging needs”		
Area of Assessment	Key Elements	Areas to Consider
We have a homelessness strategy which sets out a proactive approach to preventing homelessness and is reviewed annually so that it is responsive to emerging needs	A. Strategy meets basic legal requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Homelessness review has been undertaken, which has been inclusive Robust consultation has been undertaken The strategy is up to date, has been published and is available to download on line. There is a clear mechanism and process in place to undertake regular reviews (minimum annual reviews) that are published The life of the strategy is no longer than five years When modifying the strategy, or producing a new strategy – there has been regard to the local allocations policy, tenancy strategy, and in London the current London Housing Strategy
	B. Strategy document focuses on positive actions and demonstrates commitment to prevention	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment statement from lead member to early intervention and prevention (Link to Local Challenge 1 assessment) The action plan is SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-bound) The strategy focuses on improving and developing services for all client groups, statutory and non-statutory homeless The strategy focuses on keeping people in their existing accommodation (where it is appropriate to do so) The strategy makes reference to meeting the 10 ‘Local Challenges’ comprising the Gold Standard Programme
	C. The strategy will support the operational delivery of service improvement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> There is an effective action plan in place to address welfare reform changes Tackling local housing supply issues across tenure types, including empty homeless work, under-occupation and overcrowding Review and improve services available to specific groups, for example, people fleeing domestic abuse Joint work across a range of partnerships, including tackling worklessness as part of the Housing Options agenda Delegation of responsibility for delivery of aspects of the action plan is clear, so that lead responsibility for achieving aims does not rest solely with the local authority Active partnership working with Health and engagement with the local Health and Wellbeing Board Clear focus on exit strategies and developing long lasting services and interventions
	D. The strategy is monitored and reviewed in partnership, and aims to make the most of available resources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The document is regularly updated and includes a clear monitoring process. A ‘live’ copy is available on the council’s website. There is a focus on value for money delivered through efficient and effective, local service delivery models The strategy and action plan demonstrate the local authority has considered all relevant major funding streams and other resources.