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Dear Cabinet Members,

I am writing to the Cabinet as Chair of the Poverty Reduction Policy & Development Committee to confirm the Committee's support of the Council's Homelessness Strategy 2018 - 2022.

Prevention of homelessness was identified as a key priority for the Committee as part of its work plan and it is clear that the Homelessness Strategy has a strong link with the Council's poverty agenda and Swansea's Wellbeing Strategy. In particular, it has a significant role to play in contributing to achieving the objectives of ensuring that children have the best start in life and building stronger communities through the early intervention and prevention of homelessness.

The Committee met with Officers from Housing on two occasions. On 28th March 2018 we were provided with an update of how the Strategy was developing, which looked at the review of homelessness that was carried out, the emerging priorities and the draft aims and objectives. More recently, on 22nd August 2018, a further update was provided by Housing Officers and the draft Strategy and Action Plan were presented to the Committee.

It was clear that a huge amount of work has been carried out in developing the Strategy, which is very comprehensive and has identified some key areas where a focus is required with regard to tackling homelessness in the next 4 years. The Committee were particularly pleased that the detailed Action Plan has been included in the Strategy, which sets out in detail what we want to achieve in the short, medium and long term. It was also recognised that in order to prevent homelessness we must take a collaborative approach and the Council must work with the voluntary sector, Health and a number of other organisations if we are going to meet the aims and objectives set out in the Strategy.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank Officers in Housing for their work on the Strategy and confirm the Committee would like to ratify the Homelessness Strategy to Cabinet and look forward to its implementation in December 2018.

Yours faithfully

Councillor Alyson Pugh