

Responding to Housing Need and Homelessness: A Local Authority Perspective

By Amy Redsull

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A bit about me

- I am Havant Borough Council's Cabinet Lead for Housing
- I have experience working within Local Authority housing
- I am a housing professional with a Level 4 Qualification in Housing through CIH

A bit about Havant

- We are a small borough, nestled between Portsmouth and Chichester
- We were granted Royal Charter in 1974, so we have been a Borough for just over 52 years
- We are currently an administration comprising of 3 different parties - Labour, Green Party and Liberal Democrats

How Havant Borough Council is responding to increasing housing demand and supporting residents facing homelessness.

- Like many other local authorities, we had noticed an increase in housing demand in the Borough.
- We purchased two temporary accommodation properties in 2024 under the previous administration.
- Earlier this year, we were able to open our first temporary accommodation.
- We made successful bids to Local Authority Housing Fund for Rounds 1, 2 and 3

The council's approach to homelessness prevention, early intervention and partnership working.

- We are really driving prevention work as a key tool.
- We changed our ways of working to maximise officer time and prioritise prevention.
- We work with Citizens Advice, Two Saints and other community organisations to support individuals in our community.

Delivering effective housing services in a challenging financial and policy environment.

- We have a key focus on prevention of homelessness and work tirelessly to develop imaginative solutions to individual circumstances.
- We have recently opened our first council-owned temporary accommodation unit and work with registered providers in the Borough for social housing provisions.

Lessons learned and practical approaches that can help councils strengthen housing support and improve outcomes for local communities.

- We have learnt that to overcome our challenges working together in an imaginative way is vital.
- We pride ourselves on our transparency, we have been working with the community to understand its needs

Thank you

I am happy to answer any questions you may have