

Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Sub-Committee **Action Log**

Open Actions

No.	Reference	Action	Assigned to:	Due Date	Response
2018/2019 – Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Sub Committee					
Meeting - 10 September 2019					
4.1	High Streets and Town Centres – Supporting New and Existing Business	The Enterprise Team to explore the growth of businesses at Ben Johnson Road and for Fiona Crehan to find out if there were any funds available to do a small scale project in the Ben Johnson Road area.	Huw Morgan-Thomas and Fiona Crehan	26 November 2019	<p>The High Streets and Town Centres (HS&TC) team is prioritising town centres and key high streets as the focus of the regeneration programme.</p> <p>To team will encouraging businesses on Ben Johnson Road to respond to the consultation on Local Infrastructure Fund consultation before 30 November, as this will help with allocating funding for improvements.</p> <p>Link to LIF funding consultation: https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgnl/planning_and_building_control/Infrastructure_planning/local_infrastructure_fund.aspx</p> <p>Rachel Jenman, Kirsty Valentine and Laura McLean, Programme Managers in HS&TC team, will host site visits with Members of the scrutiny panel on Friday 6th December, Thursday 12th and Friday 13th December. Rachel will share details of the visits with Member Services for the site visits to see the new branded market stall canopies.</p> <p>In addition, the Enterprise Team is making preparations to put the Marketing Ready project in place in the next quarter (subject to identification of s106 funding). This project would support Tower Hamlets businesses to enhance their marketing capacity and thereby have better prospects for growth. Individual businesses in Ben Johnson Road and surrounding areas would have the opportunity to participate in this project.</p>

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4.2	High Streets and Town Centres – Supporting New and Existing Business	Fiona Crehan to speak to the planning and regeneration team about their plans for retail and community infrastructure in the context of high population growth and density in the borough (particularly in the Isle of Dogs area) and come back to the Committee with an update.	Fiona Crehan	26 November 2019	A briefing note has been drafted and will be sent to the committee members shortly
4.2	High Streets and Town Centres – Supporting New and Existing Business	Housing Committee Councillors to get in touch with Fiona Crehan and Simon Hall to provide advice on the town centre regeneration engagement events.	Housing and Regen scrutiny members	26 November 2019	The HS&TC's team are supporting the site visits with Members of the scrutiny panel.
4.2	High Streets and Town Centres – Supporting New and Existing Business	Town Centres & Regeneration Exhibition Event(s) - events to be listed in the Members circular and Members Hub.	Fiona Crehan	26 November 2019	<p>The events were publicised to members and members of the scrutiny committee were invited to the launch of consultation on Roman Road West Regeneration programme this month.</p> <p>Dates for the site visits to see the market stall improvements are to be confirmed.</p>
5.1	Draft Housing Open Spaces Scrutiny Report	<p>Mark Baigent to find out what pesticides THH are using and if harmful to advise them to switch to an environmentally friendly product.</p> <p><i>i.e. use weed killers such as Roundup / Glyphosate on Council estates</i></p>	Mark Baigent / Abidah Kamali	26 November 2019	<p>The Council's biodiversity offices advises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Against imposing a total ban on the use of glyphosate. It is extremely difficult to eradicate some invasive plant species, particularly Japanese knotweed, without using herbicides; therefore the suggestion is keeping an exception for dealing with invasive non-native species in any policy on use of herbicides. • The other situation where herbicides can be extremely useful, without any environmental issues, is killing stumps of felled trees, if these don't need

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					<p>to be (or cannot easily be) dug out.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is of the understanding that tree surgeons use special pellets of herbicide, which can be placed in holes drilled in the stump and then sealed to prevent any spread. <p><i>Additional information from THH to follow.</i></p>
6.1	AOB - Councils Contingency Plan	Councillor Wood requested the council's Contingency Plan be reviewed by the Committee. The Committee agreed to include this item on the forward plan.	Abidah Kamali / Charles Griggs	26 November 2019	Council's emergency planning / response procedure is on the scrutiny subcommittee agenda for 26 November 2019.
6.2	AOB - Resident Engagement	To include in the forward plan an update on how Social Landlords plan to / or are delivering the additional requirements of Resident Engagement as specified in the Social Housing Green Paper and Building a Safer Future consultation.	Abidah Kamali / Mark Slowikowski / Tower Hamlets Housing Forum	6 May 2020	<p>An update will be requested from the Chair of THHF at the sub-committee meeting on 6th May 2020, where the social landlord performance report will be reported. This has been requested in the form of a briefing note for the committee.</p> <p>It is also hoped that by May 2020 Government directions on statutory duties will be somewhat clearer, through legislation.</p>
Meeting - 22nd July 2019					
5.1	Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Work Programme	Abidah Kamali to develop a scope for the scrutiny challenge session (Homelessness Reduction Act – 1 year on) and email to Members. The timeframe for this was around Quarter 3.	Abidah Kamali	26 November 2019	<p>A draft scope has been developed and is with the Housing Options service for comments. The Council's response to the Governments call for evidence of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 has informed its development.</p> <p>The challenge session is expected to be held in January 2020, and include visit to the housing options service.</p>
7.1	Medical assessments and officer discretion	For the Chair to share concerns about the medical assessment process with the Health and Adults Scrutiny Sub-Committee.	Cllr Dipa Das	26 November 2019	An email has been drafted for consideration by the Health Scrutiny Sub Committee. A visit for Labour Councillors to the housing options service took place on 6 November and a further visit is due on 14 th November, this will include an intro and or team visit concerning medical assessments.

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7.1	Medical assessments and officer discretion	For the Committee to receive a copy of the medical assessment criteria policy for further scrutiny.	Rafiqul Hoque	26 November 2019	<p>Policy on how applicants are prioritised on medical ground is set out in the Allocations Scheme document which is available on the Council and Homeseekers website.</p> <p>https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/Documents/Housing/Housing-provision/Allocations/Allocations_scheme.pdf</p> <p>Paras. 127-152 sets out the process and criteria for medical assessments and level of priority given and types of accommodation that might be offered. We can't be specific and each case will be considered on individual merits.</p>
7.1	Allocations Policy	Housing officers to write to those on Band 3 to note any change in circumstances.	Rafiqul Hoque	26 November 2019	Letters have been issued to all applicants on the housing register including band 3 applicants advising them about the proposed policy amendments. It will be up to applicants to engage with the consultation process and also report any change of circumstances.
7.1	Housing Management Panel	Information about the Housing Panel to be put on the council website, including clarification that only landlords' could refer to the Panel	Rafiqul Hoque	26 November 2019	<p>Information about Housing Management Panel is set out within the Allocations Scheme (link as above), paragraphs 154 -204. Although primarily we would only consider cases from social landlords, referrals have been made and could be on exception basis by other agencies e.g. social care. We can't be specific and each case will be considered on individual merits.</p> <p>A management transfer cannot guarantee an immediate move.</p>