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| Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee 11 September 2017 |  TOWER HAMLETS |
| Report of: Will Tuckley, Chief Executive | Classification: Unrestricted |
| Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee Work Programme 2017/18 | |

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| Originating Officer(s) | Afazul Hoque, Interim Service Manager Strategy, Policy and Performance |
| Wards affected | All wards |

Summary

The report outlines the draft work programme for the Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee for the municipal year 2017/18.

Recommendations:

1. Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee is asked to consider and comment on the proposed draft work programme.
2. Authorise the Interim Service Manager, Strategy, Policy & Performance - after consultation with the Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee, to finalise the work programme.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 9 May 2016 agreed to establish the Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee and delegate its housing responsibilities and functions to this Sub-Committee. The terms of reference of the Sub-Committee and its membership were also agreed at the same meeting. The Sub-Committee was established to reflect the high profile of housing-related issues within the borough with local people identifying more affordable and better quality housing as a key priority for them. The Sub-Committee will carry out comprehensive scrutiny across the range of the Council's housing functions and relationships with other housing providers and seek to address and find solutions to some of the most difficult housing issues facing the borough. The Sub-Committee will work in partnership with key stakeholders, such as local registered partner social landlords and housing tenants, and try to establish consensus in making its recommendations.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 The Committee can decide not to adopt a work programme. This is not recommended as the work programme provides a clear plan of key activities that the Committee will undertake this year.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 3.1. The business for the Sub-Committee will consist of a number of elements (type of scrutiny). Firstly, Spotlight Sessions where a particular policy area or portfolio is the focus, with a relevant Cabinet member, Council officers or partners in attendance. Secondly, Reviews and Challenge Sessions – this type of scrutiny usually takes place outside of the committee's formal meetings, and usually concluded with a report containing a series of recommendations; Thirdly, Strategic Performance report is geared towards taking a closer look at the performance of housing services in the borough. Fourthly, Overview and Scrutiny Reports are usually requested by the Committee or even by senior officers to gauge Members' views of certain aspects of housing, in the borough.
- 3.2. At the first 2017/18 Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting, held on 12 July 2017, Members discussed and commented on the draft work programme – Appendix A is a reflection of this which includes items at the Committee's standing meetings. The Committee will also undertake an in-depth review on 'fire safety in high rise buildings'. The scope for this review will be developed in consultation with the Chair and key stakeholders. The Chair of the Housing Scrutiny-Sub Committee has been consulted on the draft work programme - as well as relevant officers from the Place Directorate.
- 3.3. Officer and Member resources available to support scrutiny in delivering the work programme will need to be used as effectively as possible, to meet realistic Member expectations of what can be achieved.

4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 4.1 This report sets out the draft work programme for the Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee for the municipal year 2017/18.
- 4.2 It is envisaged that the work programme will be delivered through existing resources and thus there are no additional financial implications arising from the recommendations within this report. However, in the event that additional resources may be required to deliver particular aspects of the work programme, officers will be obliged to seek appropriate approval through the Council's financial approval process.

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

The Council is required by section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000 to have an Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to have executive arrangements that ensure the committee has specified powers. Consistent with this obligation, Article 6 of the Council's Constitution provides that the Overview and Scrutiny may consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants. The Committee may also make reports and recommendations to the Full Council or the Executive in connection with the discharge of any functions.

- 5.1 Under the Terms of Reference for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, it can appoint such sub-committees or scrutiny panels as the Committee considers appropriate from time to time to carry out individual reviews under the Overview and Scrutiny work programme.
- 5.2 The work programme of this sub-committee will enable the Council to exercise comprehensive scrutiny over all of its housing functions and ensure transparency in how these functions are discharged.
- 5.3 When carrying out its functions, the Council must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Equality Act 2010, the need to advance equality of opportunity and the need to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not (the public sector equality duty).

6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 The work programme contains many issues that will have equality or diversity implications. The Sub-Committee will be mindful of its responsibilities to promote greater equality and diversity in framing its recommendations for improvement, which contribute to the achievement of One Tower Hamlets aims.

7. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 It is anticipated that many issues addressed as part of the Sub-Committee's work programme will have BV implications, for example, ensuring that service improvements are made on the basis of securing better value for money, using the most cost effective form of delivery, or streamlining processes that don't add any customer value to the service. The Sub-Committee is aware of its responsibilities in this area and will reflect BV considerations in making its recommendations.

8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 8.1 The extent to which positive action can be taken to promote the Greener Environment will depend on the topics and issues included in the work programme. However, key corporate objectives such as protecting green public space, especially in areas of high housing density, will be reflected in any recommendations made by the Sub-Committee that are relevant to contributing to a sustainable environment.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The Sub-Committee will be mindful in developing and executing its work programme that the recommendations it formulates should take into account and seek to mitigate any risk to the Council and/or any risks arising from the recommendation themselves and the action taken to address these.

10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 It is likely that the work programme will include several topics or issues that will have community safety implications. In reaching conclusions and framing recommendations the Sub-Committee will identify any relevant implications and actively seek to contribute to the reduction of crime and disorder in the borough.

Officer contact details for documents:

- Afazul Hoque, Interim Service Manager, Strategy, Policy and Performance, 020 7364 4636

Draft Work Programme for the Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Appendix A

| Meeting date | Type of scrutiny | Item | Outcome | Service area | Lead |
|--------------|--------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|----------------|
| 12/07/2017 | Overview & Scrutiny Report | Housing in Tower Hamlets – understanding key challenges | Presentation to provide key challenges faced by the authority and also future opportunities to meet housing demands. | Housing & Regeneration | Mark Baigent |
| | Overview & Scrutiny Report | Fire Safety of High Rises | Presentation from Tower Hamlets Housing Forum to provide an overarching update on fire safety in tall buildings. This was requested by O&S Committee – in response to the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower. | Housing & Regeneration | Mark Baigent |
| | | | | Tower Hamlets Housing Forum | Sandra Fawcett |
| | | | | Tower Hamlets Homes | John Tunney |
| 11/09/2017 | Housing Performance Monitoring | Quarterly Performance data for key Registered Providers (RPs) who work in the borough | This report will provide an overview of Housing quarter 1 performance in 2017/18. | Housing & Regeneration | Mark Baigent |
| | Overview & Scrutiny Report | Homelessness Reduction Act – Tower Hamlets Implementation Plan | To consider the impact of the Act and how the council proposes to implement it. | Housing & Regeneration | Mark Baigent |
| | Overview & Scrutiny Report | Housing Scrutiny Sub Committee Work Programme | Approve the work programme for 2017/18 | Strategy, Policy & Partnership | Afazul Hoque |

| Meeting date | Type of scrutiny | Item | Outcome | Service area | Lead |
|--------------|--------------------------------|--|--|---|-------------------------------|
| 13/11/2017 | Spotlight | The impact of AirBnB in the Private Rented Sector | Presentation to explore the impact of AirBnB in the local area. | Housing & Regeneration (Private Sector Housing) | Martin Ling/Marc Lancaster |
| | Housing Performance Monitoring | Quarterly Performance data for key RPs who work in the borough. | This report will provide an overview of Housing quarter 2 in 2017/18. | Housing & Regeneration | Mark Baigent |
| | Overview & Scrutiny Report | Update on acquiring properties to manage demands on Temporary Accommodation (TA) | A presentation/report on how TH is meeting the needs for TA through its acquisition programme | Strategy - Innovation & Sustainability | Mark Baigent Alison Thomas |
| | Spotlight | Cabinet Member for Housing Management and Performance | This session will allow Lead Member for Housing to discuss and bring to the attention of the committee any new initiatives, pressing challenges and opportunities that could improve housing services and better serve residents, partners and stakeholders. Members of the committee will have the opportunity to raise any concerns; seek clarification; and recommend improvement action etc. | Housing & Regeneration | Mark Baigent |
| | Spotlight | Cabinet Member for Development & Renewal | This session will allow Lead Member for Development and Renewal to discuss and bring to the attention of the | Housing & Regeneration | Mark Baigent |

| Meeting date | Type of scrutiny | Item | Outcome | Service area | Lead |
|--------------|--------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| 29/01/2018 | | | committee any new initiatives, pressing challenges and opportunities that could improve housing services and better serve residents, partners and stakeholders. Members of the committee will have the opportunity to raise any concerns; seek clarification; and recommend improvement action etc. | | |
| | Housing Performance Monitoring | Quarterly Performance data for key RPs who work in the borough | This report will provide an overview of Housing quarter 3 performance in 2017/18. | Housing & Regeneration | Mark Baigent |
| | Overview & Scrutiny Report | The London Plan – a review by the GLA | Scrutiny to consider the review and to seek the necessary opportunity to feed into it. | Strategic Housing | Mark Baigent Alison Thomas |
| 19/03/2018 | Overview & Scrutiny Report | Review of the effectiveness of LBTH current Tenancy Strategy and changes ahead | Report/Presentation on whether the current tenancy strategy is fit for purpose – and meeting the needs to residents. | Strategic Housing | Mark Baigent |
| | Review | Final report: Fire Safety in High Rise Buildings | This report will consider the recommendations of the review and if accepted by the committee, an action plan would need to be produced | Housing & Regeneration Property & Major Programmes | Mark Baigent/ THHF Ann Sutcliffe Afazul Hoque |

| Meeting date | Type of scrutiny | Item | Outcome | Service area | Lead |
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| | | | by the service area for Cabinet approval. | | |
| | Overview & Scrutiny Report | Report on the Council's void properties | This item was referred to this committee by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – to look at what the council is doing about reducing void properties and paying central government | Housing & Regeneration | Mark Baigent |