

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: All
REPORT TITLE: Work Programme – Housing Scrutiny	
REPORT OF: Director of Property Management	
FOR SUBMISSION TO: Housing Scrutiny Committee	DATE: 22nd February 2024
SUMMARY OF REPORT: This report provides an update on the Committee's work programme for 2023/24 and provides an update on action requested at previous meetings of the Committee. Local Government Act 1972 – Access to information No documents that require listing were used in the preparation of this report Contact Officer: Gavin Haynes, Director of Property Management, 5 Pancras Square, N1C 4AG, 020 7974 1955, gavin.haynes@camden.gov.uk	
RECOMMENDATIONS: The members of the Housing Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider any proposals for items that should be included in the work programme and to confirm the work programme for the year ahead.	

Signed:



Director of Property Management

Date: 13 February 2024

1. **INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The committee has been set up with the following terms of reference:
- To scrutinise the Council's policies and the provision, planning, financing, management and performance of services relating to housing provided by the Council and other service providers.
- 1.2 A draft committee workplan is attached to this report (Appendix A). The committee may wish to make further suggestions or amendments to the workplan for the year ahead.

2. **CABINET FORWARD PLAN – Housing**

- 2.1 The Committee is also invited to consider what, if any, forthcoming key Cabinet decisions it wishes to look at in advance of those decisions being taken. Forward Plan items under the Committee's remit are set out at Appendix B.
- 2.2 The Forward Plan for the upcoming year 2024/25 will be established in consultation with Cllrs and officers in the coming months.

3 **PANELS**

- 3.1 The Scrutiny committee may establish a time limited, task focussed Panel. The Panel is chaired by a member of the committee and is able to request contributions and evidence about local housing services from a wider range of contributors including Partners, expert advisors and local residents. A report is made by the Panel to the Scrutiny Committee on its findings at the end of its work. Updates are provided to the Committee by the Chair of the panel whilst its work is ongoing.
- 3.2 Committee members are reminded of the constraints on Council resources at this time and have previously committed to run these Member-led panels with only limited officer support in order to ensure an efficient and cost-effective process.

4 **CO-OPTEEES**

- 4.1 In addition to council members, the committee has previously decided that three co-optees should sit on the committee. These arrangements are subject to annual review.
- 4.2 The Chair, in consultation with officers, will be seeking a new, co-opted member and will be making a recommendation to the Committee when available.

5 **ACTION TRACKER**

- 5.1 The actions arising from the last meeting (January 2024) are attached at Appendix B.

6. **COMMENTS OF THE BOROUGH SOLICITOR**

- 6.1 The Borough Solicitor has been consulted and has no comments to make on the report.

7. **COMMENTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES**

- 7.1 The Executive Director of Corporate Services has been consulted and has no comment to add.

8. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

8. There are no Environmental Implications relating to this report.

DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME

**Housing Scrutiny Committee draft work programme
2023/24**

22nd February 2024

- **CIP annual report**
- **Report of Cabinet Adviser: Leaseholder billing and service charges**
- **Homelessness Scrutiny Panel**
- **Housing's response to domestic abuse: update on progress**
- **Cabinet Member Better Homes annual report**
- **Work programme**

Yet to be programmed

- Tenants Satisfaction Regulatory Survey, when available.
- Update reports regarding the Cabinet Adviser reports on Supporting Rough Sleepers, Estates Mission and Tenants Participation.
- Allocations Policy (review and service design), when available.

APPENDIX B – HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ACTION TRACKER (JANUARY 2024)

Meeting	Item	Action	Action by	Status
23/1/24	Housing Ombudsman – Case Summary and Self-Assessment	Officers to contact Councillor Nancy Jirira directly regarding the issue she raised regarding the response from the Council relating to the damp and mould issue she and others had.	Director of Property Management (SR)	Actioned 23/1/24
		Officers would provide information regarding the number of damp and mould cases that had been reported by officers instead of the tenant	Director of Property Management (SR)	These are not logged separately from the reports uploaded onto our system. However, following the recent door knocking events across the Borough, 38 cases of mould that required investigation were passed to us from Officers. On the whole we encourage those who can, to report this via the portal or via the contact centre so we can establish very quickly priority need.