

Homes and Neighbourhoods
Islington Council
222 Upper Street N1 1XR

Report of: Ian Swift, Director of Housing Needs and Strategy

Meeting of: Housing Scrutiny Committee

Date: 13th March 2023

Draft overcrowding questionnaires to partners of Islington Council and to residents on the housing register who are living in overcrowded conditions.

Recommendations

This report is to provide the Housing Scrutiny Committee with information on the proposed questionnaires which will be issued to partners of Islington Council and households who are living in overcrowded conditions and are on the housing register seeking alternative accommodation.

It would be appreciated if the Housing Scrutiny Committee could please comment on the proposed questionnaires before they are issued to partners and residents who are living in overcrowded conditions.

Background

The Housing Scrutiny Committee commenced an in depth scrutiny of overcrowding during 2022. Since this in-depth scrutiny commenced the Housing Scrutiny committee has received evidence, presentation and information's from the following:

- Environmental Health services
- The New Build services
- The Housing Needs service
- The council's Housing Management Service

- Housing Associations
- Property services during the Damp and Mould enquiry
- Citizens Advice Bureau
- Islington Law Centre
- The Planning Department

The next stage of this in-depth scrutiny is to undertake two surveys one for all of Islington Council's partners and the second questionnaire is to all households on the housing register seeking alternative accommodation due to overcrowding.

Appendix one attached to this report is the questionnaire to partners of Islington Council and asks 10 open ended and challenging questions which will assist the council's housing scrutiny into overcrowding and the council's future work in this area.

Appendix two attached to this report is the draft questionnaire will be issued to all households on the housing register who are living in overcrowded conditions. This survey has been produced in partnership with the University College London. It is hoped this survey will assist the council's future work in this area and develop new ways of working.

The results of both questionnaires will be analysed independently of the Homes and Neighbourhoods service to enable a transparent approach to be adopted and also ensure this independence will form a critical challenge to the council's existing and proposed work in this area.

It is hoped the results of these surveys along with the final report will be presented to the May 2023 Housing Scrutiny Committee meeting.

The results of these surveys will provide valuable information and allow new ways of working to be developed by Islington Council and partners.

Financial Implications

There are no known financial implications associated with this report

Legal Implications

There are no known legal implications associated with this report