

**Resources Department
Town Hall, Upper Street
London N1 2UD**

Report of: Housing Scrutiny Committee

Meeting of: Executive

Date: 11 January 2023

Ward(s): All

Subject: Report of the Housing Scrutiny Committee: Strategic Review of Overcrowding in Islington

1. Synopsis

This report requests that the Executive receive the recommendations of the Housing Scrutiny Committee following the completion of its review of the Overcrowding Strategy. A response to the recommendations set out in the report will be considered at a future meeting of the Executive.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the report of the Housing Scrutiny Committee be received.
- 2.2 That the Executive Member's response be reported to a future meeting of the Executive, including having due regard to any relevant implications of the Housing Scrutiny Committee's recommendations.

3. Background

- 3.1 In July 2022 the Housing Scrutiny Committee commenced a review into Overcrowding in Islington. The overall aim of the review is to establish the extent of overcrowding in Islington, understand the consequences and impact, to be informed about best practices and innovative approaches of tackling explore how the council's Housing Services addresses Homelessness.
- 3.2 The objectives of the review included ensuring that the assessment criteria for applicants is robust and that the support and aligned services is targeted and effective. The final report of the committee was agreed in November 2023 and is appended.

4. Implications

4.1. Financial Implications

The proposals in the report need to be costed before a response is made by the Executive.

4.2. Legal Implications

Relevant legal implications will be considered as part of the response to the review.

4.3. Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030

Any environmental implications will be considered as part of the response to the review.

4.4. Equalities Impact Assessment

The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required in relation to this report. Any equality impacts will be identified as part of the Executive Member response.

5. Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

The Committee considered the challenges of overcrowding experienced by households and recognised that, although the housing crisis is a national issue, Islington has its particular characteristics which has made it very difficult to address.

The Committee has proposed a number of recommendations which in the short run addresses the waiting list on the housing register and in the long run seek to commence exploring innovative and collaborative ways of building social housing.

Appendices: Report of the Housing Scrutiny Committee

Background papers: None

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