

| Recommendation Number | Housing Scrutiny recommendations from the overcrowding strategic review 2023/2024 | Actions/Progress | RAG rating |
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| 1 | Housing Services to undertake a comprehensive Tenancy and welfare audit of all its housing stock with a view of identifying overcrowding, under occupiers, and victims of domestic abuse etc. this is currently being trialled in Halton Mansions | Pilots completed, with evaluation completed and attached to this report. These audits to commence once the Housing management restructure is in place. | Amber |
| 2 | Committee recommend that Housing Services rigorously promote issues around existing incentives for under occupiers such as mutual exchanges, that financial incentives be reviewed, - The downsizing scheme to receive a comprehensive review and the outcome of this review to be reported to the November 2023, Housing Scrutiny Committee. The council will also conduct regular sessions/ briefings/community drop-in sessions to promote downsizing and mutual exchanges to address overcrowding | Review completed as part of the strategic review and incentive payments increased, plus the housing allocations scheme changed to promote estate under-occupied moves and one additional officer to be appointed. The new housing allocations scheme to be launched April 2024. Recruitment to the additional position commenced. Increase in incentive payments and new promotion material to be launched March 2024 Drop ins to promote the under-occupation scheme planned for Spring 2024 and on-going | Amber |
| 3 | Complete review of the housing allocation scheme by making sure we are addressing that needs | Completed and approved on the 20 th of July 2023 Executive meeting. | Green |

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| | as it is clear that there are thousands of people who are living in overcrowded accommodation but not on the housing register - what fits on the local estate or local community | | |
| 4 | Council will build larger 4–5-bedroom accommodation | Discussion continuing with the new build team to prioritise the development of 4- and 5-bedroom properties. The purchase of ex right to buy properties to also focus on the purchase of 4- and 5-bedroom properties. Since the 19 th of October 2023, when the Executive approved the ex-right to buy property purchase programme 4 x 4 ex right to buy properties have been purchased or exchange conducted. | Amber |
| 5 | Working with the GLA to try and develop /design a scheme that allows LA to access funds because at the moment it is possible to buy properties to accommodate people from Afghanistan and Ukraine but there is no grant that helps addressing overcrowding residents and rehousing them. | Discussions on-going | Amber |
| 6 | Adopt a communication plan across the council, i.e., children services - simple tips on how to address overcrowding | It is aimed this communications plan will commence from February 2024, with the support of the Corporate Communications team. | Amber |

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| 6 | Committee should consider reviewing its tall building policy, in the long term – not just building on existing top of roof tops | On-going communications continuing with all departments across the council and progress to be reported during May 2024. | Amber |
| 8 | Increase in supply of 4- and 5-bedroom properties for families in need of larger homes using all means possible | The promotion of the under-occupation scheme to commence in March 2024. The promotion of the purchase of ex right to buy 4- and 5-bedroom properties conducted in November 2023. Drop-in sessions to focus on under-occupation moves planned for the Spring 2024. | Amber |
| 9 | Collaborating more with community groups to promote advocacy services within all communities, to enable all sections of society to benefit from the council's positive work in this area | Partnership newsletter produced for all partner and community groups. Promotion material to be provided to all community and partner agencies in March 2024. Council wide community newsletter to focus on under-occupation incentives and helping hand framework to move from the Spring 2024. | Green |
| 10 | Explore alternative schemes – GLA, seaside and community home scheme for those over fifty-five | This work is on-going and promoted to all residents overcrowded and under-occupying Islington Council and Housing Association homes. | Amber |
| 11 | Council in its partnership with RSL's assist in identifying more voids /abandoned homes | This has been promoted with the new Housing Association partnership | Green |

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| | | agreement and discussed at the Housing Association liaison meetings. | |
| 12 | As statutory overcrowding is difficult to address, the Council lobby and liaise with GLA on redefining the Overcrowding standards as they are long overdue for a change. | These discussions are continuing. | Amber |
| 13 | Council should address issues of language barriers as this may hinder under occupiers' residents and especially those who do not engage in mutual swaps | Partnership work with all community based voluntary sector and faith organisations are continuing. Community language translation services offered to all residents. | Green |
| 14 | In response to evidence from Islington law centre, indicated that Islington residents do not meet the council's adverse threshold to bid for larger properties. – Conduct detailed annual analysis for those accommodated through the Choice Based Lettings scheme and amend policies accordingly to ensure overcrowded households are rehoused as an equal proportion of those on the housing register. | Analysis to be completed for the 2023/2024 financial years activities and the results presented to the Housing Scrutiny committee in June 2024. | Amber |
| 15 | When a void property which is a 3-, 4- or 5-bedroom property these properties should be fast tracked through the voids process | Void performance to be reported to the April 2024 Housing Scrutiny committee as agreed at the February 2024 Housing Scrutiny Committee | Amber |
| 16 | Undertake right size | This to be launched | Amber |

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| | moves on our estates to promote a series of chain lettings to increase lettings locally and reduce overcrowding. | in April 2024 when the new housing allocations scheme approved on the 20 th of July 2023 Executive meeting will be launched. | |
| 17 | During the community drop-in sessions, the council seeks the views of residents on how to improve services to people who are overcrowded, or under-occupying properties and the council then produces policies and procedures considering this feedback | This was completed at the 2023 60 Community Drop-in sessions, and this will continue going forward with the results of this work considered at the November 2024 Housing Scrutiny Committee. | Green |
| 18 | The council empowers residents through the resident empowerment framework to help the council to develop new ways of working to address overcrowding. | On-going and to be promoted through the tenancy audit work, community drop in work and the resident's empowerment framework. | Amber |
| 19 | The council designs a seamless service offer between Health, Adult Social Care, Housing, and Children's services to ensure we address overcrowding, damp and mould, education attainment and health improvements for people living in overcrowded households | Regular liaison meetings conducted with Housing, Adult Social Care, Health, Children's services now taking place to promote positive partnership work and outcomes. | Green |
| 20 | The council develops data platforms across the council to capture a holistic approach to benefit residents who are overcrowded, and this ensures services are developed using this data and empowering residents | Working with Adult Social Care and Health to develop this platform. Progress to be reported to the Housing Scrutiny Committee in the summer of 2024. | Amber |

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| | to influence the way we work. | | |
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