

Homes and Neighbourhoods Directorate
222 Upper Street, N1 1XR

Report of: Ian Swift Director of Housing Operations

Meeting of: Homes and Communities Scrutiny Committee

Date: 18th July 2024.

Ward(s): All electoral wards

Subject: Strategic Review of Overcrowding and Under-Occupation progress report.

1. Synopsis

- 1.1. The aim of this report is to seek critical appraisal from the Housing and Communities Scrutiny Committee relating to the attached action plan for the strategic review of the Homes and Communities Scrutiny Committees appraisal of Overcrowding and Under-Occupation.
- 1.2. For the Homes and Communities Scrutiny Committee to suggest additional actions to ensure the council implements the twenty recommendations approved by the Housing Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.3. The action plan has been designed in partnership with Adult Social Care, Homes and Neighbourhoods and Children's services, plus Health agencies.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To critically appraise and challenge the work to implement the twenty recommendations approved by the Housing Scrutiny Committee for the strategic review of the Overcrowding and Under-Occupation.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Housing Scrutiny Committee conducted a 12-month strategic review for Overcrowding and Under-Occupation, by considering presentations from across the council, presentations from partner agencies including Housing Associations, legal advice agencies etc, reviewing all available data and considering best practice from other councils.
- 3.2. The review conducted by the Housing Scrutiny Committee approved twenty recommendations and these are contained within the attached Action Plan
- 3.3. The Housing Scrutiny Committee decided at the January 2024, to receive regular updates to all future Housing Scrutiny Committee meetings on the progress in implementing these recommendations to ensure momentum continues with this important work.
- 3.4. The Action plan identifies the following progress for implementing the twenty recommendations: 9 (45%) Green, 10 (50%) Amber and One Red to implement the recommendations in full. Please note since the last update provided in February 2024, the actions in Green have increased by three, Ambers have reduced by four and Reds have increased by one.
- 3.5. The housing crisis continues to be challenging for Islington Council and all council's with a 25% increase in the use of temporary accommodation for homeless households in Islington, a reduction in available lettings for Islington Council and Housing Association homes, an increase in households joining the housing register, an increase in Home Office evictions for people with a legal right to remain in the country with limited eviction notices provided to these people and reduction in new build affordable housing due to the current economic environment. However, it remains of the greatest importance to implement the twenty recommendations approved by the Housing Scrutiny Committee despite the context provided.

4. Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1.1. There are no known financial implications and the costs for this work will be incorporated within existing budgets.

4.2. Legal Implications

- 4.2.1 There are no known Legal Implications associated with this report.

5. Reasons for recommendations

5,1 To assist the council's commitment of improving resident satisfaction.

5.2.1 The council have established a project team to ensure this programme can be delivered. The project team provide regular monthly update to track performance and ensure a corporate approach is adopted.

5.2.2 The council is committed to working collaboratively with all residents and partners to deliver this important programme.