

HOUSING SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE 01 MARCH 2022

Report title: 2021-22 Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee Work Programme

Wards: All

Portfolio: Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance: Councillor Andy Wilson

Report Authorised by: Interim Director of Legal and Governance: Andrew Pavlou

Contact for enquiries: David Rose, Democratic Services Officer, 020 7926 1037,
drose@lambeth.gov.uk

REPORT SUMMARY

This report sets out the Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee's work programme as currently drafted and provides a record of recommendations and actions arising from previous meetings (Appendix 1).

FINANCE SUMMARY

There are no financial implications beyond the existing Scrutiny budget.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To consider and approve the work programme as currently drafted (Appendix 1) and identify and prioritise matters for future scrutiny of Housing.

1. CONTEXT

- 1.1 A new Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee (HSSC) was established following the 21 April 2021 Annual Governance Meeting (AGM) of the Full Council and its Chair, Councillor Mary Atkins, also sits on Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) to ensure coordination of work between the two bodies, eliminate potential duplication and feed in findings between the two meetings, where relevant. This is the final meeting of the Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee in the 2021-22 municipal year.

Terms of Reference

- 1.2 The Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee's terms of reference are detailed in Lambeth Council's Constitution, page 62, as follows:
- a. To scrutinise private sector housing enforcement and regulation and the work of the Housing Department in supporting the borough's goal to improve housing quality in its social homes and neighbourhoods, and managing the Lambeth Housing Partnership with other Registered Providers. This includes:
 - i. housing needs;
 - ii. homelessness;
 - iii. home ownership;
 - iv. leaseholders and rents;
 - v. tenancy and estate management;
 - vi. housing repairs;
 - vii. compliance and major works; and,
 - viii. the Direct Labour Organisation (DLO).

Meetings and Membership

- 1.3 The 21 April 2021 AGM of the Full Council also agreed the Committee membership and meeting dates for the 2021-22 municipal year.
- 1.4 Three meetings of the Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee are scheduled in 2021-22 as follows:
- a. 06 July 2021;
 - b. 16 November 2021; and,
 - c. 01 March 2022.
- 1.5 The Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee membership for 2021-22 is:
- a. Councillor Mary Atkins (Chair);
 - b. Councillor Paul Gadsby;
 - c. Councillor Emma Nye;
 - d. Councillor Rezina Chowdhury;
 - e. Councillor Clair Wilcox;
 - f. Councillor Pete Elliott; and,
 - g. Councillor Becca Thackray (substitute).

2. PROPOSAL AND REASONS

- 2.1 The Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee may set its own agenda within the scope of its terms of reference and this report serves to invite the Sub-Committee to consider its work programme at each meeting. Although some flexibility needs to be retained to enable items to be added at relatively short notice, planning the Committee's work programme facilitates scrutiny of those matters Members consider to be a priority, assists in the commissioning of reports and helps ensure that matters are considered in a timely manner.

- 2.2 The Sub-Committee's work programme and action monitoring table are attached at Appendix 1. The work programme is updated following completion of any actions or recommendations arising or timetabling of new items. The work programme should be monitored at each meeting to ensure that previous actions and requests have been completed in full.
- 2.3 When considering which items to include in the work programme the following questions can usefully be asked of each proposed topic:
- a. are statutory requirements being met effectively?
 - b. are quality services being delivered?
 - c. are any audits or external inspections due?
 - d. are the specific needs of user groups being met?
 - e. does the service compare well with neighbouring/other comparable authorities and against national performance indicators?
 - f. are the associated services improving?
 - g. do the services know what changes are imminent or likely and are preparations being made?
 - h. is this a priority for the Council?

Borough Plan

- 2.1 Lambeth's Borough Plan sets out the outcomes and objectives that the Council is trying to achieve; these can be a useful tool for scrutiny members in their holding to account role; and, to support the consideration, identification, and prioritisation of work programme items. The Borough Plan is based around five big ambitions:
- a. enable sustainable growth and investment;
 - b. increase community resilience;
 - c. promote care and independence by reforming services;
 - d. make Lambeth a place where people want to live, work and invest; and,
 - e. be passionate about equality, strengthening diversity, and delivering inclusion.

Performance Information

- 2.4 Information on performance across all matters within Lambeth's Housing Services is contained in the Quarterly Budget and Performance report. This information may support development of the Sub-Committee's annual work plan and identify priority issues for future scrutiny.

Forward Plan

- 2.5 The Forward Plan lists all key decisions that the Council (including the Health and Wellbeing Board) will take over the coming months. A key decision is defined as an executive decision which will:
- a. Require an amendment to the Community Plan Outcomes Framework or require a recommendation to Council to amend the Budget and Policy Framework; and/or,
 - b. Result in the local authority incurring expenditure, raising income or making savings in excess of £500,000; and/or,
 - c. Have a significant community impact on:
 - i. communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in Lambeth;
 - ii. the wellbeing of the community or the quality of service provided to a significant number of people living or working in an area; or,
 - iii. communities of interest.
- 2.6 The Plan is therefore a useful tool for identifying forthcoming decisions where the committee could add value.

3. FINANCE

- 3.1 There are no additional capital or revenue implications arising as a direct result of this report. The work programme will be undertaken within the existing budget provision for Scrutiny within the Democratic Services department within the Legal and Governance directorate.

4. LEGAL AND DEMOCRACY

- 4.1 There are no legal implications, but advice on specific work programme items may be provided in the future.
- 4.2 There were no additional comments from Democratic Services.

5. CONSULTATION AND CO-PRODUCTION

- 5.1 All Members of the Council are entitled to suggest items for scrutiny work programmes in accordance with the Council's scrutiny procedure rules (Constitution Part 3, Section B, pages 61 – 77). Suggestions are also invited specifically from scrutiny members as part of their community leadership role and from members of the public. The Council's website includes a form for the submission of suggestions and for public notice questions.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 Not applicable.

7. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment of the work programme has not been undertaken. Reports commissioned by the Sub-Committee will be expected to address any equalities issues. Any recommendations arising from commissions will have equalities implications considered at the drafting stage.

8. COMMUNITY SAFETY

- 8.1 None.

9. ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

Environmental

- 9.1 Not applicable.

Health

- 9.2 Not applicable.

Corporate Parenting

- 9.3 Not applicable.

Staffing and accommodation

- 9.4 Not applicable.

Responsible Procurement

- 9.5 Not applicable.

10. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

10.1 See Appendix 1.

AUDIT TRAIL

Name and Position/Title	Lambeth Directorate	Date Sent	Date Received	Comments in paragraph:
Andrew Ramsden, Finance	Finance and Performance	11.02.22	14.02.22	
Greg Carson, Legal Services	Legal and Governance	11.02.22	11.02.22	
Maria Burton, Democratic Services	Legal and Governance	11.02.22	11.02.22	

REPORT HISTORY

Original discussion with Cabinet Member	N/A
Report deadline	16.02.22
Date final report sent	16.02.22
Part II Exempt from Disclosure/confidential accompanying report?	No
Key decision report	No
Date first appeared on forward plan	N/A
Key decision reasons	N/A
Background information	a. Lambeth Borough Plan b. Forward Plan of Key Decisions c. Lambeth Council Constitution d. Full Council AGM 21.04.21
Appendices	Appendix 1 – Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee Work Programme 2021-22