

Name of meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Date: 4 November 2019

Title of report: Request to establish Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel

To consider a request to establish an Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel to look at the most appropriate future arrangements for the Council's residential housing stock.

Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	N/A
Is it in the Council's Forward Plan ?	N/A
Is it eligible for "call in" by Scrutiny ?	N/A
Date signed off by <u>Director</u> & name	Richard Parry 24 October 2019
Is it signed off by the Director of Finance?	N/A
Is it signed off by the Service Director - Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Julie Muscroft
Cabinet member portfolio	Housing and Democracy / Regeneration / Corporate

Electoral [wards](#) affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: N/A

Public or private: Public Report

(Have you considered GDPR?)

Yes GDPR has been considered. The information in this report does not identify any individuals.

1. Information

- 1.1 At a meeting of leading councillors held on Monday 14 October 2019, there was a discussion on the feedback from a Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge. One area of discussion was the recommendation that the Council consider its future relationship with the current Arms Length Management Organisation (ALMO) Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing. This also reflects the conclusions reached in a Cabinet report of 18th December 2018 which, amongst other actions, noted the outcomes of an options appraisal and proposed that the position be revisited in 12-18 months.
- 1.2 The meeting concluded that Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee would be asked to establish an Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel to carry out a focussed piece of work to identify the best option(s) for the Council to achieve the right balance of risk to the Council and outcomes for local residents in relation to the housing stock for which it is the landlord.
- 1.3 In considering this request it is emphasised that the work will need to have cognisance of the findings of the Hackitt Review and the changing risk and regulatory landscape. The work will explore the risks and benefits of different models of housing delivery and associated opportunities to maximise the contribution of the Council's housing stock to better outcomes for the borough's more vulnerable residents.
- 1.4 It is also important to note that the scrutiny work will not be reviewing the day to day operation of KNH as the manager of the Council's housing stock, but instead will have a broader focus on risk, outcomes and strategic direction moving forward.
- 1.5 It was requested that the work progress at pace so a findings report can be finalised early in 2020.

2. Next Steps

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee is asked to consider establishing an Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel into the Council's future relationship with its Arms Length Management Organisation, with the aim of producing a findings report early in 2020.
- 2.2 It would be usual for the terms of reference to be circulated with this report, however given the short timescale for progressing this request the draft terms of reference are still being finalised. It is hoped they will be available for consideration at the committee meeting on 4 November.
- 2.3 The Committee will need to consider the composition of the ad hoc panel, including political ratios and the inclusion of voluntary scrutiny co-optees. In line with the Council's political balance the current ratio for panels is 3:1:1. However previous practice in Kirklees Council has been to provide an opportunity for all main political groups to have representation on an ad hoc scrutiny panel.

2.4 Article 6 of the Council's Articles of the Constitution states that the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee may, subject to compliance with legal procedures, decide that the normal political balance requirements shall not apply to scrutiny panels. In that case the Management Committee may determine an alternative distribution of membership between political groups.

3. Implications for the Council

There are no specific implications for the Council at this time.

4. Consultees and their opinions

No consultation was appropriate in respect of the contents of this report.

5. Next steps

Subject to approval to establish an ad hoc panel, officers will contact Group Business Managers and agree a schedule of meetings for the work to begin as soon as possible.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

That OSMC considers the request to establish an Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel and confirms the ratio and membership details for the panel and timelines for the work.

7. Cabinet portfolio holder recommendation

Not applicable

8. Contact officer and relevant papers

Penny Bunker, Governance and Democratic Engagement Manager
Tel: 01484 221000 Email: penny.bunker@kirklees.gov.uk

9. Service Director responsible

Julie Muscroft, Service Director, Legal, Governance & Commissioning