

**Name of meeting:** Cabinet

**Date:** 24 March 2020

**Title of report:** Ad Hoc Scrutiny Report – Future arrangements for the Council’s residential housing stock

**Purpose of report:**

To present the findings report of the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel – Future arrangements for the Council’s residential housing stock

<b>Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
<b>Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council’s Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?</u></b>	<b>Key Decision – No</b> <b>Private Report/Private Appendix – No</b>
<b>The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?</b>	<b>No</b> <b>If no give the reason why not – Report of Scrutiny Ad Hoc Panel</b>
<b>Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> &amp; name</b>	Richard Parry, 16 March 2020
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?</b>	Not applicable
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?</b>	Julie Muscroft, 16 March 2020
<b>Cabinet member <a href="#">portfolio</a></b>	Cabinet Member for Housing and Democracy

**Electoral wards affected:** All

**Ward councillors consulted:** Not applicable

**Public or private:** Public

**Has GDPR been considered?** There are no GDPR implications arising from the report

## **1. Summary**

At its' meeting on 4 November 2019, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee agreed 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 and outcomes for local residents in relation to the housing stock for which it is the landlord.

In considering the request, it was emphasised that the work would need to have cognisance of the findings of the Hackitt Review and the changing risk and regulatory landscape. The work would also 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.

It was requested that the work progress at pace, so a findings report could be finalised early in 2020.

It is important to note that the scrutiny remit was not to review the day to day operation of Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing (KNH) as the manager of the Council's housing stock, but instead to have a broader focus on risk, outcomes and strategic direction moving forward.

## **2. Information required to take a decision**

### **2.1** The approved terms of reference of the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel (Future Arrangements for the Council's Residential Housing Stock) are set out below:

In light of the findings of the Hackitt Review and the changing risk and regulatory landscape, the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel will consider the best options for the Council as landlord, to achieve the right balance between risk to the Council and outcomes for local residents. The panel will consider the following;

1. The background to the current model in Kirklees.
2. Information on the different models of housing delivery, including governance requirements.
3. The risks and benefits of each model.
4. How each model supports the Council's strategic priorities, in particular the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Economic Strategy
5. The outcomes for residents, including how outcomes can be maximised for the more vulnerable residents of Kirklees
6. Evidence from other areas where similar issues have been considered, to reflect on their experience.

The Panel met between December 2019 and February 2020 to carry out its work and is now taking its findings through the decision making process.

Appended to this report are the findings report of the Scrutiny Panel. A summary of the recommendations arising from the investigation is set out on pages 48-49. A copy of the proposed response and supporting narrative is included on pages 53-57.

### **3. Implications for the Council**

The recommendations made by the Scrutiny Panel reflect and complement areas that have already been identified as a priority by the Council.

#### **3.1 Working with People**

Not applicable

#### **3.2 Working with Partners**

Not applicable

#### **3.3 Place Based Working**

Not applicable

#### **3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality**

Not applicable

#### **3.5 Improving outcomes for children**

Not applicable

#### **3.6 Other (eg Legal/Financial or Human Resources)**

Not applicable

### **4. Consultees and their opinions**

Not applicable

### **5. Next steps and timelines**

Scrutiny will monitor the implementation of the actions that are contained in the Action Plan

### **6. Officer recommendations and reasons**

That Cabinet note:-

6.1 The recommendations of the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel (Future Arrangements for the Council's Residential Housing Stock); and

6.2 The responses included within the Action Plan at Appendix 3 of the report.

**7. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations**

Cabinet welcomes the work of the Ad Hoc scrutiny panel and recognises the significant work that the panel undertook to produce the report.

**8. Contact officer**

Carol Tague, Democracy Manager (Governance & Democratic Engagement)  
Tel: 01484 221000, Email: [carol.tague@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:carol.tague@kirklees.gov.uk)

**9. Background Papers and History of Decisions**

Not applicable

**10. Service Director responsible**

Julie Muscroft, Service Director, Legal, Governance and Monitoring