

Name of meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Date: 15 June 2021

Title of report: Request to re-establish Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel

To consider a request to re-establish the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel in respect of Residential Housing Stock – Health and Safety Compliance.

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?	Not applicable
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)</u>?	Not applicable
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Not applicable
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	David Shepherd 28.5.21
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	Not applicable
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Samantha Lawton, Head of Governance 1.6.21
Cabinet member portfolio	Housing and Democracy/Regeneration

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: Not applicable.

Public or private: Public Report

Has GDPR been considered? Yes. The report does not include any personal data that identifies a living individual.

1. Summary

- 1.1 At the meeting on 8th March 2021, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee agreed to establish an Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel to scrutinise health and safety compliance for the Authority's residential housing stock, with the Terms of Reference set out in paragraph 2.2 below.
- 1.2 The Committee is asked to re-establish this Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel for the 2021/22 municipal year on the basis of a 1:1:1:1 ratio, together with a co-opted member and an independent specialist advisor.

2. Information required to take a decision

- 2.1 The Chair of Scrutiny and the Chair of the Economy and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Panel were briefed by the Strategic Director – Growth and Regeneration and the Service Director for Homes and Neighbourhoods, in February 2021, in relation to consultation with the tenants of a number of high-rise residential blocks in respect of works to address fire safety issues, but also in relation to the wider implications of the Social Housing White Paper: The Charter for Social Housing Residents, the Fire Safety Bill 2019-21 and the Draft Building Safety Bill.
- 2.2 Further to this briefing it was agreed that scrutiny of the Authority's health and safety compliance for its residential housing stock should take place.
- 2.2 The agreed terms of reference are as set out below:

The Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel will consider the Council's policies, procedures and arrangements for managing the health and safety of its tenants and its residential property portfolio, with a particular focus on high rise and multiple occupancy blocks.

The Panel will give consideration to:

- How the health and safety regime adopted by the Authority supports compliance with regulatory standards and puts appropriate risk mitigation strategies in place to ensure the health and safety of tenants.
- The six compliance areas: Fire; Gas; Electrical; Asbestos; Legionella; and LOLER (lifts) and the steps being taken to keep tenants safe.
- The impacts of the Social Housing White Paper, Draft Building Safety Bill and Fire Safety Bill 2019-21 for tenants.
- Progress in relation to the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel in respect of the Future Arrangements for the Council's Residential Housing Stock's recommendation that an Assurance Board be established focussing on housing compliance.
- Feedback from the Regulator and how that is being progressed.
- Governance and ensuring that a sustainable and adaptable system is in place to ensure that safety is embedded for the future.
- Engagement with, and provision of information for, tenants on health, safety and compliance issues.

3. Implications for the Council

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

4. Consultees and their opinions

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

5. Next steps and timelines

- 5.1 A schedule of meetings will be set up from mid June onwards.
- 5.2 Regular progress reports will be provided to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.
- 5.3 Following consideration of all the evidence presented, the Ad Hoc Panel will produce a findings report, including recommendations, which will be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee prior to submission to Cabinet.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

- 6.1 That the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel be re-established with the Terms of Reference and membership details set out in this report.

7. Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

Not applicable.

8. Contact officer

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9. Service Director responsible

Julie Muscroft, Service Director, Legal, Governance and Commissioning
Naz Parkar, Service Director, Homes and Neighbourhoods