

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: All
REPORT TITLE: Work Programme – Housing Scrutiny	
REPORT OF: Director of Housing	
FOR SUBMISSION TO: Housing Scrutiny Committee	DATE: 17.01.2023
<p>SUMMARY OF REPORT: This report provides an update on the Committee’s work programme for 2022/23 and provides an update on action requested at previous meetings of the Committee.</p> <p>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to information No documents that require listing were used in the preparation of this report</p> <p>Contact Officer:</p> <p>Glendine Shepherd, Director of Housing Services glendine.shepherd@camden.gov.uk</p>	
<p>RECOMMENDATIONS:</p> <p>The members of the Housing Scrutiny Committee are asked:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) to consider any proposals for items that should be included in the work programme and to confirm the work programme for the year ahead. 	

Signed:



Director of Housing

Date: 4th January 2023

1. **INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The committee has been set up with the following terms of reference:

- To scrutinise the Council's policies and the provision, planning, financing, management and performance of services relating to housing provided by the Council and other service providers.

1.2 A committee workplan is attached to this report (Appendix A). The committee may wish to make further suggestions or amendments to the workplan for the year ahead.

2. **CABINET FORWARD PLAN – Housing**

2.1 Cabinet report - Small Site Phase One is proposed to be presented at the February meeting of Housing Scrutiny.

3 **PANELS**

3.1 The Scrutiny committee may establish a time limited, task focussed Panel. The Panel is chaired by a member of the committee and is able to request contributions and evidence about local housing services from a wider range of contributors including Partners, expert advisors and local residents. A report is made by the Panel to the Scrutiny Committee on its findings at the end of its work. Updates are provided to the Committee by the Chair of the panel whilst its work is ongoing.

3.2 Committee members are reminded of the constraints on Council resources at this time and have previously committed to run these Member-led panels with only limited officer support in order to ensure an efficient and cost-effective process.

4 **CO-OPTees**

4.1 In addition to council members, the committee has previously decided that three co-optees should sit on the committee. These arrangements are subject to annual review.

5 **ACTION TRACKER**

5.1 The actions arising from the last meeting (December 2022) are attached at Appendix B.

5. COMMENTS OF THE BOROUGH SOLICITOR

5.1 The Borough Solicitor has been consulted and has no comments to make on the report.

6. COMMENTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

6.1 The Executive Director of Corporate Services has been consulted and has no comment to add.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are none.

DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME

**Housing Scrutiny Committee draft work programme
2022/23**

21ST FEBRUARY 2023

Draft agenda

- Annual portfolio report: Better Homes
- Report of the Cabinet Adviser (Rough sleeping: homelessness prevention, temporary accommodation, and the review with public health of homelessness provision)
- Report of the Cabinet Adviser (Estates Mission)
- State of the Borough report
- Work programme

Yet to be programmed

- Allocations Policy (Policy review and service redesign)
- Leaseholder services
- Landlord Licensing Scheme update
- Camden Housing Strategy
- Housing Transformation update

APPENDIX B – HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ACTION TRACKER (DECEMBER 2022)

Meeting	Item	Action	Action by	Status
12/12/22	The Cost of Living Crisis and the Council's response	Officers agreed to provide the scrutiny committee with information regarding the number of people who had applied for hardship fund payments who were in paid employment; data on the types of people accessing warm spaces; whether the libraries could be opened earlier over the winter months so that people could access them as a warm space; ensuring staff advising people on the accessing the hardship fund were providing consistent information; free school meal auto-enrolment proposal; food vouchers eligibility criteria; cost of living fund eligibility criteria along with how many times a household or an applicant could apply to the fund; along with a general update on the progress of the support measures the Council was providing in the future.	Executive Directors	Response to be provided
12/12/22	Transformation of Housing Services	Officers agreed to provide an update at a future meeting that would also look at local recruitment opportunities (including local apprenticeships) and they would provide a breakdown of the data regarding rent arrears.	Director of Housing	Response to be provided

12/12/22	Cabinet Member Better Homes report	Officers would look at promoting the SMS service as part of the rent statement changes that would be circulated to all tenants, along with providing further information on the remote reporting methods on community noticeboards	Director of Housing and the Director of Property Management	Response to be provided and will be actioned in consultation with the communications team.
12/12/22	Work programme	Officers agreed to provide members with a further breakdown of the response times regarding the call backs, SMS and Chat reporting methods.	Director of Property Management	Response to be provided ahead of the meeting