

Part A

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: Wednesday, 21 February 2024

Report author: Senior Democratic Services Officer

Title: Social Housing Task Group final report

1.0 Summary

1.1 This report provides Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the final report and recommendations of the Social Housing Task Group. The full report is attached as Appendix 1.

1.2 Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to review the report prior to it being sent to registered social housing providers.

2.0 Risks

2.1 No direct risks to the council have been identified as a result of the task group's recommendations.

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 That the final report and recommendations of the task group be agreed and forwarded to relevant registered providers.

Further information:

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Report approved by: Carol Chen, Group Head of Democracy and Governance

4.0 Overview of the task group

4.1 In February 2023 Overview and Scrutiny Committee invited Watford Community Housing to attend a meeting and provide an update on their response to damp and mould. Watford Community Housing are the largest registered provider of social housing in Watford. The committee recommended that a task group be established to consider repairs, damp and mould and tenant engagement across the social rented sector in Watford.

4.2 The task group was established by Overview and Scrutiny Committee in July 2023 and comprised the following councillors:
Councillor Asif Khan (Chair)
Councillor Karen Clarke-Taylor
Councillor Marilyn Devonish
Councillor Penelope Hill
Councillor Amanda Grimston

4.3 The task group met on four occasions, including two in-person evidence sessions with representatives of Watford Community Housing. Other providers submitted written evidence to the review. During the course of the review, the task group reviewed written evidence and discussed policies and procedures with witnesses.

5.0 **Implications**

5.1 **Financial**

5.1.1 The Chief Finance Officer comments that there are no direct financial implications for Watford Borough Council arising from this report.

5.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)

5.2.1 The Group Head of Democracy and Governance comments that there are no legal implications in the report.

5.3 **Equalities, Human Rights and Data Protection**

5.3.1 There are no specific implications in this report.

5.4 **Staffing**

5.4.1 There are no staffing implications in this report.

5.5 **Accommodation**

5.5.1 There are no accommodation implications in this report.

5.6 **Community Safety/Crime and Disorder**

5.6.1 There are no community safety implications in this report.

5.7 **Sustainability**

5.7.1 There are no sustainability implications in this report.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Draft Social Housing Task Group report.

Background papers

No papers were used in the preparation of this report.