



**Housing Scrutiny Committee**  
29 November 2018

**Report from the Director of  
Performance Policy and  
Partnerships**

**Service Provision on Housing Estates: Members' Scrutiny  
Task Group**

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	N/A
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	Two:
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Jackie Barry-Pursell, Senior Policy and Scrutiny Officer, Strategy and Partnerships <a href="mailto:jacqueline.barry-pursell@brent.gov.uk">jacqueline.barry-pursell@brent.gov.uk</a> Tel. 020 8937 1958

## 1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To enable members of the Housing Scrutiny Committee to set up a members' scrutiny task group to review service provision on housing estates.

## 2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 Members of the Housing Scrutiny Committee to discuss and agree the contents of this report and scoping paper attached in Appendix A.
- 2.2 Members of the Housing Scrutiny Committee to agree to set up a task group with the terms of reference and membership in Appendix B.

## 3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The Housing Scrutiny Committee can commission evidence-based reviews of a policy area or function of the local authority, which are led by non-executive members. As part of the work programme discussion, members of the committee discussed a variety of areas which they would like to examine in greater detail. One of these was the area of service provision on housing estates. The complexity of this area means that it is an appropriate subject to

be reviewed by a scrutiny task group rather than be discussed at committee through a report.

- 3.2 The scope of this task group is central to the achievement of the overall vision for the borough as set out in the Borough Plan 2019-2023. The vision is: ***To make Brent a borough of culture, empathy, and shared prosperity***
- 3.3 A key part of the work of the task group will be to produce a written report with recommendations to Cabinet or Full Council which are focused on areas which are the responsibility of the Cabinet. This recommendation-making function is an important one that overview and scrutiny has in a local authority. It's considered good practice that recommendations are SMART (specific, measurable, agreed, realistic and timed) and limited in number. In addition, information about likely recommendations will be shared and discussed with the Cabinet member for the area prior to being made.
- 3.4 Evidence-gathering is a key part of the role of the task group. Members will develop their own lines of questioning to test the evidence they are presented with, and to weigh-up the evidence they are given. It is considered best practice for members to consider different types of qualitative and quantitative data so they have a complete picture and view of a subject. <sup>1</sup>
- 3.5 Membership of the task group has to be drawn from non-executive members; however, the Cabinet member for Housing and Welfare Reform will take part in the evidence-gathering sessions alongside officers from Brent Council. The evidence-gathering sessions will be set out in a project plan once the task group has been established.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

#### **5.0 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

#### **6.0 Equality Implications**

- 6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report

#### **7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders**

- 7.1 Non-executive members are regularly involved in overview and scrutiny.

**Report sign off:**

**PETER GADSDON**

Director of Performance, Policy and Partnerships

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<sup>1</sup> *The Scrutiny Evaluation Framework*, (Centre for Public Scrutiny, April 2017) pp.7-9