



**Housing Scrutiny Committee**  
25 April 2019

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

**Service Provision on Estates in Brent: Overview and  
Scrutiny Task Group**

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Key
<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>	4
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Jackie Barry-Purssell – Senior Policy and Scrutiny Officer <a href="mailto:Jacqueline.barry-purssell@brent.gov.uk">Jacqueline.barry-purssell@brent.gov.uk</a>

## 1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To update committee members with the report from the members' overview and scrutiny task group which was set up to review service provision on estates in Brent.

## 2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 Members of the committee to discuss and agree the contents of the task group report, particularly the recommendations for Brent Council's Cabinet.

## 3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The Housing Scrutiny Committee can commission evidence based reviews of a policy area of 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 **Service Provision on Estates in Brent**.

- 3.2 The committee formally set up the members' task group on 29 November 2018. Committee agreed Councillor Long would chair the Task Group, and the other members would be Councillor Aden, Councillor Choudhary, Councillor Mitchell Murray, Councillor Stephens and Karin Jaeger (co-optee). This was an evidence-based review. The Task Group held a series of evidence gathering

sessions. Members of the Task Group were asked to develop recommendations and these are included in the attached report.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

4.1 If a recommendation was to be accepted and implemented then the financial implications would need to be accounted for in a subsequent report to Cabinet. However, none of the task group's recommendations to the Housing Scrutiny Committee have significant financial or Budget implications.

#### **5.0 Legal Implications**

5.1 The Council is a Best Value Authority in accordance with s 1(1) of the Local Government Act 1999. It is required to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way it exercises its functions, having regard to economy, efficiency and effectiveness pursuant to s3 of the Local Government Act 1999. If a recommendation was to be accepted and implemented, then the legal implications would need to be accounted for in a subsequent report to Cabinet, which may include issues such as consultation and the current contractual arrangements that the Council has in place.

#### **6.0 Equality Implications**

6.1 Brent is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion; the council is determined to be an exemplar of good practice in equality, diversity and human rights and it is our policy to treat everyone fairly and with respect. We aim to ensure that all our current and future residents, staff and stakeholders are treated fairly and receive appropriate, accessible services, and fair and equal opportunities.

6.2 This commitment requires that equality considerations play a key role in our decision-making processes and that our policies are fully compliant with the duties placed on us as a public sector body by the Equality Act 2010. Equality Analyses (EAs) ensure that we follow through on our commitment to equality and they provide a method for clearly demonstrating the necessary legal compliance.

6.3 The Equality Act 2010 replaced the pre-existing anti-discrimination laws with a single Act. The legislation covers the exercise of public functions, employment and work, goods and services, premises, associations, transport and education. The act prohibits victimisation and harassment, and all of the following forms of discrimination: direct; indirect; by association; by perception; or discrimination arising from disability. The detail regarding the Public Sector Equality Duty pursuant to section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 is set out in paragraph 5.3 above.

6.4 There are no immediate equalities implications arising from this report for the local authority. However, if the proposed recommendations are accepted and implemented then they would help to reduce wider social inequalities in the borough, particularly for people who live on estates.

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

7.1 Ward members who are committee members have been involved in this report.

**8.0 Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)**

8.1 The task group report does not have human resources/property implications.

**Report sign off:**

**PETER GADSDON**

Strategic Director of Performance  
Policy and Partnerships