

Appendix A

Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee (RPRSC) Recommendations Tracker 2024/25

The Recommendations Tracker is a standing item on committee agendas, and documents the progress of scrutiny recommendations, suggestions for improvement, and information requests made by the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee at its public meetings and as part of task and finish group reviews. Scrutiny recommendations, suggestions for improvement, and information requests will not be removed from the tracker until full responses have been provided to the Committee by either the Cabinet, Full Council, council departments, and/or external partners.

Suggestions for improvement from RPRSC to Council departments/partners

Meeting date and agenda item	Suggestion for improvement	Council Department/External Partner	Response / Status
6 Sept 2023 – Planning Enforcement	Undertake an audit to determine the wards with the highest amount of planning breach complaints, and the wards with the highest amount of enforcement activity. This intelligence should be used to develop a targeted strategy to prevent planning breaches e.g. targeted planning education and/or communications campaigns etc. The Audit should also categorise the types of breaches receiving enforcement notices.	Gerry Ansell – Director, Inclusive Regeneration & Employment, Neighbourhoods & Regeneration	<p>Response received on 24/10/23:</p> <p>We will look to do this but are currently waiting for our new software to be introduced. Currently scheduled for April 2024.</p> <p>Updated response received on 11/04/24:</p> <p>There has been a delay on the implementation of the new software. Testing is now not going to take place until June 2024 and go live is unlikely to take place until Autum 2024. Therefore we will not be in a position to produce this information until February 2025.</p>
27 Feb 2024 – Draft Property Strategy	Upon completion, sight the Committee on the draft Corporate Social Benefits Assessment Methodology for feedback.	<p>Tanveer Ghani – Director, Property & Assets, Finance & Resources</p> <p>Rhodri Rowlands –</p>	<p>Response received on 12/04/24:</p> <p>The council is currently reviewing its social value approach at an organisational level and the property strategy will fit into the wider organisational approach to community wealth building and social value. This ensures consistency and enables the property strategy to align with broader council objectives. The development of the assessment methodology itself falls outside of the Property</p>

		Director of Strategic Commissioning & Capacity Building, Community Health & Wellbeing	<p>and Assets Team's direct remit, consequently, at this stage we do not have immediate access to the specific details of the methodology. However, once the approach becomes clearer, we will get back in contact with further information about who can consider the recommendation.</p> <p>Updated response received on 01/11/2024:</p> <p>A review of the council's social value approach is now in progression and linked into the strategic change programme. This includes a review of the council's current Social Value Policy and a refresh of the council's priorities for social value contributions to ensure they maximise the opportunity to align supplier contributions to areas of most impact. Additional enabling areas of work are also being developed including a social value charter and redesign of the council's social value method statement. This will include specific consideration of property and assets with link to this strategy. Opportunities are also being identified through which pilot activity can be implemented to test application of social value in respect of property and assets. For example, this maybe through consideration of rent incentivisation schemes. A working group linked to the Change Programme will provide ongoing oversight.</p>
	Upon completion, publish the final Corporate Social Benefits Assessment Methodology for the benefit of residents, businesses, and community organisations.	<p>To be confirmed.</p> <p>Rhodri Rowlands – Director of Strategic Commissioning & Capacity Building, Community Health & Wellbeing</p>	Awaiting response.
5 Nov 2024 – Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 Overview	Review the strategy for allocating and spending SCIL that ensures better alignment with local needs, a more balanced distribution of funds across borough plan priorities, and that facilitates creative investment into budgetary high-priority areas (e.g. key departmental budgetary pressure/risk areas). This review should also consider how resident and	Gerry Ansell – Director, Inclusive Regeneration & Employment, Neighbourhoods & Regeneration	<p>Response received on 23/01/25:</p> <p>A strategic paper is currently scheduled for CMT on 29 January 2025 looking at updating the SCIL governance in line with an updated Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) and reflecting borough plan priorities. The paper will also consider how resident and councillor feedback can be more effectively incorporated in the process. It also seeks to ensure project accountability via the Infrastructure Officer Working Group (IOWG) and Scrutiny will be kept informed of project progress through the annual Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS).</p> <p>Spending and allocation will be publicised via the IFS.</p>

	councillor feedback can be more effectively incorporated into the SCIL spending strategy and how updates on SCIL-funded projects can be more clearly communicated to residents and councillors.		
5 Nov 2024 - Quarter 2 Financial Forecast 2024/25	Explore additional funding options with partners for retrofitting and energy efficiency across council properties as part of the authority's wider income generation strategy and climate action efforts, and report back on findings and future plans to the committee.	<p>Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance & Resources</p> <p>Peter Gadsdon – Corporate Director, Partnerships, Housing & Resident Services</p> <p>Alice Lester – Corporate Director, Neighbourhoods & Regeneration</p>	<i>Response to be provided by 25 February 2025 meeting.</i>

Information requests from RPRSC to Council departments/partners

Meeting date and agenda item	Information requests	Council Department/External Partner	Responses / Status
6 Sept 2023– Planning Enforcement	Provide a breakdown of: 1. Planning breach complaints by ward and; 2. Types of breaches that have received enforcement notices by ward	Gerry Ansell – Director, Inclusive Regeneration & Employment, Neighbourhoods & Regeneration	Response received on 24/10/23: Need to await for new software to be installed. This is scheduled for April 2024. Updated response received on 11/04/24: There has been a delay on the implementation of the new software. Testing is now not going to take place until June 2024 and go live is unlikely to take place until Autum 2024. Therefore we will not be in a position to produce this information until February 2025.
4 Sept 2024 – Delivery of Affordable Housing by i4B Holdings Ltd and First Wave Housing Ltd	Provide asset management strategy upon completion.	Alice Lester – Corporate Director, Neighbourhoods & Regeneration	Response received on 07/10/24: This will be presented to the i4B/FWH Board meeting on Thursday 28 th November and, dependent on any feedback from directors and further work required, will be available to share with the committee in December 2024.
	Provide a breakdown of the expected costs associated with enhancing energy performance and retrofitting the i4B/First Wave Housing stock.	Alice Lester – Corporate Director, Neighbourhoods & Regeneration	Response received on 07/10/24: This information will be included in the asset management strategy, which will be presented to the i4B/FWH Board meeting on Thursday 28 th November and, dependent on any feedback from directors and further work required, will be available to share with the committee in December 2024.
5 Nov 2024– Strategic Community Infrastructure	Provide a comparative analysis of SCIL allocation and spend over the last 10 years, using data from relevant local authorities.	Gerry Ansell – Director, Inclusive Regeneration & Employment, Neighbourhoods & Regeneration	Response received on 15/01/25: All London Council's have been contacted via the Borough CIL Network coordinated by TfL. The data is expected to be reported by end of Feb 2025.

<p>ure Levy and Section 106 Overview</p>	<p>Provide further details on the process developers must follow to vary a S106 agreement complete 5 or more years ago, including the individuals or teams at the Council responsible for reviewing and deciding such requests.</p>	<p>Gerry Ansell – Director, Inclusive Regeneration & Employment, Neighbourhoods & Regeneration</p>	<p>Response received on 15/01/25:</p> <p>Planning obligations can be renegotiated at any point where there is agreement from both the Council and the developer to that change.</p> <p>Where there is no voluntary mutual agreement, planning legislation allows land owners to formally apply for the variation or removal of Section 106 obligations providing at least five years has passed since the obligation has been entered into. The land owner will send a letter to the Council requesting the variation or removal of the obligation, accompanied by any information that is required in order to support that request.</p> <p>In determining a request or application to modify a legal agreement, the Council must determine whether:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) that the obligation should have continue to have effect in its original form; b) that the obligation should be discharged if it no longer serves a useful purpose; or c) that the obligation should be varied as it would serve the intended purpose equally well if varied in the proposed way. <p>In determining the request, the council considers whether the change would materially affect the development as consented, whether that change is acceptable or not (having regard to the Council's and Mayor of London's planning policies) and for schemes originally determined by the Planning Committee, whether the change may have resulted in the Planning Committee taking a different view on the acceptability of the development.</p> <p>Most changes that are requested do not materially change the consented development. However, a small number do and are referred to the Planning Committee for determination by the Head of Planning. One example of this related to a student accommodation development where the applicant sought to change the requirement to provide Affordable Student Accommodation to the payment of a financial contribution to the Council for the provision of traditional Affordable homes. The planning committee considered this proposed and authorised the change to the Section 106 obligations. The Head of Planning has delegated Authority to agree variations to obligations that do not need to be considered by the Planning Committee.</p>
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	Provide further details on the process for enforcing s106 agreements, including all options available, along with any accompanying examples of where the Council have had to follow this process.	Gerry Ansell – Director, Inclusive Regeneration & Employment, Neighbourhoods & Regeneration	<p>Response received on 15/01/25:</p> <p>This is not presently an issue with any current cases being pursued by the Council and it is not something we have had to do in the last 5 years.</p> <p>S106 agreements are effectively a legal contract which the Council is empowered to secure compliance. If the matter relates to payment this can be pursued through debt recovery by the Council's finance department and if necessary through court action. If it is a compliance clause then this can be pursued under legal powers and if necessary through court action.</p>
5 Nov 2024 - Quarter 2 Financial Forecast 2024/25	Provide an updated briefing to the committee on the impact of the Chancellor's Autumn Statement on the council.	Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance & Resources	<i>Response to be provided by 25 February 2025 meeting.</i>
	Provide a detailed breakdown and allocation of the council's useable reserves, including their intended purpose and planned usage.	Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance & Resources	<i>Response to be provided by 25 February 2025 meeting.</i>
	Submit a progress report in six months on the efforts of the 'Supported Exempt Accommodation' Working Group, highlighting ongoing and completed projects, as well as the associated impacts, including cost benefits to the council.	Peter Gadsdon – Corporate Director, Partnerships, Housing and Resident Services	<i>Response to be provided by 25 February 2025 meeting.</i>

	Provide an update in six months on the implementation of the Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023, highlighting its impact in enhancing quality standards and achieving cost savings in Supported Exempt Accommodation.	Peter Gadsdon – Corporate Director, Partnerships, Housing and Resident Services	<i>Response to be provided by 25 February 2025 meeting.</i>
	Provide a progress update in six months on the debt recovery improvement initiatives and strategies in place to enhance collection rates across all debt types. This update should include a detailed overview of Council Tax collection, and an assessment of the Council Tax Support Scheme reduction, including an evaluation of the effectiveness of measures to mitigate the impact on affected residents.	Peter Gadsdon – Corporate Director, Partnerships, Housing and Resident Services	<i>Response to be provided by 25 February 2025 meeting.</i>
	Provide data on Council Tax collection rates by tenure for the last three years.	Peter Gadsdon – Corporate Director, Partnerships, Housing and Resident Services	