


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> <p>Additional response received on 14/02/25:</p> <p> Planning Enforcement Statisti</p>

27 Feb 2024 – Draft Property Strategy	Upon completion, sight the Committee on the draft Corporate Social Benefits Assessment Methodology for feedback.	<p>Tanveer Chani – Director, Property & Assets, Finance & Resources</p> <p>Rhodri Rowlands – Director of Strategic Commissioning & Capacity Building, Community Health & Wellbeing</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 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>	<i>Awaiting response.</i>
5 Nov 2024 – Quarter 2 Financial	Explore additional funding options with partners for retrofitting and energy efficiency across council properties as part of the authority's	Minesh Patel – Corporate Director, Finance & Resources	<p>Response received on 14/02/25:</p> <p>Retrofitting homes is perhaps the biggest challenge to achieving our climate targets. There is an estimated minimum £60m shortfall to increase Brent's</p>

Forecast 2024/25	wider income generation strategy and climate action efforts, and report back on findings and future plans to the committee.	<p>Alice Lester – Corporate Director, Neighbourhoods & Regeneration</p> <p>Peter Gadsdon – Corporate Director, Partnerships, Housing & Resident Services</p>	<p>council stock to an average Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) B rating (the London wide target), while finance models and labour markets are not yet available to deliver retrofit at scale. Additionally, only around 2% of council properties meet current grant funding requirements (EPC D or lower) as we have a relatively high performing stock (average EPC C).</p> <p>Within that context, we are continuing to bid for all available external funds for retrofit and to use the Brent Carbon Offset Fund where match funding is required. Shortly before Christmas, Brent submitted a £3.7m bid as part of the pan-London consortium bid for the government's Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund. If this bid is successful, it will fund retrofit programmes for 80 properties within two Tower Blocks (the Oaks and Pharamond). This would follow on from the £3.2m successful bid for the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, with work retrofit work nearing completion on 128 properties and the energy efficiency measures being undertaken as part of the council's existing capital tower block refurbishment works programme.</p> <p>We also continue to support London Retrofit, a project funded by London Councils, the London Housing Directors' Group, the Greater London Authority and the London Environment Directors' Network (LEDNet), which is exploring innovative approaches to scaling up retrofit across the capital.</p>
28 Jan 2024 - Safer Brent Partnershi p Annual Report 2024	Explore and implement solutions to improve information-sharing with London authorities and relevant voluntary/community sector organisations regarding out-of-borough placements, enhancing community safety assessments and safeguarding measures in Brent.	<p>Laurence Coaker – Director, Housing Needs & Support, Partnerships, Housing & Resident Services</p> <p>Kibibi Octave – Director, Communities & Partnerships, Partnerships, Housing & Resident Services</p>	<i>Response to be provided by 11 April 2025.</i>
	Provide detailed context, analysis, and narratives, to complement any figures/data in future scrutiny committee reports.	<p>Kibibi Octave – Director, Communities & Partnerships, Partnerships, Housing & Resident Services</p>	<i>Response to be provided by 11 April 2025.</i>

	Provide a more detailed analysis on the impact of commissioned provider delivery on community safety priorities in future scrutiny committee reports.	Kibibi Octave – Director, Communities & Partnerships, Partnerships, Housing & Resident Services	<i>Response to be provided by 11 April 2025.</i>
	Develop an effective Communication and Engagement Plan for community safety projects that ensures consistent messaging about available support, promotes varied communication methods, and strengthens engagement practices with local communities.	Kibibi Octave – Director, Communities & Partnerships, Partnerships, Housing & Resident Services	<i>Response to be provided by 11 April 2025.</i>
	Explore alternative solutions, such as employment pathways, partnership initiatives, and funding opportunities for both the council, and voluntary and community sector groups, to more effectively address the health, social, and rehabilitative needs of older, high-risk offenders.	Kibibi Octave – Director, Communities & Partnerships, Partnerships, Housing & Resident Services	<i>Response to be provided by 11 April 2025.</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	<p>Response received on 24/10/23:</p> <p>Need to await for new software to be installed. This is 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> <p>Additional response received on 14/02/25:</p> <p> Planning Enforcement Statisti</p>
4 Sept 2024 – Delivery of Affordable Housing by i4B Holdings Ltd and First Wave	Provide asset management strategy upon completion.	Alice Lester – Corporate Director, Neighbourhoods & Regeneration	<p>Response received on 07/10/24:</p> <p>This will be presented to the i4B/FWH Board meeting on Thursday 28th November and, dependent on any feedback from directors and further work required, will be available to share with the committee in December 2024.</p> <p>Updated response received on 14/02/25:</p> <p>The draft strategy was presented at the December i4B/FWH Board meeting. The Board have requested more detailed financial analysis which is to be implemented into the business plan. The strategy is expected to return to the Board in February/ March 2025 for approval.</p>

Housing Ltd (FWH)	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	<p>Response received on 07/10/24:</p> <p>This information will be included in the asset management strategy, which will be presented to the i4B/FWH Board meeting on Thursday 28th November and, dependent on any feedback from directors and further work required, will be available to share with the committee in December 2024.</p> <p>Updated response received on 14/02/25:</p> <p>The draft strategy was presented at the December i4B/FWH Board meeting. The Board have requested more detailed financial analysis which is to be implemented into the business plan. The strategy is expected to return to the Board in February/ March 2025 for approval.</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	<p>Additional response received on 21/01/25:</p> <p>Briefing note circulated to committee by email on 21 January 2025.</p>
	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	<p>Additional response received on 17/02/25:</p> <p>Information circulated to committee by email on 17 February 2025.</p>
	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	<p><i>Response to be provided by 30 May 2025.</i></p>
	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	<p><i>Response to be provided by 30 May 2025.</i></p>

	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 30 May 2025.</i>
	Provide data on Council Tax collection rates by tenure for the last three years.	Peter Gadsdon – Corporate Director, Partnerships, Housing and Resident Services	<p>Response received on 17/02/25:</p> <p>Unfortunately, a decision was made to remove tenure data that did exist in 2019, this was because it is not strictly needed for collection purposes. Nevertheless, the Service started to update its data base with recovery profile information from 2023, acknowledging that is useful in targeting recovery action and understanding performance difference between recovery types. The recovery profiles now in place are listed below. Because the data has only recently started to be gathered 78,000 of the 135,000 properties are in the default profile, while the number in receipt of CTS only shows 2,758 compared to the 15,000 plus in receipt. Given the gaps in the data the collection performance is not currently analysed in this way and only the whole borough collection is provided. The year end process and the likely advent of a revised CTS scheme mean that profiles are updated. Once completed the Service will look to provide collection data by profile class in the next financial year. The main ones will be: default, CTS recipient, private tenant, owner and Brent/HA tenant.</p> <p>Collection profiles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Default 2. Breathing space – mandatory pause 3. Brent and HA tenants 4. Care leaver 5. Council Tax Support recipient 6. Members – required as payment affects ability to vote 7. No Summons – where there is a hold on action

			8. Pending write-off – identified for write off 9. Previous arrears – arrears outstanding from earlier years to identify them for further action 10. Private tenant 11. Owner 12. Write-off – agreed for write-off or written off 13. Bulk Write-off 1993-2014 – exercise to remove some old debt in 2023
28 Jan 2024 - Safer Brent Partnerships Annual Report 2024	Provide a copy of the Safer Brent Community Safety Action Plan 2024-2026.	Kibibi Octave – Director, Communities & Partnerships, Partnerships, Housing & Resident Services	<i>Response to be provided by 7 March 2025.</i>
	Provide comprehensive data on the effectiveness of closure orders in reducing anti-social behaviour and crime.	Kibibi Octave – Director, Communities & Partnerships, Partnerships, Housing & Resident Services	<i>Response to be provided by 11 April 2025.</i>
	Provide a detailed analysis of the factors contributing to the significant rise in racist hate crimes in the Cricklewood & Maplesbury and Willesden Green wards highlighted in the annual report, along with an overview of the current interventions aimed at addressing these increases.	Kibibi Octave – Director, Communities & Partnerships, Partnerships, Housing & Resident Services	<i>Response to be provided by 11 April 2025.</i>
	Provide a copy of the Internal Audit Report 2024-25 (Social Housing Act – Anti-Social Behaviour) to better understand resident satisfaction with regards to antisocial behaviour in social housing.	Kibibi Octave – Director, Communities & Partnerships, Partnerships, Housing & Resident Services	<i>Response to be provided by 7 March 2025.</i>