	Full Council 16 November 2026
	Report from the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources

Housing Scrutiny Committee Chair's Update

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Council
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
List of Appendices:	None
Background Papers:	None
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1.0 Executive Summary

1.0. To update Full Council on the activities of the Housing Scrutiny Committee.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

That Full Council

2.1 Note the report and the updates provided for the Housing Scrutiny Committee which was formed earlier this year.

2.2 Note that the Housing Scrutiny Committee's work programme for the 2026/27 municipal year will be provided as part of the next update report to Full Council

once it has been officially agreed at its first official meeting scheduled for 24 November 2026.

3.0 Detail

3.1 Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context

3.1.1 The work of the committee contributes to the delivery of all of the strategic priorities within the Borough Plan as it seeks to support, advise and enhance the Council's activity. The activities outlined in this report contributes most specifically to the "Prosperity and Stability in Brent" "A Cleaner, Greener Future," "Thriving Communities" and "The Best Start in Life," strategic priorities within the plan.

3.2 Background

3.2.1 Brent Council has three scrutiny committees: the newly established Housing Scrutiny Committee, the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and the Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee. Councillor Fleur Donnelly-Jackson has been elected as chair of the Housing Scrutiny Committee at the Full Council Meeting held on 14 September 2026.

3.2.2 A scrutiny committee can review anything which affects the borough or its inhabitants, subject to its remit. The remit of the Housing Scrutiny Committee is set out in the Council's Constitution under the Terms of Reference for Scrutiny Committees which includes:

Housing needs and support; Homelessness and rough sleeping; Temporary Accommodation; Tenancy sustainment and compliance; Tenant and leaseholder engagement; Homes Adaptation Service; Fire safety in housing; Private Rented Sector support; Landlord licensing and forum; Renters' Rights Bill enforcement; New Council Housing delivery; Affordable Homes Programme; Housing compact with registered providers; i4B and First Wave Housing; Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Housing spend.

3.2.3 The Housing Scrutiny Committee's 2026/27 work programme has been drafted. Scheduled to be formally agreed at the committee's first meeting on 24 November 2026, it will outline the policy areas and council decisions the committee plan to review during the 2026/27 municipal year. In developing its work programme, the committee held a work programming meeting, attended by Committee members, the Cabinet member for Housing, Homelessness and Renters and the Corporate Director of Residents and Housing Services. At this session Committee members prioritised items to include on the work programme based on a set of criteria. Prioritisation ensured that items included on the committee's work programme were (i) a strategic priority as set out in the council's 2023-27 Borough Plan (ii) of concern for a significant number of the borough's residents (iii) a significant cabinet decision or (iv) part of a forthcoming policy review or a new strategy being developed by the Cabinet. This was undertaken to ensure that scrutiny has a significant impact and adds value to the council's policy process. Statutory guidance on overview and

scrutiny recommends that for scrutiny to be effective, scrutiny committees focus on conducting fewer in-depth reviews of highly significant topics[1].

3.2.4 As the Committee was established part-way through the municipal year, three meetings are scheduled to take place between November 2026 and April 2027. These will be held on 24 November 2026, 17 February 2027 and 27 April 2027.

3.2.5 Future reports to Full Council will include updates on the meetings and activities of the Housing Scrutiny Committee.

4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

4.1 Members continue to be fully engaged in the development and delivery of the scrutiny work programme, which is intended to be a flexible, living document that can adapt and change throughout the municipal year in response to the Committee's needs.

5.0 Financial Considerations

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6.0 Legal Considerations

6.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

7.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

7.1 There are no equity, diversity or inclusion implications arising from this report.

8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

8.1 There are no climate change or environmental implications arising from this report.

9.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)

9.1 There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

10.0 Communication Considerations

10.1 There are no communication implications arising from this report.

[1] *Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities* (Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government), p21

Report sign off:

Minesh Patel
Corporate Director, Finance and Resources