



Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

20 September 2016

Report from the Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships

For information

Wards affected: ALL

Update on scrutiny's work programme 2016-17

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report updates members on the committee's work programme for 2016/17 and captures scrutiny activity which has taken place outside of its meetings.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to discuss and note the contents of the report, including changes to the schedule of items for each meeting, and the progress of the tracker of recommendations to Cabinet.
- 2.2 To note the details of members' visits, requests for information and responses, which have been done outside of the committee's 2016/17 work programme.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 Members of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee agreed their work programme 2016/17 earlier this year. The programme sets out what items will be heard at committee and which items will be looked at as task groups. However, the assumption was that it would evolve according to the needs of the committee, and spare capacity would be left to look at issues as they arise.
- 3.2 For operational reasons it may be necessary to move items to be heard at a particular committee. In addition, members and co-opted members can at any time suggest an item to be looked at during a committee meeting, which provided it is agreed by the chair, would mean the work programme changes.
- 3.3 As a result of committee meetings and task groups, recommendations are made to Cabinet and it's important the committee can see if these recommendations have been accepted, rejected or modified by the Cabinet.

3.4 Members may request information during a committee meeting or outside of a committee meeting as part of the scrutiny process. They also may make visits to do first-hand observation in order to better understand an issue for scrutiny.

4.0 Detail

4.1 When the committee agreed its work programme the report on Brent Housing Partnership was to go to Cabinet in October. This is now expected to go to Cabinet in November. It has not been possible to have the report for scrutiny ready for 20 September and an alternative date is being found for this report.

4.2 The annual report of the Brent Local Safeguarding Board will now be heard at November's meeting and the annual report of the Brent Safeguarding Adults Board will be heard at the meeting in February 2017 of the scrutiny committee. The adjusted work programme for 2016/17 with these changes is in Appendix A.

4.3 At the committee meeting on 20 July, members requested further data about prosecutions as part of the implementation of landlord licensing and the ethnicity of those agents, landlords and tenants. The data provided by the council's Private Sector Housing Licensing Team is set out in Appendix B.

4.4 Members of the committee are scheduled to make a number of visits. These include to housing and services provided by Brent Housing Partnership, and to accommodation in Wembley ahead of the report on New Accommodation for Independent Living (NAIL) to committee on 20 September. In addition, the committee chair Cllr Ketan Sheth took part in a visit with officers from the Private Sector Licensing Housing Team. A note of this visit is set out in Appendix C.

4.5 The committee chair has made two requests for information. Firstly, a request was made to Brent Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) about future provision if the pilot project run by the Sickie Cell Society was decommissioned. Secondly, a request was made to London North West Healthcare NHS Trust in relation to its Quality Accounts 2015/16. The responses did not arrive in time for the publication of committee papers and they will be published at a later date.

4.6 At the last committee meeting on 20 July, the committee agreed a number of recommendations on landlord licensing, ethical lettings agency and the task group on Brent's housing associations. The recommendations are set out in Appendix D and their progress to the Cabinet will be updated accordingly.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report.

6.0 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

7.0 Diversity Implications

7.1 There are no diversity implications immediately arising from this report.

Contact Officers

Pascoe Sawyers
Head of Policy and Partnerships
Chief Executive's Department

APPENDIX A

Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2016-17 20 July 2016

Agenda	Item	Objectives for scrutiny	Cabinet Member/Member	Brent Council/Partner organisations
1.	Impact of the selective and additional landlord licensing schemes	Post-decision scrutiny on implementation of the landlord licensing schemes and impact on improving standards in private rented sector.	Cllr Harbi Farah, Cabinet Member for Housing	Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing. Jon Lloyd-Owen, Operational Director Housing and Culture Spencer Randolph, Head of Private Housing Services.
2.	Task Group report on Brent's housing associations	To discuss and agree report from Cllr Tom Miller's task group about housing associations in Brent.	Cllr Tom Miller Cllr Harbi Farah, Lead Member for Housing	Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing. Jon Lloyd-Owen, Operational Director Housing and Culture
3.	Update report on the implementation of an Ethical Lettings Agency	Post-decision scrutiny on implementing Ethical Lettings Agency agreed by Cabinet in July 2015.	Cllr Harbi Farah, Lead Member for Housing	Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing. Jon Lloyd-Owen, Operational Director Housing and Culture
4.	Scrutiny 2015-16 annual report	To agree Scrutiny's annual report.	Cllr Matt Kelcher Chair Scrutiny Committee	Peter Gadsdon, Director Performance Policy and Partnerships
5.	Scrutiny 2016-17 work programme	To agree Scrutiny committee's work programme for 2016-17.	Cllr Ketan Sheth Chair Scrutiny Committee	Peter Gadsdon, Director Performance Policy and Partnerships

*Items involving school education. ** Items which may involve partnership work with schools.

20 September 2016

Agenda	Item	Objectives for scrutiny	Cabinet Member/Member	Brent Council/Partner organisations
1.	New Accommodation for Independent Living (NAIL) project	Scrutiny review of progress of NAIL scheme to date against its 2016/17 targets. *Members' visit to Victoria Court, Wembley on 12 September.	Cllr Krupesh Hirani, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing	Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing.
**2.	Task Group Signs of Safety	Agree task group scoping paper and TOR.	Cllr Wilhelmina Mitchell-Murray, Cabinet Member Children and Young People	Gail Tolley, Strategic Director Children and Young People
3.	Sustainability and Transformation Plan	Scrutiny review of progress of STP.	Cllr Krupesh Hirani, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing	Carolyn Downs, Chief Executive Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing Sarah Mansuralli, Chief Operating Officer, Brent CCG Rob Larkman, Chief Officer, BHH
4.	Co-opted members on Scrutiny	To set out the role of co-opted members on Community and Wellbeing scrutiny committee.	Cllr Ketan Sheth, Chair of Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny	Pascoe Sawyers, Head of Strategy and Partnerships.
5.	Work programme 2016/17 update	To note changes to the work programme and wider scrutiny activity	Cllr Ketan Sheth, Chair of Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny	Pascoe Sawyers, Head of Strategy and Partnerships

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23 November 2016

Agenda	Item	Objectives for scrutiny	Cabinet Member/Member	Brent Council/Partner organisations
1.	NHS estate in Brent	Evaluate impact of changes by NHS Property Services	Cllr Krupesh Hirani, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing	Jake Roe, NHS Property Services Sue Hardy, Head of Strategic Estate Development Brent, Harrow, Hillingdon and Ealing CCGs
**2.	Brent Local Safeguarding Children's Board	Receive 2015-16 annual report. Additional paper on safeguarding children.	Cllr Wilhelmina Mitchell-Murray, Cabinet Member Children and Young People	Mike Howard, Independent Chair Brent LSCB
**3.	Task Group report Signs of Safety	Receive task group report on Signs of Safety	Cllr Wilhelmina Mitchell-Murray, Cabinet Member Children and Young People Task group chair	Gail Tolley, Strategic Director Children and Young People
**4.	Task Group scoping paper CAMHS	To agree the scoping paper for CAMHS task group and TOR.	Task group chair	Gail Tolley, Strategic Director Children and Young People Brent CCG

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1 February 2017

Agenda	Item	Objectives for scrutiny	Cabinet Member/Member	Brent Council/Partner organisations
1.	Community Pharmacies	Assess impact on community pharmacies of recent changes by central government.	Cllr Krupesh Hirani, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing	NHS England Local Pharmaceutical Committee
2.	Brent Safeguarding Adults Board	Receive 2015-16 annual report Additional paper on safeguarding adults	Cllr Krupesh Hirani, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing	Michael Preston-Shoot, Chair Brent ASB
3.	Air quality and public health	Evaluation of air quality and public health.	Cllr Krupesh Hirani, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing	Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing Dr Melanie Smith, Director of Public Health Brent CCG
**4.	Task Group report CAMHS	Receive report from task group and discuss recommendations for Cabinet.	Cllr Wilhelmina Mitchell-Murray Task group chair	Gail Tolley, Strategic Director Children and Young People
**5.	Task group scoping paper children's oral health	Agree scoping paper for task group and TOR	Cllr Krupesh Hirani, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing Task group chair	Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing

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29 March 2017

Agenda	Item	Objectives for scrutiny	Cabinet Member/Member	Brent Council/Partner organisations
*1.	School Annual Standards and Achievement report	Receive report. Examine reasons for underachievement in Brent's schools among particular groups.	Cllr Wilhelmina Mitchell-Murray, Cabinet Member Children and Young People	Gail Tolley, Strategic Director Children and Young People
*2.	Special educational needs (SEN)	Update and evaluation of SEN provision.	Cllr Wilhelmina Mitchell-Murray, Cabinet Member Children and Young People	Gail Tolley, Strategic Director Children and Young People
3.	Task Group report on extended GP services	Update on implementation of recommendations from September 2015.	Cllr Krupesh Hirani, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing	Brent CCG Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing

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9 May 2017

Agenda Rank	Item	Objectives for scrutiny	Cabinet Member/Member	Brent Council/Partner organisations
1.	Brent's community libraries	Community libraries and draft cultural strategy.	Cllr Michael Pavey, Cabinet Member for Stronger Communities	Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing. Jon Lloyd-Owen, Operational Director Housing and Culture
2.	Primary Care Transformation	Review implications of primary care transformation for Brent	Cllr Krupesh Hirani, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing	Brent CCG
**3.	Task group report children's oral health	Receive report from task group and discuss recommendations for Cabinet.	Task group chair Cllr Krupesh Hirani, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing	Phil Porter, Strategic Director Community Wellbeing Dr Melanie Smith Director of Public Health

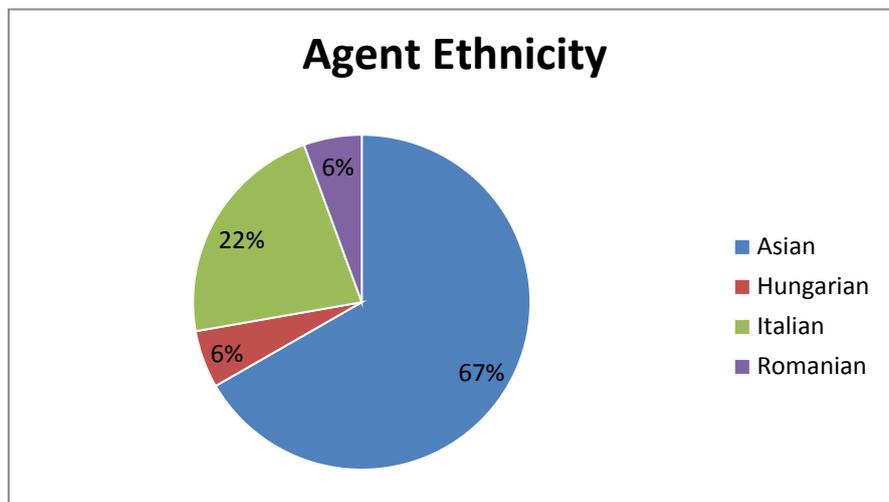
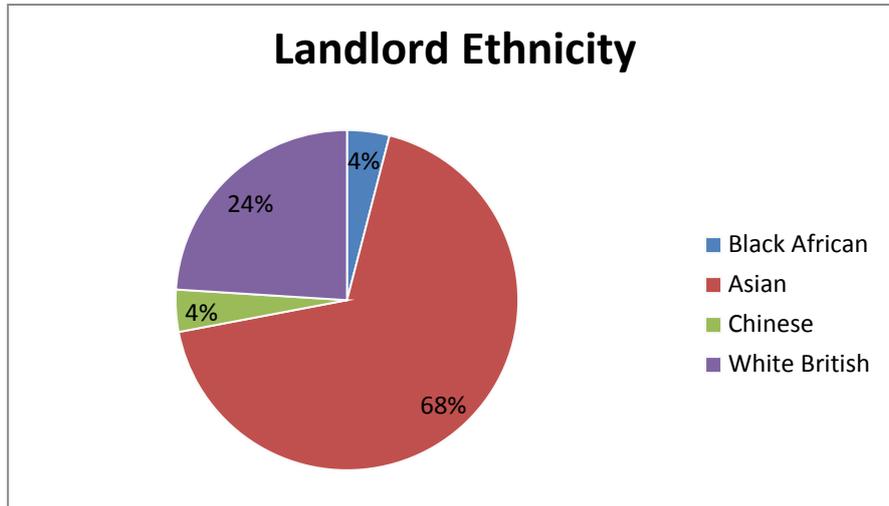
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APPENDIX B

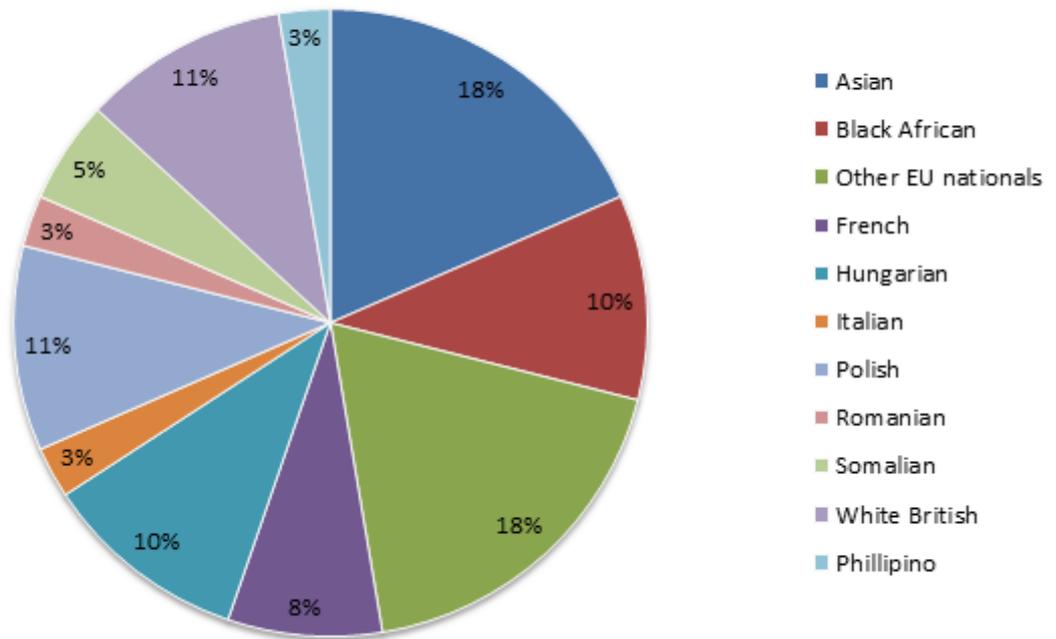
Statistics on Private Rented Sector Licensing and Enforcement

On 20 July 2016, the committee requested a breakdown of the ethnicity of the landlords, agents and tenants in prosecutions taken by Brent Council.

The following three charts show the ethnicity broken-down by landlord, agent and the ethnicity of tenants. The data was extracted from the 34 prosecutions by Brent Council in 2016, involving 19 properties and 174 tenants.



Tenant Ethnicity



Source: Brent Council Private Sector Housing Licensing Team, September 2016

APPENDIX C

Committee chair's visit on raids of unlicensed properties

Background

Following the scrutiny committee's review of the additional and selective licensing in the private rented sector on the 20 July 2016, I was keen to see the how the current system of licensing was working and in particular, how the enforcement of breaches of or failures to obtain a licence was being addressed by the council.

At the committee, we were presented with various statistics about the successes of the current three schemes in place and the work undertaken in relation to unlicensed properties. In this respect, the committee were told about the recent successful prosecutions against the unlicensed landlords, which have also been widely reported in the local and national media. However, prior to such prosecutions taking place, the committee heard from the officers that they undertook various investigative work to identify unlicensed properties, which included carrying out raids.

Although the report to the Committee was comprehensive and the Committee received helpful evidence from the officers of their work, I, as the Chair of the Committee, wanted to better understand the mechanism of these raids. Accordingly, on 11 August 16 I joined, as an observer, the officers, as they carried out raids on a selection of properties in Kingsbury, which they had identified as being potentially in breach of the Council's licensing regulations.

Raid in Action - Gaining an Entry to the Property

I observed four separate raids. The team had a lead officer, who would be the officer that would engage with the person answering the knock on the door, whilst the other members of the team would remain in background until an entry was allowed into the property.

The team showed diplomatic persistence by continuing to knock and talk through the letterbox as to the purpose of visit, which proved successful as the doors were eventually answered in all cases.

The lead officer would identify himself or herself and the reason for the visit, again the initial reaction being negative, but with further persistence and explanations by the officers, the entries in all cases were provided.

Once inside the properties, the team would separate out to individual rooms and to occupants to interview them as to the nature of their tenancy, other occupants and rent etc.

Condition of properties

All the four properties that I visited, had multi-occupants. One property, had occupants living in a garage in a rear garden, whilst another property had about 10 to 12 individuals living in a three-bedroom house.

Officer engagement

I found all the officers exceptionally professional and courteous. They sought the permission to enter, gave clear explanation as to purpose of the visit in simple plain English in manner that was friendly and caring. They completed the questionnaire with the individual occupants in relatively short time as to minimise the disturbance.

Reaction of occupants

I found the occupants to be surprised and shocked, but on appreciating the nature of the visit, fully assisted the officers. Additionally, the team consisted of a translator, who assisted with the communication between the officers and the occupants.

Recommendation

My overall experience was positive and although there are no recommendations to make following from my visit, I would welcome a follow up review visit in an year's time to ensure that the raids continues to remain free of any adverse impact on the occupants.

Councillor Ketan Sheth
Chair Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

APPENDIX D

Tracker of Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee recommendations 2016/17