

Item No. 8.	Classification: Open	Date: 24 June 2020	Meeting Name: Housing Scrutiny Commission
Report title:		Housing Scrutiny Commission Work Programme 2020-21	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		N/a	
From:		Head of Overview and Scrutiny (Acting)	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the housing scrutiny commission note the work programme as at 24 June 2020 attached as Appendix 1.
2. That the housing scrutiny commission consider the addition of new items or allocation of previously identified items to specific meeting dates of the committee.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. Membership of the Housing Scrutiny Commission - Councillors Gavin Edwards, Chair, Hamish McCallum, Vice-Chair, Jack Buck, Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE, Jon Hartley, Nick Johns, Bill Williams, Cris Claridge (co-opted member), Ina Negoita (co-opted member)
4. The general terms of reference of the scrutiny commissions are set out in the council's constitution (overview and scrutiny procedure rules - paragraph 5). The constitution states that:

Within their terms of reference, all scrutiny committees/commissions will:

- a) review and scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the council's functions
- b) review and scrutinise the decisions made by and performance of the cabinet and council officers both in relation to individual decisions and over time in areas covered by its terms of reference
- c) review and scrutinise the performance of the council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas
- d) question members of the cabinet and officers about their decisions and performance, whether generally in comparison with service plans and targets over a period of time, or in relation to particular decisions, initiatives or projects and about their views on issues and proposals affecting the area
- e) assist council assembly and the cabinet in the development of its budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues
- f) make reports and recommendations to the cabinet and or council assembly arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process

- g) consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants
 - h) liaise with other external organisations operating in the area, whether national, regional or local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working
 - i) review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the scrutiny committee and local people about their activities and performance
 - j) conduct research and consultation on the analysis of policy issues and possible options
 - k) question and gather evidence from any other person (with their consent)
 - l) consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the scrutiny process and in the development of policy options
 - m) conclude inquiries promptly and normally within six months
5. The work programme document lists those items which have been or are to be considered in line with the committee's terms of reference.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

6. The Housing service areas that fall within the scope of the Housing Scrutiny Commission are:
- Resident Services (which includes area management, strategy and business support, strategic business and support housing services).
 - Customer Experience Division (which includes the Contact Centre; Customer Resolution and Specialist Services, My Southwark Home Owners and the Housing Solutions Services).
 - Asset Management Division (which includes New Homes; Investment, Repairs & Maintenance and Engineering).
7. The cabinet portfolios linked to the work of the commission are held by the cabinet member for housing management and modernisation (Councillor Kieron Williams) and cabinet member for social regeneration, great estates and new council homes (Councillor Leo Pollak). The portfolio elements relating to this commission are listed below:

Housing Management and Modernisation (Housing related portfolio areas)

- delivering the long-term housing stock strategy
- relationships with tenants and residents associations
- housing asset strategy including delivering a quality kitchen and bathroom for every council tenant
- meeting tenant and leaseholder expectations of major works contracts
- housing services
- housing allocations

- community housing including homelessness and sheltered housing
- housing repairs,
- engaging with council tenants and leaseholders
- My Southwark Homeowners Service
- rehousing arrangements as part of major regeneration projects
- quality of estate environment including repairs, cleaning and pest control
- lettings policy and policy on illegal subletting and estate security
- voids turnaround
- the Ledbury Estate

Social Regeneration, Great Estates and New Council Homes – Councillor Leo Pollak
(Housing related portfolio areas)

- the council's long term housing strategy,
- reform of right to buy
- building more homes of every kind including 11,000 new council homes
- 1,000 more homes at London Living Rent
- Supporting residents to improve their estates

8. Set out in Appendix 1 (Work Programme) are the issues the housing scrutiny commission is due to consider in 2020-21 some items of which have rolled over from the 2019-20 municipal year. Attached as Appendix 2 is the complete list of items considered during 2019-20 to inform discussion around potential items for 2020-21.
9. The work programme is a standing item on the housing scrutiny commission agenda and enables the commission to consider, monitor and plan issues for consideration at each meeting.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Housing Scrutiny Commission agenda and minutes	Southwark Council Website	Everton Roberts 020 7525 7221
Link: http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=520		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Work Programme 2020-21
Appendix 2	Items considered in 2019-20 municipal year

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Doreen Forrester-Brown, Director of Law and Democracy		
Report Author	Everton Roberts, Head of Overview and Scrutiny (Acting)		
Version	Final		
Dated	17 June 2020		
Key Decision?	No		
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER			
Officer Title		Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Democracy		No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance		No	No
Cabinet Member		No	No
Date final report sent to Scrutiny Team			17 June 2020