

ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE – 13 MAY 2024

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY MANAGER

SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report is an update on the work programme and scrutiny activities, setting out reports for upcoming meetings.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Select committee members are recommended to consider areas for the work programme for 2024/2025 based on the review of the last municipal year in Appendix 2.

3. SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

- 3.1 The Select Committee has a remit to scrutinise topics related to the provision, planning, management and performance of all housing services; partnerships associated with the delivery of housing; the improvement and delivery of social housing; the management of the Council's housing stock; housing strategy and implementation and community relations and consultation.
- 3.2 The Committee develops an annual work programme based on members' priorities for the municipal year. This focusing of work should help members to maximise their effectiveness and influence and have a defined impact, making a tangible difference to the services of the Council. While each select committee has its own work programme, it is also part of a single work programme for the scrutiny function co-ordinated by Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.3 Key Decisions from the Forward Plan of the Leadership Team, particularly those connected to the topics above, will also be considered as part of the work programme.
- 3.4 The Committee will keep its work programme under review and may need to make adjustments as required if priority issues emerge later in the year. The work programme also needs to balance between holding the Leadership Team to account through pre-decision scrutiny and post-decision review of outcomes, and policy development overseen by working groups and following up on activities, including recommendations from working groups and committees.

4. REVIEW OF THE WORK PROGRAMME 2023/2024

- 4.1 It is timely at the end of the present municipal year for Housing and Communities Select Committee to start to consider suitable items to develop the work programme for 2024/2025. The starting point for this is a review of the existing work programme, set out in Appendix 2. This can identify areas for closer focus, emerging themes and priorities, or Key Decisions which are on the horizon. The review of items from the last year is based on the service areas in the remit of the Select Committee as well as up-to-date information on Key Decisions.
- 4.2 Suggested items can be shared with Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) which will lead the work programming process for the new municipal year. This will start with the scrutiny work programming workshops for non-executive members on the 10th June 2024 for Housing and Communities and Environment select committees and 17th June 2024 for the Family Services and Adult Social Care and Health select committees. OSC also leads on the scrutiny of corporate reports for risk, performance, finance, and complaints which will be of relevance to Housing and Communities Select Committee. A work programme report for Housing and Communities Select Committee will be presented for discussion at the first meeting on 3rd July 2024.
- 4.3 On 28 February 2024 Full Council agreed the timetable of meetings for the new municipal year. Meetings of Housing and Communities Select Committee will be scheduled for:
- 3rd July 2024
 - 12th September 2024
 - 10th December 2024
 - 28th January 2025
 - 2nd April 2025

FOR DISCUSSION

Jacqui Hird Scrutiny Manager

Background papers used in the preparation of this report: None other than previously published documents.

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APPENDIX 1 – SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

Date of Meeting	Item	Outcomes	Source of Item	Lead Member/Officer
<p>19th September 2023</p>	<p>Voluntary Sector Support Fund (VSSF), City Living, Local Life</p> <p>VCS Rents and Leases</p>	<p>To scrutinise the decision-making criteria and policy development for the VSSF and the on-going review for the City Living, Local Life programme.</p> <p>To include a review of direct and other support.</p>	<p>Annual Work programme</p>	<p>Moira Ugoji, Director of Communities</p> <p>Cllr Sarah Addenbrooke, Lead member for Communities and Community Safety</p> <p>Dan Hawthorn, Executive Director Housing and Social Investment</p> <p>Cllr Sof McVeigh, Lead Member for Housing Management, Housing Safety and Building New Homes</p>
	<p>Damp and Mould – Social Housing</p>	<p>Scrutiny of performance relating to how the council uses enforcement powers to improve the quality of its own stock, particularly to tackle mould.</p>	<p>Referred from Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>Dan Hawthorn, Executive Director Housing and Social Investment</p> <p>Peta Caine, Assistant Director of Property Services</p> <p>Cllr Sof McVeigh, Lead Member for Housing Management, Housing Safety and Building New Homes</p>
	<p>Enforcement Powers and Improving the Quality of Registered Provider Homes</p>	<p>Scrutiny of performance relating to tackling damp, mould and other environmental health issues in Private Sector Housing.</p>		<p>Dan Hawthorn, Executive Director Housing and Social Investment</p> <p>Tim Davis, Head of Environmental Health Services</p>

				Cllr Sof McVeigh, Lead Member for Housing Management, Housing Safety and Building New Homes
	The Management of Supported Accommodation - Working Group	To agree the terms of reference and membership.	Annual Work Programme	Cllr Marie-Therese Rossi, Working Group Chair
	Select Committee Work Programme	Select Committee to review the work programme	Annual Work Programme	Bella Jessop, Scrutiny and Policy Officer Jacqui Hird, Scrutiny Manager and statutory scrutiny officer
28th November 2023	Communities Performance Key performance indicators	To scrutinise consultation and participation, the Grenfell Community Programme and VSSF outcomes and outputs.	Annual Work Programme	Moira Ugoji, Director of Communities Cllr Sarah Addenbrooke, Lead member for Communities and Community Safety
	Budget Proposals	To scrutinise the budget proposals for services relating housing and to the Committees Terms of Reference and make outcome focused recommendations to the Leadership Team.	Annual Work Programme	Dan Hawthorn, Executive Director Housing and Social Investment Moira Ugoji, Director of Communities Cllr Sof McVeigh, Lead Member for Housing Management, Housing Safety and Building New Homes

				Cllr Kim Taylor-Smith, Deputy Leader, Employment, Culture and Economy
	Grenfell Rehousing Policies	To scrutinise the options for residents offered a second move.	Annual Work Programme	Kojo Sarpong, Director of Housing Needs Altin Smajili, Head of Housing Strategy Health Allocation
	Fire Safety	To scrutinise the fire safety policies with a specific focus on the installation of new fire doors.	Annual Work Programme	Doug Goldring, Director of Housing Management (Grenfell) Peta Cain, Assistant Director of Property Services
	Select Committee Work Programme	Select Committee to review the work programme	Annual Work Programme	Bella Jessop, Scrutiny and Policy Officer Jacqui Hird, Scrutiny Manager and statutory scrutiny officer
1st February 2024	Housing Revenues Account	To seek an update from the Lead Member and officers on the Council's Housing Revenue Account.	Annual Work Programme	Dan Hawthorn, Executive Director Housing and Social Investment Cllr Sof McVeigh, Lead Member for Housing Management, Housing Safety and Building New Homes.
6th February 2024	Grenfell	To scrutinise the Grenfell Community Programme and the Curve Legacy Fund.	Annual Work Programme	Moira Ugoji. Director of Communities Cllr Sarah Addenbrooke, Lead member for Communities and Community Safety

	New Homes Programme	To seek an update from the Lead Member and officers.	Annual Work Programme	Christine Addison, Director Social Investment and Property Alison Olugunna, Head of Project Delivery
	Hostels Working Group Update	To update the committee on progress of the hostels working group.	Committee	Cllr Marie-Therese Rossi, Working Group Chair
	Repairs Conference Update	To inform committee of the Residents Conference on Repairs on the 4 th March.	Committee	Cllr Greg Hammond, Vice Chair of HCSC and Chair of the Residents Conference
	Select Committee Work Programme	Select Committee to review the work programme	Annual Work Programme	Bella Jessop, Scrutiny and Policy Officer Jacqui Hird, Scrutiny Manager and statutory scrutiny officer
4th March 2024	Residents Conference on Repairs	An opportunity to amplify the voice of residents on repairs, maintenance and upgrades in order to provide assurance to the HCSC of the operation of the service.	Committee	Cllr Greg Hammond, Vice Chair of HCSC and Chair of the residents conference.
13th May 2024	Service Charges	To scrutinise how effective the system in place is and how it apportions charges for both tenants and lease holders.	Committee	Doug Goldring, Director of Housing Management (Grenfell) Cllr Sof McVeigh, Lead Member for Housing Management, Housing Safety and Building New Homes

	Housing and Social Investment Performance Information	To scrutinise the performance information.	Committee	Dan Hawthorn, Executive Director Housing and Social Investment Cllr Sof McVeigh, Lead Member for Housing Management, Housing Safety and Building New Homes.
	Residents Conference on Repairs Report	To approve the report on the residents conference on repairs from the 4 th March.	Committee	Cllr Greg Hammond, Vice Chair of HCSC and Chair of the residents conference.
	Select Committee Work Programme	Select Committee to review the work programme	Annual Work Programme	Bella Jessop, Scrutiny and Policy Officer Jacqui Hird, Scrutiny Manager and statutory scrutiny officer

Appendix 2

Housing and Communities Select Committee, Work Programme Review 2023/2024

Voluntary Sector

- On the 19th September there was an update on the Voluntary Sector Support Fund (VSSF) and City Living, Local Life.
- Select committee reviewed the VCS rents and leases at the meeting on the 19th September.

Performance Information

- Housing and Social Investment Performance is to be discussed on the 13th May.
- At the meeting on the 28th November selected committee discussed Communities Performance Information.

Quality and Maintenance of Housing

- Damp and mould in social housing was discussed at committee on the 19th September.
- Select Committee discussed enforcement powers and improving the quality of registered provider homes on the 19th September.
- A Residents Conference on Repairs was held on the 4th March.
- The committee visited the repairs call centre on the 23rd April.

Grenfell

- There is an ongoing to scrutinise matters in the remit of the Select Committee related to the Grenfell tragedy.
- The Grenfell rehousing policies were discussed on the 28th November.
- Select Committee were updated on the Grenfell Community Programme and the Curve Legacy Fund on the 6th February.

New Homes

- On the 6th February there was a discussion on the New Homes Programme.
- On the 31st January the Select Committee visited three developments as part of the new home programme, Acklam Road, Barlby Road and Hewer Street.

Major Works and Service Charges

- On the 13th May the select committee will discuss service charges for both tenants and leaseholders
- Select committee will be given an update on the major works programme on 3rd July 2024.

Supported Accommodation

- The Committee agreed to set up a working group to look at the management of hostels. The working group will present their report at the meeting on the 3rd July.

Budget Proposals

- Select Committee discussed the budget proposals for Housing and Social Investments and for communities on the 28th November.
- The Housing Revenue Account was discussed at the meeting on the 1st February.
- There will be finance scrutiny of the council's Budget 2025/2026, including departmental budgets, led by Overview and Scrutiny Committee.