

Appendix 1: Background to Housing and Planning and Welfare Reform and Work bills

1 Background

1.1 This report gives an overview of the Housing and Planning and the Welfare Reform and Work Bills and their respective passages through Parliament.

Housing and Planning Bill

1.2 The Bill has now completed its Commons Committee stage. It now has 156 clauses and 15 schedules. Its key themes are:

- New homes (Starter Homes and Self- Build)
- New powers and duties to tackle poor practices in the private rented sector
- Planning changes
- Social housing - including the right to buy, the sale of high value local authority voids and increased rents for high income social housing tenants
- A range of other miscellaneous changes – including minor licensing changes and changes to tenancy deposit information
- Compulsory Purchase Orders.

1.3 The Bill was introduced to the Commons on 13th October 2015. It has its second reading on 2nd November 2015 and the Public Bill Committee has completed its line-by-line scrutiny and reported the amended Bill to the House of Commons. It is expected to progress to the House of Lords in early 2016 and to receive Royal Assent in the summer or autumn 2016.

1.4 Cllr Philippa Roe gave [evidence to the Bill Committee](#) on 10th November 2015 on behalf of the City Council, along with representatives from the LGA, London Councils and Hackney. Her written evidence to support this session is set out in Appendix 2.

1.5 Further information about the Bill, including the draft itself, explanatory notes, line-by-line scrutiny and all written submissions can be found here: <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2015-16/housingandplanning.html>

Welfare Reform and Work Bill

1.6 The Bill includes measures (among others) which will have an impact on housing and are being considered by the Housing Task Group:

- An annual 1% reduction in social rents for four years

- A range of welfare reforms, including a reduction in the benefit cap from £26,000 per year to £23,000 in Greater London to be phased in from April 2016
- Most working-age benefits and tax credits (including Local Housing Allowance rates) to be frozen at 2015-16 rates for four years.

1.7 The Bill was introduced to the Commons on 9th July 2015. It has its second reading on 20th July 2015 and is currently undergoing its line-by-line scrutiny by the Housing of Lords Bill Committee. It is expected that the Bill will receive Royal Assent early in 2016.

1.8 Further information about the Bill, including the draft itself, explanatory notes, line-by-line scrutiny and all written submissions can be found here:
<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2015-16/welfarereformandwork/documents.html>