

Appendix 2: Housing & Regeneration Policy and Scrutiny Committee Tracker

This tracker enables the Committee to monitor progress against the recommendations it has made, requests for information and actions to be completed.

Meeting Date	Item	Recommendation / Information Request/ Action	Detail	Political Lead and Officer Lead	Status
12 th December 2023	Work Programme	Information	To provide more detail on the role Cabinet Members will play in Policy and Scrutiny going forward.	Policy and Scrutiny Advisor	Provided 07.11.23
	Housing Allocations Scheme	Information	To provide detail on how the consultation is configured and designed to avoid instances of bias and ensure there is as much sample composition as possible.	Cabinet Member for Housing Services Strategic Director of Housing and Commercial Partnerships	Response sent to Members 04.06.24
		Recommendation	The Committee recommended that the Council presents the final iteration of the Housing Allocations Scheme with visual aids, such as flow charts, to make the process easier to understand.	Cabinet Member for Housing Services Strategic Director of Housing and Commercial Partnerships	Published in Committee Papers 04.03.24. Found here
		Recommendation	The Committee recommended that the Council make clear that any revised Housing Allocations Scheme will have no change on the level of provision available.	Cabinet Member for Housing Services Strategic Director of Housing and Commercial Partnerships	Published in Committee Papers 04.03.24. Found here
		Recommendation	The Committee recommended that the Council makes clearer that time spent on the Housing Register does not contribute towards the tenyear residency benefit.	Cabinet Member for Housing Services Strategic Director of Housing and Commercial Partnerships	Published in Committee Papers 04.03.24. Found here
		Recommendation	The Committee recommended that the Council considers factoring in cumulative need in terms of allocating and that this can factor in any emerging needs that may appear over time.	Cabinet Member for Housing Services Strategic Director of Housing and Commercial Partnerships	Published in Committee Papers 04.03.24. Found here
		Recommendation	The Committee recommended that the Council consider volunteer work as a factor when attributing points based on employment.	Cabinet Member for Housing Services Strategic Director of Housing and Commercial Partnerships	Published in Committee Papers 04.03.24. Found here
		Recommendation	The Committee recommended that the Council improve education around succession and assignments.	Cabinet Member for Housing Services Strategic Director of Housing and Commercial Partnerships	Published in Committee Papers 04.03.24. Found here
		Recommendation	The Committee recommended that the Council ensures the final version of the Allocations Scheme is open and transparent in how priority groups are determined and makes clear who might potentially miss out.	Cabinet Member for Housing Services Strategic Director of Housing and Commercial Partnerships	Published in Committee Papers 04.03.24. Found here

Appendix 2: Housing & Regeneration Policy and Scrutiny Committee Tracker

	Housing Compensation Scheme	Information	To provide financial projections on likely cost of the successful implementation of the new policy.	Cabinet Member for Housing Services Strategic Director of Housing and Commercial Partnerships	Response sent to Members 04.06.24
		Information	To address the notion of potentially providing compensation to leaseholders directly adversely effected by issues in social housing, such as leaks from flats above.	Cabinet Member for Housing Services Strategic Director of Housing and Commercial Partnerships	Response sent to Members 04.06.24
		Information	To provide data of current contractor performance and the frequency of how often these contracts are reviewed.	Cabinet Member for Housing Services Strategic Director of Housing and Commercial Partnerships	Response sent to Members 04.06.24
		Information	To provide data on the frequency of ombudsman interventions and complaints regarding compensation in Westminster.	Cabinet Member for Housing Services Strategic Director of Housing and Commercial Partnerships	Response sent to Members 04.06.24
		Recommendation	The Committee recommended that the Council make its Compensation Policy simple and accessible.	Cabinet Member for Housing Services Strategic Director of Housing and Commercial Partnerships	Published in Committee Papers 04.03.24. Found here .
		Recommendation	The Committee recommended that the Council considers compensating based on impact, particularly including potential impact on those working in the gig economy.	Cabinet Member for Housing Services Strategic Director of Housing and Commercial Partnerships	Published in Committee Papers 04.03.24. Found here
		Recommendation	The Committee recommended that the Council makes clear its Compensation Policy is not an adjudicated process.	Cabinet Member for Housing Services Strategic Director of Housing and Commercial Partnerships	Published in Committee Papers 04.03.24. Found here
	Oxford Street Programme Quarterly	Information	To provide a projection of spending throughout the programme.	Cabinet Member for Economy and Employment Director of Governance Operations OSP	Provided to Members on 01.02.24 via email
		Information	To provide details of partnerships formed in financing the programme, particularly public realm aspects, and the agreed financial burdens that are going to be taken on by the private sector.	Cabinet Member for Economy and Employment Director of Governance Operations OSP	Provided to Members on 01.02.24 via email
		Information	To provide the rationale for the inclusion of Grosvenor Square as part of the wider programme and why it is not considered for its own separate public realm scheme.	Cabinet Member for Economy and Employment Director of Governance Operations OSP	Provided to Members on 01.02.24 via email
4 th March 2024	Temporary Accommodation (TA)	Information	To provide more information on Hotel acquisitions for temporary accommodation and how they might be repurposed.	Cabinet Member for Housing Services Strategic Director of Housing and Commercial Partnerships	Response sent to Members on 16.04.24
		Information	To provide detail on work done and policies in place for supporting women presenting homeless, particularly following incidence of domestic abuse, to minimise the risk of them being placed in a potentially threatening new environment.	Cabinet Member for Housing Services Strategic Director of Housing and Commercial Partnerships	Response sent to Members on 16.04.24

Appendix 2: Housing & Regeneration Policy and Scrutiny Committee Tracker

		Information	Within what might be readily available, Members requested data on the number of women who present homeless identifying the cause to have been domestic abuse and of these what proportion are then placed into female only temporary accommodation.	Cabinet Member for Housing Services Strategic Director of Housing and Commercial Partnerships	Response sent to Members on 16.04.24
		Information	To provide a breakdown of key demographics for those presenting as homeless, particularly age and gender.	Cabinet Member for Housing Services Strategic Director of Housing and Commercial Partnerships	Response sent to Members on 16.04.24
		Information	To provide information on the response to properties identified as Grade D & Grade E and how quickly these situations are remedied.	Cabinet Member for Housing Services Strategic Director of Housing and Commercial Partnerships	Response sent to Members on 16.04.24
		Information	To provide additional information on the wrap-around support provided to families (section 8.6) and how the Council ensures this is adequate.	Cabinet Member for Housing Services Strategic Director of Housing and Commercial Partnerships	Response sent to Members on 16.04.24
		Recommendation	The Committee recommends that the Council works to try to improve standards across the TA stock, given the large proportion (69.6%) of those inspected in the last three quarters of the year were assessed as Grade C or below.	Cabinet Member for Housing Services Strategic Director of Housing and Commercial Partnerships	Response in Appendix
		Recommendation	The Committee recommends that the Council improve lines of communication with the Home Office, to improve the social and physical integration of those granted asylum into society.	Cabinet Member for Communities, Children and Public Protection Bi-Borough Executive Director of Children's Services	Response in Appendix
	Oxford Street Programme Quarterly	Information	For the next quarterly update to outline how, if at all, the programme intends to deal with issues of crime and improving the retail offering on Oxford Street.	Cabinet Member for Economy and Employment Director of Governance Operations OSP	Two briefing notes sent out 07.05.24 to all Members
		Action	The Chair to update the Committee on the intentions around traffic surveys in Fitzrovia post implementation, following a resident group's query highlighting no planned expenditure in the update the Committee were provided.	Cabinet Member for Economy and Employment Director of Governance Operations OSP	Sent to Members on 13.03.24
	Work Programme	Action	To consider the best ways to ensure the OSP is sufficiently scrutinised.	Policy and Scrutiny Advisor	Quarterly updates to continue with the CM invited to the next Committee. This can be reviewed again.

Appendix 2: Housing & Regeneration Policy and Scrutiny Committee Tracker

Responses to Recommendations

Temporary Accommodation

Recommendation	The Committee recommends that the Council works to try to improve standards across the TA stock, given the large proportion (69.6%) of those inspected in the last three quarters of the year were assessed as Grade C or below.	Cabinet Member for Housing Services Strategic Director of Housing and Commercial Partnerships
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Response:

The Council will inspect directly more than 750 units of TA in 2024/25 using the pan London Setting the Standards grading system where properties are assessed as A-E depending on meeting criteria and standards for each with grades A,B and C meaning the property is suitable.

The report to the Committee highlighted that in 2023/24 8% of properties inspected were grade A, 12.5% grade B, 61.7% grade C, 7.4% grade D and 0.5% grade E.

Officers will set a target for inspection outcomes of grades A and B at 25% of inspections whilst increasing also the number of grade C satisfactory inspection outcomes to 65% thus seeking to reduce the numbers of lowest rating to less than 10%.

Officers will report to the Committee the outcome of inspections for 2024/25.

Appendix 2: Housing & Regeneration Policy and Scrutiny Committee Tracker

Recommendation	The Committee recommends that the Council improve lines of communication with the Home Office, to improve the social and physical integration of those granted asylum into society.	Cabinet Member for Communities, Children and Public Protection Bi-Borough Executive Director of Children's Services
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Response:

Children's Services are in regular contact with the Home Office and partners in relation to those seeking asylum, both to raise any issues of concern and to facilitate better outcomes for asylum seekers. A monthly meeting is held between the Home Office, Clearsprings Ready Homes and a number of senior Council officers. This meeting ensures that regular information sharing occurs and that issues of concern are escalated and addressed effectively.

Sarah Newman, Bi-Borough Executive Director of Children's Services at Westminster & RBKC, and Steven Forbes, Executive Director for Children's Services at Hounslow Council, are also chairing a task group meeting on behalf of London Councils with the Home Office and Clearsprings to further improve information sharing and safeguarding practices associated with placement and progression from contingency hotels.

In addition, a number of services have been developed and commissioned to support asylum seekers, including services to support them with integrating into their new communities.