

Decision Maker: Renewal, Recreation and Housing PDS Committee

Date: 18 September 2018

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND UPDATES**

Contact Officer: Lisa Thornley, Democratic Services Officer
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Chief Officer: Mark Bowen, Director of Corporate Services

Ward: N/A

1. Reason for report

1.1 **Appendix A** updates Members on matters arising from previous meetings.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The Committee is asked to consider progress on matters arising from previous meetings.

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| Non-Applicable Sections: | Policy, Financial, Legal and Personnel Implications |
| Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer) | - |

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: None

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing policy. The Committee is regularly updated on matters arising from previous meetings.
 2. BBB Priority: Excellent Council.
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No cost
 2. Ongoing costs: N/A.
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Democratic Services
 4. Total current budget for this head: £350,650
 5. Source of funding: 2018/19 revenue budget
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): There are 8 posts (6.87 fte) in the Democratic Services Team.
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: Monitoring the Committee's matters arising can take up to two hours per meeting.
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: No statutory requirement or Government guidance.
 2. Call-in: Call-in is not applicable. The report does not involve an executive decision
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): The report is intended primarily for Members of this Committee.
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? No.
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: N/A

PROGRESS ON MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

| <u>Minute Number/Title</u> | <u>Updates/Feedback Requested</u> | <u>Action By</u> | <u>Current Status</u> |
|---|---|-----------------------------|--|
| Minute 12 – 26.06.18 Renewal, Recreation and Housing Portfolio Plan | In regard to economic development relating to footfall in town centres, the high percentage figure for Penge was queried against the comparatively low percentage figures for Orpington and Beckenham. Explanatory information to be circulated to Members with percentage figures for Bromley also included. | Director of Regeneration | Status as of 10 September 2018: Information to be sent via e-mail prior to this meeting. |
| <u>Minute Number/Title</u> | <u>Updates/Feedback Requested</u> | <u>Action By</u> | <u>Current Status</u> |
| Minute 12 – 26.06.18 Renewal, Recreation and Housing Portfolio Plan | Indicators 1-7 on pages 104-105 of the report, set out the priorities aimed for and achieved in regard to housing, five of which had resulted in a decrease. The Director of Housing was requested to provide Members with an explanation for this prior to the next RR&H PDS meeting. | Director of Housing | Completed. Information set out below and e-mailed to Members on 18 July 2018. |
| <p><u>Information</u></p> <p>Priorities 2 and 7 are new indicators reflecting the priorities in the new Homelessness Reduction Act and homelessness strategy.</p> <p>Priorities 5 and 6 are indicators mapping the trends in temporary accommodation useage and are, therefore, reflective of current trends, together with planned new supply. These have not significantly changed from the previous year but do reflect as shift from nightly paid as MEARS property purchase units come forward.</p> <p>There are only three indicators which have effectively decreased: Priority 1 - prevention and relief. The slight decrease in target reflects the changes in legislation arising from the Homelessness Reduction Act which places a wider housing advice duty on the local authority. This, combined with the widely reported difficulty in acquiring affordable housing, has resulted in increased difficulty in preventing homelessness. Mapping across London suggests that with more approaches, the proportion prevented is likely to decrease with an increased number requiring full assessment and acceptance.</p> | | | |

Priority 3 shows the percentage of cases where a full homeless application has resulted in acceptance of a full duty. Robust case work has reduced the proportion accepted and the indicator has been updated to better reflect current achievements and new working practices.

Priority 4 relates to statutory reviews. The new legislation significantly extends the number of areas subject to statutory reviews. As such, it is anticipated that as solicitors and the courts work to embed the new legislation, there may be an increased number of statutory extension requests extending review times. The target reflects the change in legislation and contract target. However, local monitoring seeks an 80% completion within existing timescales for not challenged reviews.

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|--|---|---------------------|---|
| Minute 12 – 26.06.18 Renewal, Recreation and Housing Portfolio Plan | Page 99 (para. 4.1) focused on homelessness prevention work which consistently exceeded 80%. Members queried what happened to the remaining 20% of homeless people. | Director of Housing | Completed. Information set out below and e-mailed to Members on 18 July 2018. |

Information

For the remaining 20% of cases there are two main outcomes: in a small number of cases they may not engage or resolve their own situation. As such, this cannot be recorded as an actual prevention. For the majority, this is where preventative work has not been successful due to the circumstances relating to the risk of homelessness. In these cases, a full homelessness application is undertaken to establish what rehousing duty the local authority may have.

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|--|--|---------------------|---|
| Minute 12 – 26.06.18 Renewal, Recreation and Housing Portfolio Plan | It was requested that figures pertaining to eviction rates be included within the housing section of the report. | Director of Housing | Completed. Information set out below and e-mailed to Members on 18 July 2018. |

Information

As a non-stock holding authority, the Council do not have eviction rates as such. Housing associations and private landlords would hold this information for their own stock directly. The Council does have data on those leaving temporary accommodation which showed evictions (this was very low), together with data on the reason for homeless approaches as a result of eviction. Clarification on the specific information to be included in future reports is therefore sought from Members.