

Decision Maker: RENEWAL, RECREATION AND HOUSING POLICY
DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: Wednesday 15 November 2023

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

Title: HOUSING, PLANNING AND REGENERATION PORTFOLIO
PLAN UPDATE – 2023/24 Q2 UPDATE

Contact Officer: Shazel Choudhury, Compliance & Strategy Manager
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Chief Officer: Sara Bowrey, Director, Housing, Planning and Regeneration

Ward: N/A

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 This report presents the Renewal, Recreation and Housing Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee with the update for Quarter 2 2023-24.
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2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 Members are asked to note progress on the actions associated with the Housing, Planning and Regeneration Portfolio Plan for Quarter 2 2023-24.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: There is no direct impact, however many of the initiatives set out in the Portfolio Plan support the provision of and access to suitable accommodation to meet the housing needs of, and safeguard, vulnerable adults and children. Additionally, services such as Libraries and the Resource Shops are community focussed and support this group.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy
 2. MBEB Priority: For people to make their homes in Bromley, and for business, enterprise and the third sector to prosper, To manage our resources well, providing value for money, efficient and effective services for Bromley's residents.
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No cost:
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Renewal, Recreation and Housing Portfolio 2022/23 approved revenue budget and capital programme
 4. Total current budget for this head: £
 5. Source of funding:
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Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional):
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours:
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: None:
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable: No Executive Decision.
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Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications:
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): All vulnerable adults and older people within Bromley
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: N/A

3. COMMENTARY

Background

- 3.1 The Housing, Planning and Regeneration Portfolio Plan is refreshed each year in line with the Council's Transformation Programme and Making Bromley Even Better. The Plan focusses on two ambition outcomes:
- For people to make their homes in Bromley, and for business, enterprise and the third sector to prosper.
 - To manage our resources well, providing value for money, efficient and effective services for Bromley's residents.
- 3.2 Within each priority are a number of statements which are underpinned by actions and measures of success within the work of Housing, Planning and Regeneration.
- 3.3 Progress has been made on some actions within the Portfolio Plan in 2023-24 Quarter 2.
- 3.4 There continues to be significant pressure within the Housing Sector. Thanks to early prevention and partnership working, whilst homeless approaches are slightly up compared with the previous year they are not at the levels seen by some local authorities. However what we are seeing is an increase in the number of approaches from single applicants and those with complex needs, who require greater support and assistance.
- 3.5 Access to temporary accommodation is becoming increasingly challenging. We are seeing a reduction in the number of long term temporary accommodation placements, such as private sector leasing, and an increase in the use of nightly paid accommodation. These placements are typically further away from Borough boundaries than ever before, impacting on our ability to maintain access to schooling, employment and support for our customers. There has also been a significant cost increase in this type of accommodation.
- 3.6 Move on options, such as accessing the private sector and social housing continue to reduce and are not sufficient to meet the demand of those households on the Register. The Council continues to make adjustments to its engagement and incentive packages particularly with private landlords but the market is incredibly challenging at present.
- 3.7 Through the Transformation Agenda, we are continuing to develop homes and work with partners to secure access to new accommodation. Whilst this is broadly on track the lack of other move on options means that we are not making the reduction in temporary accommodation placements that was previously expected.

4 IMPACT ON VULNERABLE ADULTS AND CHILDREN

- 4.1 There is no impact on vulnerable adults and children. However, the individual projects and service delivery areas will in many cases have an impact on this group.

5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no policy implications. However, the Portfolio Plan will reflect relevant Council adopted policies and statutory duties in relation to planning, housing need and homelessness.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Portfolio Plan will be delivered within the resources identified in the 2023/24 budget, including capital receipts, together with any external funding that has and will be secured.

7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The Portfolio Plan includes the Council's statutory obligations in relation to this department's area of work.

8. PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no procurement implications. Individual projects will be subject to specific reports detailing the procurement route.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Personnel Implications, Procurement Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	N/A