

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

**Date:** Wednesday 19 June 2024

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

**Title:** HOUSING, PLANNING AND REGENERATION PORTFOLIO  
PLAN UPDATE - 2023/24 Q4 UPDATE

**Contact Officer:** Lynnette Chamielec, Assistant Director Housing  
Tel: 020 8313 4009 E-mail: [lynette.chamielec@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:lynette.chamielec@bromley.gov.uk)

**Chief Officer:** Sara Bowrey, Director of Housing, Planning and Regeneration  
Tel: 0208 313 4013 E-mail: [sara.bowrey@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:sara.bowrey@bromley.gov.uk)

**Ward:** N/A

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## 1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 This report presents the Renewal, Recreation and Housing Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee with the update for Q4 2023/24 in respect of the following:

- RRH Portfolio Plan HPR Q4 Strategic Project Tracker
  - Portfolio Plan - HPR Operational KPIs FY - MAR24
  - HPR Grant Register Q4
  - HPR Risk Register Q4 2023-24
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## 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 Members are asked to note the information presented outlining progress in Q4 2023/24

## Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: The Council has a statutory responsibility to ensure that services are provided to vulnerable members of the community.
  2. Through the management of resources and risk the Council is able to ensure that those most in need are able to secure housing and access support when required.
  3. The efficient utilisation of available grant funding helps to support the aims of the Council in providing these services.
  4. The Council's house building programme is focused on the delivery of good quality, affordable and sustainable housing for its tenants.
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## Transformation Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy
  2. Making Bromley Even Better Priority
    - (1) For children and young People to grow up, thrive and have the best life chances in families who flourish and are happy to call Bromley home.
    - (2) For adults and older people to enjoy fulfilled and successful lives in Bromley, ageing well, retaining independence and making choices.
    - (3) For people to make their homes in Bromley and for business, enterprise and the third sector to prosper.
    - (4) For residents to live responsibly and prosper in a safe, clean and green environment great for today and a sustainable future.
    - (5) To manage our resources well, providing value for money, and efficient and effective services for Bromley's residents.
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## Financial

1. Cost of proposal: N/A
  2. Ongoing costs: N/A
  3. Budget head/performance centre: N/A
  4. Total current budget for this head: N/A
  5. Source of funding: N/A
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## Personnel

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

1. Legal Requirement: N/A
  3. Call-in: Not Applicable: No Executive decision.
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## Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: N/A
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## Property

1. Summary of Property Implications: N/A
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## Carbon Reduction and Social Value

1. Summary of Carbon Reduction/Sustainability Implications: N/A
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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 following documents are contained as an appendix to this report:

- Appendix A: RRH Portfolio Plan HPR Q4 Strategic Project Tracker
- Appendix B: Portfolio Plan - HPR Operational KPIs FY - MAR24
- Appendix C: HPR Grant Register Q4
- Appendix D: HPR Risk Register Q4 2023-24

3.2 It continues to be a challenging time for the Housing Team. The number of households approaching as homeless rose last year. With the loss of local temporary accommodation placements at Bellegrove; which has been identified as a future site for the development of affordable housing and the shift away from private sector leasing; which is being run down by the current Provider due to being financially uneconomical we have seen an increase in the number of households going into expensive nightly paid temporary accommodation. The demand for this type of housing across London and beyond continues to increase and we have seen a significant uplift of costs particularly in the last quarter of the year. Despite proactive work to support clients the number of high priority households continues to increase. Move on opportunities within social housing are not increasing and whilst the Council and some Registered Providers are developing new homes it will be many months before these are ready for occupation. The team have managed to hold the line in terms of securing affordable private sector accommodation for our customers. Through the revision of our offer to private landlords and targeted marketing we were able to secure more placements than they did the previous year which is a significant achievement given the volatility of the market.

3.3 The Culture and Regeneration team continue to make good progress, despite the ongoing challenges in the construction market, in relation to the delivery of capital schemes, including the West Wickham library and housing scheme, and the wider library repair programme with both Southborough and Beckenham library works currently underway. There has also been great success with recent grant applications and receipts, including the £6m Salix grant award towards the major OPR works at the Walnuts and West Wickham leisure centres. Additionally the Bromley High Street lighting works are almost complete with the technical complexities now resolved. The York Rise scheme continues to be complex to complete, and works are being undertaken in stages currently to secure warranties from the sub-contractors following the principal contractor going into administration. The regeneration of Crystal Palace Park has also made good progress with the grant funded Subway restoration complete, and the development phase of the Lottery funded project to conserve the dinosaurs and improve the Penge end of the park also complete with the delivery stage grant application submitted awaiting final decision in September. The leisure strategy is broadly complete however the draft will not be shared for comment until the final data on playing pitch and indoor facility capacity in the borough is received which is being commissioned in partnership with Planning who require the data to inform Planning policy. The tennis court works are completed and the courts are open for use, with the permanent line markings scheduled to be undertaken during the dry weather this summer. The Libraries contract continues to go from strength to strength with Bromley libraries issuing the most books and e-books in London in 2023. The cultural activity programme has been successful this year with high numbers attending events such as Open House. The Bromley FC bus parade and Night Time Enterprise Zone pilot events in particular had a big impact on town centre footfall and we await the Mastercard data to understand the impact of these on spending. Finally the multi-million grant funded UKSPF programmes continue to be expertly administered by the team with the business support, employment and skills, and

community strands all in delivery; and the digital infrastructure dark fibre project is in its delivery phase and will be completed this calendar year, again funded through a £1m grant.

- 3.4 The incoming application numbers across all of the Planning and Building Control teams have remained lower over the last year compared to recent years. This has given the teams time to continue to focus on the project to replace our case management software which will bring about an improved more reliable experience for the teams and the public. We have started work on reviewing the Bromley Local Plan which will set out our planning policies for the next 15 years.
- 3.5 The Strategic Property team continues to be engaged in the delivery of the Council’s core objectives. Alongside its day-to-day business supporting other Council Services that operate out of the Council’s operational properties it undertakes management of the Council’s property assets for their occupation, repair, maintenance, rent/service charge collection and maximisation of income from its investment portfolio to support the delivery of Council services. Following its acquisition of Churchill Court, Strategic Property continues to have a lead role in the move to the new Civic Offices through the procurement and management of the fit out works, delivery of the proposed Health & Wellbeing Centre and letting of space that is surplus to requirements. The sale of surplus assets (including the existing Civic Centre) to fund the delivery of the Operational Property Repair (OPR) Programme in a challenging property market that has been impacted by rising interest rates and inflation is a key area of work that the team is focused on delivering alongside the Capital Programme works. Strategic Property reviews its projects on an ongoing basis to provide best value and to ensure the future best use of the Council’s property portfolio.

<b>Non-Applicable Sections:</b>	Financial implications; Personnel Implications; Procurement Implications; Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children; Policy Implications; Legal Implications; Procurement Implications.
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	N/A